



**TO:** Covenant Enforcement Commission Members  
**FROM:** Angela Henderson - Assistant Director, Project Management & Facilities Operations  
**DATE:** 3-17-2017  
**RE:** Annual Meeting and Background of the CEC

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Dear Potential Committee Members:

Thank you for considering service on the Covenant Enforcement Commission (CEC). The CEC meets once a year to review whether or not RFTA has met its promises to steward the old Rio Grande and Western Railroad Corridor (Corridor). Would you be available to meet either Fri., May 19<sup>th</sup> or Mon., May 22<sup>nd</sup>, and what time is best?

A little history is helpful here.

The CEC was established as a result of an agreement between RFTA's predecessor, the Roaring Fork Railroad Holding Authority (RFRHA), and the Board of Trustees of Great Outdoors Colorado (GOCO). CEC Members are designated to represent their jurisdictions by their respective Commissions/Councils and Trustee boards. Once designated, the representative serves on the CEC for a three (3) year term.

GOCO provided funds for the purchase of the Corridor in 1997. Originally RFRHA was required to place a conservation easement on the entire Corridor. Based on concerns about securing federal funding for future RFRHA transportation projects, the Conservation Easement was removed from the entire 34 miles of the Corridor and replaced with Conservation Covenants (Covenants), in nine areas.

The obligations of the Covenants now belong to RFTA. GOCO allowed modification of its original grant agreement in return for RFRHA developing the Covenants and setting up the CEC. CEC members report on the Covenants to GOCO.

A consultant who is familiar with the Corridor and the Covenants performs an inspection of the conservation areas and presents a report to the CEC. Based on the annual CEC meeting, the report is reviewed and adjusted, and a letter is sent on behalf of the CEC to GOCO along with a copy of his report. The conservation area reports have in the past been prepared by Newland Project Resources, Inc. - Tom Newland

The focus of the Covenants is to ensure compliance with policies defining the types of uses that are permitted within the Corridor. The CEC determines whether or not a proposed or existing encroachment is compatible with the transportation, recreation and conservation values set out by the 2001 Encroachment Policy memo. Prior to the annual meeting, you will be asked to review the agenda, consultant's draft report as well as a RFTA staff report on any actions taken to determine the contents of a final report to GOCO. Once the reports are finalized, this information will also be available online at [www.rfta.com](http://www.rfta.com).

I look forward to seeing you in May. If you have any questions please do not hesitate to contact me at 970 384-4982 (ahenderson@rfta.com) or Maura Masters at 970-384-4971 (mmaesters@rfta.com).