



STOR Committee Meeting Minutes August 28, 2025 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:

Tim Kugler, Andrew Sandstrom, Nick Catmur, Chris Parmeter, Brian Brown, Cathie Pagano, Laura Pucket-Daniels, Roman Kolodziej, Hedda Peterson, Jeremy Johndrow, Derrick Nehrenberg, Dayle Funka, Marisela Ballesteros, Brandon Diamond

Tim Kugler (Committee Chair) called meeting to order

Approval of June 2025 Meeting Minutes

Sandstrom made a motion to approve the minutes and Johndrow seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously with amendments.

RPI Grant Application Update

Pagano and Catmur updated the committee on the grant extension, noting that high-value projects under the \$2.5M grant would be prioritized. GOCO aimed to distribute \$50M over five years, and the committee worked to prepare a stronger plan for larger projects. They also emphasized that what STOR was proposing was not a major new plan, since feedback had already been gathered and STOR members represented a wide range of community perspectives. Discussion followed on differences between Gunnison County and neighboring counties, identifying which projects would and would not make sense for collaboration, and the committee planned to further discuss the outdoor strategy in relation to several potential projects.

The following projects were proposed for grant funding:

- Wet meadow habitat restoration – \$40,000
- Agricultural gate installation – \$30,000
- Staff capacity and public lands stewardship – \$180,000
- Wildlife crossing – \$100,000 (work had already been initiated per the strategic plan)

The committee reviewed the scope of each project and discussed forming a subcommittee and hiring a consultant to develop a plan for the wildlife crossing project. Planning capacity and achieving early wins were highlighted as priorities for the grant application. The grant proposal region focused on Gunnison County only.

Gunnison Stewardship Funding

Catmur and Kugler discussed pursuing grants beyond the GOCO fund. Kugler noted that GOCO and Gunnison Stewardship funding had supported many organizations, and applying for other grants such as RPI would help reserve stewardship funds for projects in the strategic plan. The committee also discussed incorporating more education and cross-training to strengthen future applications, as well as identifying base-level projects needing annual funding and exploring alternative funding sources.

Future RPI Grant Implementation Projects

The committee discussed potential large implementation projects and noted that collaborations could strengthen future grant applications. Project ideas included conservation easements, Lake Irwin camping infrastructure, a management plan for the Gothic corridor, improvements at Rustlers Gulch and the Taylor River put-in, and Horse Ranch Park. Members highlighted that the Lake Irwin project is already underway, with additional funding anticipated in 2026 to help complete remaining work in alignment with the strategic plan. The committee also noted GOCO has other grants available and agreed to develop more project ideas before the next application cycle next summer. They further discussed creating a centralized webpage to share information on road closures, trail conditions, Sage-Grouse updates, and other resources. Parmeter reported that seven gates had been installed.

Kugler adjourned the meeting.