

**MINUTES**  
**OPEN SPACE AND TRAILS BOARD**  
**REGULAR SESSION**  
**September 9, 2025**  
**530 East Main Street**  
**Aspen, CO 81611**

**OSTB Present:**

|                         |                          |                              |                            |                       |
|-------------------------|--------------------------|------------------------------|----------------------------|-----------------------|
| Graeme Means<br>Dist. 1 | Howie Mallory<br>Dist. 2 | Amy Barrow<br>Dist. 3, Chair | Michael Kinsley<br>Dist. 4 | Wayne Ives<br>Dist. 5 |
|-------------------------|--------------------------|------------------------------|----------------------------|-----------------------|

**Staff Present:** Gary Tennenbaum, Kim Arensdorf, Ted O'Brien, Jessie Young, Jami McMannes, Carly O'Connell, Liza Mitchell, Drew Walters, Rick Norman

**Others Present:** Jane Poss, Elizabeth Boyles

Amy Barrow called the meeting to order at 9:05 a.m.

---

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

Jane Poss asked when the East of Aspen Caucus can schedule a meeting with the Board of County Commissioners (BOCC) to discuss the desired conditions for the North Star Nature Preserve (NSNP). Gary Tennenbaum said that the draft management plan for NSNP will be discussed at the December joint meeting with the BOCC and OSTB. He mentioned that the NSNP working group, public users, commercial outfitters, the East of Aspen Caucus, and other partners will all have an opportunity to participate in the discussion. Jessie Young stated that the NSNP Working Group will dive into strategies and actionable steps for the Management Plan.

Elizabeth Boyles noted that the NSNP working group contacted the Colorado Natural Heritage Program (CNHP) to discuss desired conditions and capacity at NSNP. She stated that the hydrologic and ecological studies and recommendations conducted by CNHP and the Watershed Biodiversity Initiative (WBI) should be included in the plan. Liza Mitchell mentioned that staff have worked closely with CNHP and the WBI to contribute data to the NSNP Management Plan.

**APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES**

Graeme Means motioned for the OSTB to approve the 08/07/2025 OSTB Regular and Executive Draft Minutes. Wayne Ives seconded. Motion passed (5-0).

***Open Space and Trails Draft Climate Action Policy***

Tennenbaum stated that the goal of the Climate Action Policy is to align the Open Space Program with the County's Climate Action Plan by categorizing mitigation opportunities and initiatives. He stated that today's meeting is to gather feedback on the draft plan to refine its effectiveness in addressing climate action and ensure that the budget aligns with climate action goals, while considering the lifecycle costs of structures and materials.

Howie Mallory asked if there is a way to establish metrics to measure carbon sequestration from land management practices and provide an annual report. Tennenbaum explained that it is difficult to measure the long-term benefits of land preservation and carbon sequestration. However, the BOCC will receive an annual update on the County's Climate Action Plan. Tennenbaum noted that staff will work with Michael Port, the County's Climate Action Analyst, to include OST climate action metrics in the plan.

Michael Kinsley proposed striking phrases from policy 2E, stating "the board may consider placement of alternative energy systems such as rooftop solar on open space properties provided such systems are incidental to the protection of these open space values", and "the climate project cannot require significant conversion of open space". Tennenbaum stated that the language in the OST charter is clear on the conversion of open space lands; however, staff will look into clarifying the language in the policy.

---

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

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

**BOCC Present:** Kelly McNicholas Kury (Chair), Francie Jacober, Greg Poschman, Patti Clapper, Jeffrey Woodruff

**Staff Present:** Gary Tennenbaum, Dale Will, Kim Arensdorf, Liza Mitchell, Jessie Young, Ted O'Brien, Jami McMannes, Carly O'Connell, Jon Peacock, Ryan Mahoney, Richard Neiley

**Others Present:** Cecily DeAngelo, Julia Kintsch

**Media Present:** Grassroots TV, Josie Taris – Aspen Daily News

The BOCC Work Session can be viewed at:

<https://pitkincounty.ompnetwork.org/embed/sessions/326600/bocc-work-session-1st-and-3rd-tuesdays-09-09-2025>

---

Kelly McNicholas Kury called the joint work session to order at 12:06 p.m.

#### ***Roaring Fork Safe Passages***

Julia Kintsch outlined the RFSP mitigation goals.

- Reduce wildlife-vehicle conflict
  - Over half (55%) wildlife-vehicle collisions
- Improve and preserve long-term permeability for wildlife across Highway 82
- Support Landscape-scale habitat connectivity for wildlife

Kinch stated that mitigation planning and implementation in 2024-2025 include:

- Develop and evaluate mitigation alternatives

09/09/2025

Page 2 of 5

- Partner and stakeholder and public engagement
- Mitigation plan development

Kintsch explained that the next steps include engineering design, pursuing funding, and completing design and construction. Mitigation phases for near-term improvements include:

- Improve existing wildlife fence (Airport to Shale Bluffs)
- Two new wildlife crossings
  - Bridge underpass at SMP
  - Overpass at Brush Creek
- Up to 3 new wildlife crossings
  - Bridge underpasses at Woods Road
  - Wildlife overpass at Wildcat
  - Wildlife overpass at Aspen Village

Kinch stated that the 2026 funding request of \$75k is for near-term improvements to complete engineering design. The funding request of \$275k is for an engineering feasibility study and structural analysis. Total funding request is \$350k, she said.

Cecily DeAngelo explained that the Highway 82 Wildlife Crossings Public Input Survey received 732 responses, with 95.9% of respondents supporting the construction of wildlife crossings.

Wayne Ives asked why there are two crossings in the Sky Mountain Park area, considering it is one Elk herd. Kintsch stated that wildlife mitigation encompasses a larger area than just the hot spots. DeAngelo stated that the goal is to direct wildlife away from human conflict areas.

Greg Poschman asked about other funding sources. DeAngelo stated that the near-term improvements are a community-wide effort. RFSP will engage with all municipalities and stakeholders for support. Donors will be approached after the feasibility study is complete, she said.

Francie Jacober asked why the upper valley area was chosen for the first phases of mitigation. DeAngelo stated that it is more of a safety issue in the upper valley along Highway 82.

Patti Clapper asked whether it is legal to use OST funding for this type of project. Gary Tennenbaum stated that there needs to be more discussion on what is allowed for the Airport, Brush Creek, and Cozy Point areas. He mentioned that OST funds have been allowed in the past for planning pieces.

Graeme Means proposed a challenge grant, where OST would specify an amount to be matched by donors and other partners. DeAngelo mentioned that the feasibility study needs to be publicly available, including information from CPW and CDOT. After the feasibility is completed and construction begins, RFSP can pursue additional funding sources.

Jeffrey Woodruff stated that funding for the project does not meet the criteria for the OST program's policies.

Kelly stated that the BOCC needs more information about what funding is permitted before proceeding. Tennenbaum suggested another meeting with RFSP and OSTB before returning to the BOCC.

***North Star Nature Preserve (NSNP) Management Plan update process and background/current conditions***

Jessie Young explained that the NSNP Management Plan process has included working group meetings, a public survey, and an open house. Working group members include: land managers, commercial operators, partner organizations, public users, the East of Aspen Caucus, and the OST Board liaison.

Young provided NSNP conservation values which provide the organization framework for the management plan update. The conservation values include:

- River System
- Riparian Zone, Wetlands, and Beavers
- Wildlife and Habitats
- Biodiversity and Ecosystem Integrity
- Community (research, education, recreation, stewardship, access, and safety)

Liza Mitchell provided the ecological data overview:

- 28 contracted studies since 1981 (22 within the last 10 years)
- Over \$233k spent on ecological work (monitoring, habitat improvements) in the past 5 years
- Wildlife observations, cameras, noxious weed mapping, water quality, etc.

Michell explained that ecological data have identified species inventory and diversity, habitat condition and use, wildlife activity periods, and indicator species. Mitchell provided some recommendations and actions that have been completed.

- Wildlife studies every 5-7 years
- Maintain dawn to dusk closure
- Enhance long-term beaver habitat conditions
- Prevent overbrowsing by deer and elk through small exposure pods
- Evaluate data and trends in key indicators

Mitchell stated that staff have studied hydrology to enhance water quality and support aquatic life. Recommendations and actions include:

- Implement new groundwater monitoring program
- Restore/stabilize critical bank instability
- Implement fen wetland restoration project
- Monitor restoration project for success and manage adaptively

Mitchell commented that vegetation/habitat efforts include plant species inventory, floristic quality, mitigating noxious weeds, and observing plant communities.

Young noted that community visitor use at NSNP has predated planning efforts from OST. From 2011 to 2013, there was a significant increase in river use, which coincided with the rise in social media/smartphones. Starting in 2015, OST worked with the USFS to implement the permit system and increase education and enforcement efforts. In 2020, the updated management plan enabled continued coordination and enhanced enforcement, as well as updated permits to address emerging challenges. In 2023, commercial operators were limited to 5 outfitters. 2024-2025 includes the visitor use management study and the management plan update, she said.

Michael Kinsley asked what measures are being taken to address the residents' concerns. Carly O'Connell stated that in December, OST staff will present the draft management plan to the BOCC and OSTB. This plan will incorporate conservation values and goals into desired conditions, conservation objectives, management actions, indicators, thresholds, and response options. The plan process and input involve the NSNP working group, she said.

O'Connell stated that the NSNP desired conditions provides long-term protection of biodiversity, natural ecosystem processes, and landscape connectivity. Management efforts restore natural processes and promote ecological resilience in the face of challenges, including climate change, upstream water diversions, and agricultural land use legacies.

Amy Barrow thanked staff for the detailed ecological conditions and plan process in preparation for the joint meeting in December.

## **ADJOURN**

The OSTB meeting of September 9, 2025, adjourned at 2:15 p.m.

Approved:

Attest:

Amy Barrow  
Amy Barrow (Jan 11, 2025 23:45:20 MST)  
Amy Barrow, Chair  
Pitkin County Open Space & Trails Board

Kim Arensdorf  
Kim Arensdorf, Administrative Specialist  
Pitkin County Open Space & Trails

# 2025.09.09 OSTB\_BOCC Regular Session Minutes

Final Audit Report

2026-01-12

|                 |                                                |
|-----------------|------------------------------------------------|
| Created:        | 2025-12-29                                     |
| By:             | Kim Arensdorf (kim.Arensdorf@pitkincounty.com) |
| Status:         | Signed                                         |
| Transaction ID: | CBJCHBCAABAAngLOZQYhQhnGxt48-mA7P8VVWBz-bUGV   |

## "2025.09.09 OSTB\_BOCC Regular Session Minutes" History

-  Document created by Kim Arensdorf (kim.Arensdorf@pitkincounty.com)  
2025-12-29 - 10:09:59 PM GMT
-  Document emailed to Amy Barrow (amy@landdesign39.com) for signature  
2025-12-29 - 10:10:03 PM GMT
-  Email viewed by Amy Barrow (amy@landdesign39.com)  
2026-01-12 - 6:39:03 AM GMT
-  New document URL requested by Amy Barrow (amy@landdesign39.com)  
2026-01-12 - 6:39:06 AM GMT
-  Document e-signed by Amy Barrow (amy@landdesign39.com)  
Signature Date: 2026-01-12 - 6:45:20 AM GMT - Time Source: server
-  Agreement completed.  
2026-01-12 - 6:45:20 AM GMT