



## STOR Committee Meeting Minutes December 19, 2024 Hybrid Meeting

**For STOR Committee Members & Guests:** *This meeting will be held in-person at the Blackstock Building – 200 W Virginia Ave, Gunnison, CO 81230.*

**For the General Public:** *The meeting will also be held virtually on Zoom at the following link:*  
<https://gunnisoncounty-org.zoom.us/j/87637105265?pwd=Rkt2d2NoM3NubTJWMIz5bnJzNjVvUT09>

### **Committee Members Present:**

Jeremy Johndrow, Tim Kugler, Andrew Sandstrom, Chris Parmeter, Nick Catmur, Jake Jones, Dave Ochs, Dayle Funka, Thomas, Gabbi Prochaska, Brandon Diamond, Jim Lovelace, Hedda Peterson, Beverly Richards, LB Mullin

### **Jake Jones (Committee Chair) called to order Approval of November 2024 Meeting Minutes**

Sandstrom made a motion to approve the minutes and Prochaska seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

### **Presentation from Pact Outdoors** Jake Thomas, Pact outdoors.

Catmur and Thomas presented the Pact Outdoors Backcountry Pack-Out Kits, designed for handling human waste in areas without proper facilities. They explained that 75% of the 25,000 surveyed people are unprepared to manage waste during outdoor activities. Their products, sold at retailers like REI, aim to empower visitors by providing convenient solutions, encouraging them to revisit trails. The "Doo Colorado Right" grant initiative distributes these kits to hikers and campers, and user surveys highlight how human waste negatively impacts visitor experiences. Thomas shared insights from a pilot program at Mount Elbert, where a disposal site was introduced to reduce waste. Of the approximately 1,650 hikers surveyed, 30% used the trailhead toilet, while 70% defecated elsewhere on the mountain. Additionally, 30% of hikers used provided WAG bags, and only 8% stated they would not consider using them. Thomas emphasized that a kiosk for distributing WAG bags could significantly reduce the amount of human waste left on the mountain by providing hikers with an accessible and convenient solution.

The committee discussed the practicality and challenges of implementing the pack-out kits and kiosks. They noted that trail usage, location, and disposal infrastructure would influence kiosk maintenance and bag disposal. While the bags can go in regular trash, local

mandates and high usage in some areas could complicate this. Thomas emphasized the importance of having trash receptacles for both waste bags and general trash at trailheads. The committee weighed the pros and cons of burying waste versus bagging it, acknowledging terrain challenges in some areas. Concerns were raised about potential misuse of the bags and funding, but they agreed that properly implemented kiosks could significantly reduce waste issues. Catmur would take charge of applying for funding and reaching out to other agencies to determine their interest in contributing financially to a pilot program, with Ohio Creek suggested as a potential test location.

## **2024 Gunnison County Stewardship Fund Awardee Reports**

### **Gunnison Trails**

Kugler presented the 2024 Gunnison County Stewardship Fund, highlighting its impact on maintaining areas like Signal Peak and Hartman Rocks and detailing how funding is allocated. He shared 2024 season statistics, including crew hours, miles of trail maintained, trees cleared, rollovers installed, new trails built, trailhead education days, and groomed winter trail miles. Plans for 2025 include increased work at Signal Peak and continued public education efforts at Hartman Rocks. Kugler explained that the crew begins work in mid-May to clear snow and prepare trails and that their annual efforts include expanding maintenance areas and organizing cheatgrass pulls to educate the community and volunteers. He emphasized that stewardship funds are crucial to keeping the trail crew employed. The committee expressed their appreciation to Kugler and his team for their work in maintaining trails and camping areas, noting that their efforts benefit other agencies as well.

### **Crested Butte Mountain Bike Association**

Ochs provided updates on the 2024 Backcountry Outreach Crew, which focused on educating the community about trail use, distributing PACT kits and WAG bags, and assisting with parking management. He highlighted their accomplishments, including trash removal, tree clearing, trail maintenance and construction, drainage installations, trail hardening, decommissioning illegal trails and campsites, removing illegal fire rings, extinguishing unattended fires, managing human and dog waste, and cleaning designated campsites. The crew reached approximately 2,351 people directly and made thousands more impressions. They also maintained the West Maroon Trailhead bathroom twice a week during the summer and completed significant trail work on the Upper Upper Loop, Death Pass, Trail 401, and Dyke Trail. Ochs expressed gratitude to the CBCC supporters and explained that all funding goes directly to labor costs. Looking ahead to 2025, he hopes to expand the crew to eight members to enhance their impact.

### **Crested Butte Land Trust**

Mugglestone provided updates for the 2024 Crested Butte Land Trust, highlighting the successful reinforcement of a frequently used bridge in collaboration with Glacier Earth Works.

He expressed gratitude to the STOR Committee and the Stewardship Fund for contributing \$10,000 toward the \$22,000 project cost, which was instrumental in its completion.

### **USFS Toilet Service Contract**

Catmur presented updates on toilet services for the Kebler Pass area, including locations such as the winter trailhead, Lake Irwin, Swampy Pass Trailhead, Lost Lake, and Horse Ranch Park, as well as the Crested Butte area, covering Judd Falls, Rendezvous Meadow, Musicians Camp, and Tent City. Their staff manages maintenance, with 2025 costs projected at \$35,500—a \$10 increase from last year. Services began later in 2024 due to lingering snow, with the cleaning window running from May 15 to October 15. The committee discussed the need for grants from the National Forest Foundation (NFF) and potential participation from the Chamber to help fund toilet cleaning. Catmur also announced that the Stewardship Fund contract is open for applications, with \$150,000 to \$200,000 available. The committee explored ways to increase grant awareness among agencies to ensure better fund distribution. Catmur noted that applications are due by January 15 and outlined the submission process for the committee.

**Jones adjourned the meeting.**