

Mid Valley Trails Committee Meeting Minutes

February 17th2023

7:30am

Willits Health Center – 2nd Floor Conference Room

INVITED ATTENDEES

- George Trantow – MVTC Chair
- Phillip Ring – MVTC Treasurer
- Brian Schaefer – MVTC Member
- Susan Wilson – MVTC Member (Will Remove, no longer a member)
- Katie Ralston – MVTC Member (Will Remove, no longer a member)
- Rebecca Schild – Roaring Fork Outdoor Volunteers
- Mike Pritchard, Roaring Fork Mountain Bike Association
- Karin Offield, Roaring Fork Valley Horse Council
- Michelle Thibeault, Town of Basalt Planning Director
- Jill Klosterman, Eagle County
- Angela Henderson, RFTA
- Brett Meredith, RFTA
- Abbey Pascoe, RFTA
- Sarah Faichney, RFTA

Who Attended:

- George Trantow- MVTC Chair
- Phillip Ring- MVTC Treasurer
- Alan Luu- MVTC Member
- Temple Glasser- MVTC Project Manger
- Rebecca Schild, Roaring Fork Outdoor Volunteers
- Melissa, Roaring Fork Outdoor Volunteers
- Karin Offield, Roaring Fork Valley Horse Council
- Angela Henderson, RFTA
- Abbey Pascoe, RFTA
- Sarah Faichney, RFTA

AGENDA

1. Review and approval of November's Minutes
 - Meeting Minutes were approved.
2. RFVHC Update – Karin Offield

- Request to change project. Replace line item #17 with Signage/Education for the Trails Safe Passing Plan (TSPP) used in trail heads and kiosks where appropriate.
- Karin states she has Trade Marked the signs because the Roaring Fork Valley Horse Council would like to know where the sign is being used throughout the country. They have a form users can fill out on the Roaring Fork Valley Horse Council website so they can track who is using the sign.
- George brought up a concern of the new signage being duplicative of the yield signs that is already on the trails for horses. As well as the land management owners allowing Roaring Fork Valley Horse Council to put signs on their property. Karin assured George that the signs are different and this new signage is more informational. Karin also stated that she will work with the land management owners and get their approval for putting signs on their property.

3. 2023 Budget Review

- George decided to leave the \$5,000 budget for the Roaring Fork Valley Horse Council to use for the educational signs and potential gate projects as long as the Roaring Fork Valley Horse Council provided documentation of their spending of each project.
- Roaring Fork Outdoor Volunteers requested to remove the Adopt a Trail- Rio Grande line item. Roaring Fork Outdoor Volunteers spoke with RFTA and decided to not to pursue with it through the MVTC.
- Becca Schild introduced Melissa from Roaring Fork Outdoor Volunteers as their program director and main point of contact May-June because Becca will be on maternity leave during that time.
- Becca pointed out on the budget that the \$7,000 allotted to Roaring Fork Outdoor Volunteers for Community Education should actually be for Trail Maintenance. Becca had spoken to Temple about it previously, it just needs to be updated on the budget sheet. The correct budget sheet was not attached in the meeting agenda.
- Becca appointed Melissa to speak about Roaring Fork Outdoor Volunteers updates on the Nancy Path project and new Community Project Series. Sarah and Temple reminded Melissa and Becca if the committee needs to decide on anything all updates and presentations need to be submitted at least 10 days prior to the meeting in order for it to be included in the meeting.

4. 2023 Work Plan

- Ideally the committee members would like to talk about each item on the work plan each meeting and hear an update from the following partnerships about the projects MVTC is funding.
- Remove Adopt a Trail from Roaring Fork Outdoor Volunteers work plan.
- Add Education Signage for the Roaring Fork Valley Horse Council work plan.
- There was clarification on the Nancy Path Project. The project is working on the equestrian trail connection from Nancy's Path to Glassier trail. Angie requested a map during presentations of this project so it is clear. Melissa states Pitkin County is working on the alignment for the connection still, so there is not a map yet.

5. New Business

- Recruiting more MVTC members. George suggested to find people who are interested in our projects. Angie said RFTA marketing can create an ad and suggests posting the ad with Pitkin County Open Space and on the RFTA website. Becca said she will put out an ad on the Roaring Fork Outdoor Volunteers newsletter and Karin said she will put an ad in the Roaring Fork Valley Horse Council newsletter.

- Suggested potentially changing meeting times and days to work with all committee members schedules. Sarah will send out an email to ask availability for everyone.

6. Old Business



January 5, 2023

RFVHC Agenda Item for MTVC Meeting 1.13.2023:

EDUCATION:

The Trails Safe Passing ACTION Plan: Stop! Speak and Stand Back (TSPP) will help trail users to know what to do when encountering equestrians on the trails.

This action plan has been a collaboration of user groups, hearing from and learning from many. A workshop began in Michigan in February 2020 with all trail partners and began the conversation. The equestrian trail leadership wrote the Trails Safe Passing Action Plan and now works with public land managers and trail user groups, with the addition of the Roaring Fork Valley Horse Council's new sign. (See below). The national and international renowned Equine Land Conservation Resource (ELCR) in Lexington, Kentucky agrees with and promotes this Action Plan with the RFVHC sign. The international arm of mountain biking, International Mountain Biking Association (IMBA) recognizes the TSPP.

It is recognized that many trail user groups are not aware that horses are prey animals and naturally can be afraid of unfamiliar people and objects. Their "flight & fight" instincts create fear, and horses can become unreliable. We also found the phrase "yield" was unclear and not understood by some people. For example,

trail users from other countries do not understand the word YIELD.

Most importantly, the Trails Safe Passing Plan (TSPP) is different because we are teaching users to Stop! when they first encounter horses on a trail. Using no bells in our plan, because horses cannot be trained to understand the “ring” nor do we give advice to “slowly pass” - our TSPP action plan becomes safer for equestrians and other trail users because we ask people meeting horses on the trail to first, STOP! !

Importantly, next we teach trail users meeting horses on the trails to SPEAK, to announce themselves and say “hi” to the horseback riders and strike up a conversation. Horses are nervous about meeting objects on the trails and the human voices can put horses at ease!

The final safety request is to Stand Back off to the side of the trail so the horses and their riders can enjoy safe passing. If you are passing and coming up from behind a horse or a group of horses. It is best for other trail users to STOP! as soon as they see the horseback riders and announce themselves, so horseback riders can have time to turn their horses around to face the other trail users and prepare for safe passing.

A safety aspect for all trail users and horseback riders works best when horseback riders pass hikers and bikers, horseback riders do so at a walk.

For these safety reasons, the Trails Safe Passing Plan was developed as an educational resource and action plan of WHAT TO DO when all of us meet horses and people with horses along the trails.

The Rfvhc is asking the Mid Valley Trails Committee & RFTA and coalition of trail user groups to use our signs and QR Codes in your social media and ask that an allowance from our 2023 budget be used to pay for signage that educates trail users by the Trails Safe Passing Plan and the Rfvhc sign, at Parking Lots and Kiosks as appropriate.

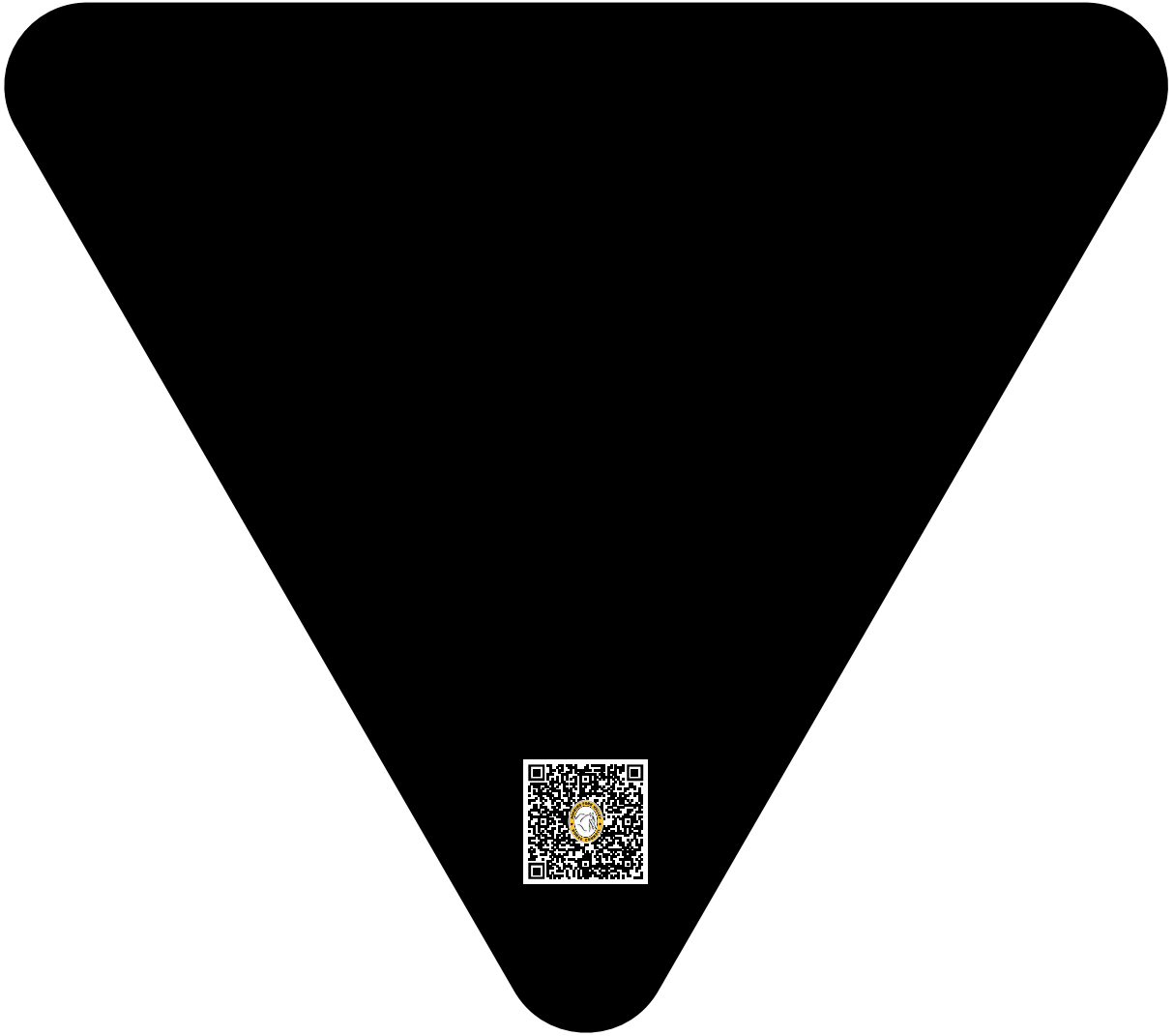
The signs are attached to this document, and a library of high resolution graphics are available for all of our use, on request. Please contact Karin Reid Offield, Rfvhc President at rfvhc.colorado@gmail.com. We look forward to becoming a partner with all Rfvhc trail user groups, especially the MVTC and RFTA.



**Stop! Speak
Stand Back
Yield To**



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MID VALLEY TRAIL COMMITTEE

| | 2022 Budget | 2023 Proposed Budget | |
|--|----------------------|----------------------|--|
| 02-69-92006 Professional Services | \$ 20,000.00 | | tbd |
| 02-69-92110 Marketing | \$ 5,000.00 | \$ 5,000.00 | |
| 02-69-93000 Materials/Supplies | \$ 5,000.00 | \$ 5,000.00 | |
| 02-69-93300 Stage Trail Development | \$ 5,000.00 | \$ 5,000.00 | |
| 02-69-93305 Trail Organization Contribution | \$ 3,000.00 | \$ 3,000.00 | added RFVHC |
| 02-69-93311 Adopt a Trail - Rio Grande RFOV | \$ 5,000.00 | \$ 4,022.00 | |
| 02-69-93312 Trail Maintenance - RFOV | \$ 5,000.00 | \$ 7,000.00 | |
| 02-69-93313 Mid-Valley Center Trail connection to Willits -TOB | \$ 3,000.00 | \$ 10,000.00 | |
| new Duroux Park Boat Ramp & Trail improvements-TOB | \$ 3,000.00 | \$ 10,000.00 | |
| 02-69-93318 Lake Christine trail to El Jebel -TOB | | | |
| Youth Core work on Nancy Path/Gates on Glassier | | \$ 5,000.00 | added with caveat that it was 50% of project cost not to exceed \$5000 |
| 02-69-93308 Crown Trail Improvements -RFMBA | \$ 30,000.00 | \$ 50,000.00 | |
| supplemental request for increase | \$ 10,000.00 | | |
| 02-69-93316 Mid Valley Maintenance - RFMBA | \$ 10,000.00 | \$ 10,000.00 | |
| | \$ 104,000.00 | \$ 114,022.00 | |

Temple work on for MVTC

Hwy 82 / Valley Road intersection Redevelopment

Eljebel to Missouri Easment discussion

Support Willit Lane Corridor Plan

2023 Mid-Valley Trails Committee Work Plan

- ❖ Mid Valley Trails Plan

- ❖ Marketing

- ❖ Stage Trail
 - #5 Table 6. Proposed Project for Singletrack Unpaved Trails Pg. 30 of Trails Plan

- ❖ El Jebel to Missouri Heights Trail connection - TG

- ❖ PARTNERSHIP WITH Town of Basalt Post
 - Basalt Medical Center Trail – TOB
 - Duroux Park - TOB

- ❖ PARTNERSHIP with Roaring Fork Outdoor Volunteers
 - Rio Grande Adopt a Trail (Will Remove, no longer applicable)
Trail described on Page 55 of Mid Valley Trails Plan
 - Trail Maintenance – Eagle County Projects

- ❖ PARTNERSHIP with Roaring Fork Mountain Bike Association
 - Mid Valley Trail Maintenance
 - Crown Trail System Improvements

- ❖ PARTNERSHIP with Roaring Fork Valley Horse Council
 - Educational signs
 - Nancy's Path
 - Glassier Horse path / gates