

MINUTES
OPEN SPACE AND TRAILS BOARD
REGULAR SESSION
May 6, 2021
Zoom Video Conference

OSTB Present:

Graeme Means Dist. 1	Howie Mallory Dist. 2	Amy Barrow Dist. 3	Michael Kinsley Dist. 4, Chair	Wayne Ives Dist. 5 Not Present
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Staff Present: Gary Tennenbaum, Jessie Young, Liza Mitchell, Janet Urquhart, Paul Holsinger, Ryan Quinn, Dale Will, Phillis Mattice, Richard Neiley, Lisa MacDonald

Others Present: Gwen Garcelon, Jose Miranda, Erin Cuseo

Michael Kinsley called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Jose Miranda raised concern regarding the Glassier Open Space Agricultural Lease Bid Process. Miranda stated that the chosen proposal for the Glassier OS lease is controversial due to the proposer's previous work on the land as Agriculture Manager for Rock Bottom Ranch.

Erin Cuseo, stated that when approving a lease holder the Board should be knowledgeable on all of the Glassier Open Space agricultural lease proposals and the history of the land.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

Amy Barrow moved for the OSTB to approve as amended the 03/30/2021 OSTB & BOCC Special Meeting for Executive Session, the 04/01/2021 OSTB Regular and Executive Session and the 04/22/2021 OSTB Special Meeting for Regular Session Minutes. Howie Mallory seconded. Motion passed (4-0).

Phillips River Access Adoption

Gary Tennenbaum explained that the Phillips Mobile Home Park contains a river corridor with public fishing area. He stated that OST is currently managing the public and commercial river outfitters above and below the Phillips property, and can best manage the river access and use through the property. Tennenbaum noted some conflict last summer between the commercial operators and the public. OST provides the permits for the commercial outfitters, therefore staff recommends that OST adopt the Phillips River Parcel in order to manage recreation, Tennenbaum said.

Phillis Mattice stated that Pitkin County acquired the Phillips Mobile Home Park in 2018 to preserve affordable housing. Current planning with the BOCC includes relocating the mobile homes that are on the river view side, which is where public fishing is accessed, she said. Mattice explained that some of the mobile homes are on State Land Board land as well as some are on the flood plain, which presents issues. The project is estimated to cost \$7m, she said.

Mattice recommended OST adoption of the of the river access corridor to assist with recreation management.

Graeme Means commented on the wildlife corridor along the property. He proposed including habitat restoration within the parcel and utilizing the water to benefits the land. Tennenbaum stated that there is opportunity for restoration in the future, however the County is currently focused on affordable housing planning.

Amy Barrow asked what management items can be identified in the near term. Ryan Quinn stated that the Rangers already manage many OST fishing easements and patrol around the area, therefore it would be fairly seamless to take on. It would also provide an opportunity for the Rangers to review the fishing impacts and potential management improvements in the area, Quinn said.

Board action below.

OSTB Retreat Discussion

Gary Tennenbaum proposed that the OSTB focus on recreation management for the 2021 retreat discussion due to the massive increase public land use. He stated that the discussion will provide an opportunity to collaborate with other public land partners to better manage the increase in recreation. OSTB retreats have been quite valuable in analyzing and addressing “big picture” program issues, he said.

Graeme Means proposed that the OST mission statement and goals, the budget, and the carrying capacity of public lands all be taken into consideration for this topic.

Howie Mallory noted that this would be a key topic for the years to come and expressed favor of it being a retreat discussion.

Amy Barrow recommended that the Growth Management Quota System (GMQS) also be a retreat topic as it coincides with the increase in recreation management.

Michael Kinsley asked how broadly to structure the discussion with participation from other land managers. Tennenbaum stated that the goal is to identify the issues, what role OST should play, and to identifying the next steps. Dale Will stated that the charter was amended in 2016, which allows OST to increase the scope of our interface with federal lands that directly impacts stewardship of County Open Space assets. Kinsley stated that OST can have a major role in the bigger picture. Barrow noted that the key piece is collaboration with other jurisdictions instead of OST simply taking over all the issues.

Tennenbaum suggested the retreat take place in November.

Agricultural Lease Process Update

Tennenbaum explained that OST is updating the Agricultural Lease Process. Staff is hiring an outside facilitator, Gwen Garcelon, to guide the public process and engage the agricultural

community, he said. Paul Holsinger stated that Garcelon has been very involved with the agriculture community in the Valley and is in a good position to facilitate public engagement.

Garcelon mentioned the controversial issues with the Glassier OS Lease. She noted the importance of transparency within in the process. Means stated that OST needs to learn from all the past agriculture leases and focus on the overall process and transparency.

Mallory asked what methodology would be utilized for updating the process. Garcelon stated that her direct experience with agriculture includes creating a program in conjunction with CSU to initiate mentoring members of the public through their Master Gardner program. Working on collaboration within the community is key to develop successful local food production, she said.

Mallory asked about timing of the updated process. Garcelon stated that the goal is to develop the process by the fall, however the public process can take more time. Mallory requested a status report during the process. Tennenbaum explained that OST will not grant any leases until the process update is complete. Holsinger stated that process updates can be included in the Board monthly update.

Barrow noted the importance of collaborating with OST leasees as well as private agriculture producers to get a broader understanding of the marketplace.

BOARD AND STAFF COMMENTS

Tennenbaum notified the board that OST is collaborating with the Forest Service, Bureau of Land Management, Colorado Parks and Wildlife, the City of Aspen and other land managers to work on the education outreach regarding responsible recreation.

Mallory asked about the North Star pedestrian bridge repair. Tennenbaum stated that the repair will take place this year. With regards to liability, Neiley stated that OST does not encourage jumping from the bridge.

Will stated that OST received the TD Ranch reimbursement from Great Outdoors Colorado (GOCO).

BOARD ACTION

Phillips River Access Adoption

Howie Mallory motioned to recommend the Board of County Commissioners to approve Open Space and Trails adoption of Phillips River Access. Amy Barrow seconded. Motion passed (4-0).

ADJOURN

The OSTB meeting of June 6, 2021 adjourned at 12:40 p.m.

Approved:



Michael Kinsley, Chair
Pitkin County Open Space & Trails Board

Attest:



Kimberly Arensdorf
Pitkin County Open Space & Trails
Administrative Specialist