

MINUTES
OPEN SPACE AND TRAILS BOARD
REGULAR SESSION
March 2, 2021
Zoom Meeting

OSTB Present:

Graeme Means Dist. 1	Howie Mallory Dist. 2	Amy Barrow Dist. 3, Chair	Michael Kinsley Dist. 4	Wayne Ives Dist. 5
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Staff Present: Gary Tennenbaum, Kim Arensdorf, Jessie Young, Paul Holsinger, Janet Urquhart, Liza Mitchell, Lindsey Utter, Dale Will, Richard Neiley

BOCC Present: Greg Poschman

Others Present: Jose Miranda, Olivia Emmer

Amy Barrow called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.

PUBLIC COMMENT

No public comment

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

Graeme Means motioned for the OSTB to approve the 02/04/2021 regular and executive session minutes. Wayne Ives seconded. Motion passed (5-0).

BOARD AND STAFF COMMENTS

Howie Mallory commented on improving the Nordic alignment of Owl Creek Trail at the beginning of the trail at west Buttermilk towards Snowmass Village. He noted that there is an opportunity to purchase a parcel in that section to preserve the trail alignment. He recommended that the OST program keep updated on opportunities for Nordic connectivity and trail partnering. Tennenbaum stated that OST Management Plans include items regarding the Nordic System. Additionally, there would need to be a partnership with the landowners, he said.

Amy Barrow commented on a news article that mentioned paddle boarding occurring at North Star Nature Preserve in the winter. Tennenbaum stated that because of low ice and snowfall earlier this winter there were people found paddle boarding at North Star. However, the Management Plan does not allow river use at North Star in the winter, he said.

Tennenbaum stated that construction on the Wildin Bridge begins this week, which includes decking replacement. The bridge will be critical for Roaring Fork Conservancy (RFC) programs, he said.

Tennenbaum explained that the Wildin and Glassier housing options and costs will be brought back to the board at a future meeting. Staff is working with Suzanna Reid and a contractor to determine costs. Glassier housing could be a good opportunity to partner with Eagle County, he said. Michael Kinsley mentioned simply stabilizing the Glassier house, however not necessarily making it habitable depending on costs.

Mallory mentioned the monthly update regarding Pitkin County being re-certified by the State of Colorado to hold conservation easements in which a tax credit can be claimed. He asked what the tax credits are currently selling for. Paul Holsinger stated that it's typically .80-.87 cents on the dollar.

Tennenbaum stated that the Request for Proposal (RFP) was released to the public for the Aspen Airport Business Center trail connection to the Brush Creek Park and Ride. Staff is currently working with the City of Aspen on a feasibility study.

Tennenbaum notified the OSTB that cars were broken into at Arbaney Kittle. He stated that the OST rangers are currently advertising to hire a third seasonal ranger position for the upcoming summer season.

Richard Neiley and Dale Will entered at 9:25 a.m.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Wayne Ives motioned for the OSTB to enter into executive session in accordance with CRS 24-6-402(4) (a)(b) and (e) for the purpose of discussing acquisitions, attorney consultation and negotiations at 9:30 a.m. Howie Mallory Seconded. Motion passed (5-0).

EXECUTIVE SESSION II

Wayne Ives motioned for the OSTB entered in executive session with the BOCC in accordance with CRS 24-6-402(4) (a)(b) and (e) for the purpose of discussing acquisitions, attorney consultation and negotiations at 10:00 a.m. Michael Kinsley Seconded. Motion passed (5-0). The joint executive session adjourned at 11:45 a.m.

JOINT OSTB – BOCC WORK SESSION **Commissioners Meeting Room; 530 E. Main St., Aspen**

OSTB Trustees Present: Amy Barrow (Chair), Howie Mallory, Graeme Means, Wayne Ives, Michael Kinsley

BOCC Present: Kelly McNicholas Kury (Chair), Steve Child, Greg Poschman, George Newman, Patti Clapper, Francie Jacober

Staff Present: Gary Tennenbaum, Dale Will, Kim Arensdorf, Lindsey Utter, Liza Mitchell, Jon Peacock, Terry Anderson, Zachary Hendrix, Mike Fleagle, Lisa MacDonald

Others Present: Quinn Donnelly

Media Present: Grassroots TV

Kelly McNicholas Kury called the joint work session to order at 12:15 p.m.

The entire joint work session meeting video is available from this link by selecting the meeting date: <https://pitkincounty.ompnetwork.org/embed/sessions/164640/bocc-work-session-special-meeting-03-02-2021>

OST Budget Supplementals

Sky Mountain Park Ecological Restoration

Liza Mitchell explained that Brush Creek Pond restoration and the sagebrush restoration projects are being combined to restore the pasture and connect habitat type. She stated that the irrigation system needs to be updated to function correctly for both projects. Staff considered the best approach which will roughly be \$40k, she said. The project included design adaptations for the sagebrush test plots, and collected seeds from several OS properties. Mitchell explained that the drought affected the seed collection, therefore staff is in the process of redesigning the seeding and grow out with consultant support.

Means asked when the pond project is scheduled to be completed and results seen from the sagebrush test plots. Mitchell stated that staff is looking to work on both components this year. She noted that the sagebrush development is a longer term process, however results should be seen within 2-3 years. Staff will continue to monitor the project progress in the long run, she said.

Barrow asked how the shortage of native seed will affect the sagebrush test plot project. Mitchell stated that the plant spreading rate was high initially. Staff is confident that the seeding that we currently have will determine which treatment is most effective, Mitchell said.

Poschman asked if there is a reseeding option to help with drought issues. Mitchell stated that one treatment would include seedling plantings, additionally staff will look at irrigation testing on different plots and determine the long term success rate of plant management.

Mitchell explained that the increase in prices for materials and labor are due to the pandemic's supply chain and construction boom. She noted an average of 20% increase in costs. She stated that wildlife specific fencing will be installed. The fence will be an 8 ft. for herbivory protection and the material will be black for scenic quality from Brush Creek.

Barrow asked about visibility mitigation and/or signage regarding the project. Mitchell stated that there is separate budget allotted for interpretive signage to explain the project via online and on-site.

Board action below

Lisa MacDonald entered at 12:35 p.m.

GOCO Resilient Communities Grant

Tennenbaum stated that OST was awarded a \$90,825 grant from Great Outdoors Colorado that was accepted by the Pitkin County Board of County Commissioners. Staff recommends a formal recommendation for this budget supplemental, he said.

Board action below

Redstone to McClure Trail NEPA

Tennenbaum noted that OST's partnership with CDOT has been very successful in helping with the Redstone to McClure Trail alignment. The new alignment will utilize the underpass rather than along Highway 133. Tennenbaum stated that the new plan will be brought to the Crystal River Caucus for review.

Lindsey Utter explained that within the NEPA process there was additional fieldwork needed for wildlife corridor studies, and an updated draft based on the new trail realignment for the underpass. A draft plan will be released for second public comment period in late summer, she said. Tennenbaum clarified that OST is utilizing the old NEPA process that includes a draft plan for a public comment period. The Forest Service will take into consideration public comment received, he said.

Ives asked if the studies will create a new alternative in NEPA. Utter explained that the Forest Service is still in discussion regarding the alignment.

Means noted that the new trail alignment will be more cost effective in the long run due to future maintenance.

Poschman asked if the maintenance costs will be shared with CDOT. Tennenbaum stated that OST will be responsible for maintenance costs regarding the trail, however they should be relatively inexpensive.

Board action below.

BOARD ACTION

Coffman Ranch Conservation Easement

Michael Kinsley motioned to recommend the BOCC approve the \$2m purchase of a conservation easement from AVL T on the Coffman Ranch. Wayne Ives seconded. Motion passed (5-0).

Sky Mountain Park Ecological Restoration Budget Supplemental

Wayne Ives motioned to recommend BOCC approval for the Sky Mountain Park Ecological Restoration Budget Supplemental. Graeme Means seconded. Motion passed (5-0).

GOCO Resilient Communities Grant Budget Supplemental

Wayne Ives motioned to recommend BOCC approval of the GOCO Resilient Communities Grant. Michael Kinsley seconded. Motion passed (5-0).

Redstone to McClure Trail NEPA Budget Supplemental

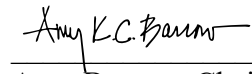
Michael Kinsley motioned to recommend BOCC approval of the Redstone to McClure Trail NEPA Budget Supplemental, Graeme Means second. Motion Passed (5-0).

ADJOURN

The OSTB and Joint OSTB-BOCC meetings of March 2, 2021 adjourned at 12:55 p.m.

Approved:

Attest:



Amy Barrow, Chair
Pitkin County Open Space & Trails Board

Kimberly Arensdorf
Pitkin County Open Space & Trails
Administrative Specialist