

# Mid Valley Trails Committee Meeting Minutes- Draft

10/26/23

7:30am-8:30am

RFTA Office – 1340 Main Street, Carbondale, CO 81623

## INVITED ATTENDEES

- George Trantow – MVTC Chair - **Attended**
- Phillip Ring – MVTC Treasurer- **Attended**
- Alan Lu – MVTC Member- **Attended**
- Perry Klespiees – MVTC Member- **Attended**
- Katie Stookesberry Ralston – Potential MVTC Member- **Attended**
- Temple Glassier – MVTC Project Manger
- Rebecca Schild – Roaring Fork Outdoor Volunteers- **Attended**
- Mike Pritchard, Roaring Fork Mountain Bike Association
- Karin Offield, Roaring Fork Valley Horse Council
- Rheta Fulton, Roaring Fork Valley Horse Council- **Attended**
- Michelle Thibeault, Town of Basalt Planning Director- **Attended**
- Angela Henderson, RFTA
- Brett Meredith, RFTA- **Attended**
- Jud Lang - RFTA- **Attended**
- Abbey Pascoe, RFTA- **Attended**
- Sarah Faichney, RFTA- **Attended**

## AGENDA

1. Review and approval of September's Meeting Minutes **Approved.**
2. Vote on Potential New Member Katie Stookesberry Ralston. **Approved.**
  - **Why do you want to join this committee?** I have been an avid trail runner, road runner, and mountain biker in the Mid-Valley area for about 9 years, care deeply about our trail networks and trail access in the area, and it is important to me to serve the community and to be a voice for the community.
3. Updates from MVTC Partnerships
  - Roaring Fork Valley Horse Council, Rheta Fulton
    - Light Hill RFOV proposal for a Community Event. (See attachment H1-11)
    - Will use the \$4,800 budget for the TSPP signage project and the Light Hill Community Event in 2024. **George's main concern is to make sure to use the signs in Eagle County, he wouldn't want them to sit in a garage for**

years and be unable to use. Rheta reassured George that Karin is working with the land agencies to get approvals first before ordering signs. Karin is looking into working with the Roaring Fork Outdoor Volunteers to have the signs installed by them as one of their projects. Due to the weather Rheta is unsure if the project will start this year or next year. Brett commented that he has a meeting scheduled with Polly and Susan from the RFVHC in November to ride along from Catherine Store Rd up to Emma Rd on the Rio Grande Trail to look at areas to put the TSPP signs. RFVHC is focusing on the trail connection from the Rio Grande to the Light Hill trail. It is a newer trail connection and not many people know about and it is overgrown so it is hard to spot. RFVHC wants to pair with RFOV and see if this could also be a project to do together. Rheta mentioned this trail is more for beginner riders than intermediate. Brett commented that Emma Rd and up on the Rio Grande Trail is maintained by Pitkin County. RFVHC is aware and knows the area is touch and go since the county lines intertwine. The RFVHC should be receiving land agencies approvals within the next couple of weeks. Rheta would like to push to get these signs up by the end of the year, she thinks they could be beneficial for horseback riders and cross-country skiers in the winter. George mentioned the brush in the pictures and didn't think this would be a good for cross country skiers. Rheta said that the brush is heavy at the beginning of the trail because they are pulling water from the ditch, as you go up in elevation it flattens out. George asked if there were any more comments or concerns. Becca wanted to comment that Jack, the RFOV project manager met with Alan from the BLM and they hiked Light Hill yesterday. Becca forwarded Alan the proposal for Light Hill so Alan knows of the requests.

- George asked if Becca had any other updates to give. Sarah reminded George of the MVTC policy that unless the items are on the agenda we cannot speak of them. Becca will send a follow up email to everyone with updates on Nancy's Path. Abbey explained that we cannot talk about items that aren't on the agenda because we have to post the agenda 7 days in advance of the meetings to make the public aware, to have full transparency. George recommend having all partnerships and their projects as standing agenda items so we don't miss out on updates.

4. Updates from Temple Glassier – Discussed by George since Temple could not come.
  - Recruitment – Going well we have recruited Katie.
  - Stage Trail – No updates.
  - El Jebel to basalt Mtn Trail Connection – George referenced the September meeting minutes and said Temple is meeting with Dale to discuss strategies to entice Ace Lane and the Crawford to grant us trail access through one of their properties. George was thinking of the valley and how Carbondale has a lot of access points to get to public lands verses El Jebel and Old Town of Basalt. That is why he thinks we should participate with the land planners so any time there is a

development adjacent to the public lands we can see if we can get access to the public lands. Rheta commented that there is not a lot of access in Basalt because of the protected wildlife lands surrounding it.

## 5. New Business

### ➤ 2024 Work Plan & Budget Discussion

- See attachments, 2023/2024 budget Worksheet, 2024 Work Plan, 2020 Mid Valley Trails Projects. Sarah reviewed the 2024 work plan and read through MVTC projects and the Partnerships Projects
- 2024 Work Plan- George asked RFOV about their Stewardship Programs within Eagle County. Becca reported that they are working on Nancy's Path as one of their projects. There are community events, volunteer days and some professional work on the table. After Alan from BLM, Ted from Pitkin County, Susan from RFVHC and Jack from RFOV walked the trail they think there could be Spring and Fall projects for the trail. Becca thinks RFOV will not need MVTC financial support for this because Pitkin County is setting aside money for these expenses.
- RFOV will also be working on the Light Hill trail. Becca thinks that is where they will use the money that is already in the budget from MVTC.
- RFOV will also be working on Arbaney Kittle for trail maintenance. At this time Becca does not think RFOV will need an additional funding from MVTC.
- George asked Becca if there will be any trail maintenance projects for Glassier. George said he has had some close call with some collisions around turns. Becca said no one has mentioned that to her. She has only seen projects for weed management and fence removals on Glassier. Rheta mentioned the RFVHC tried to go out last spring in May to clear the brush on Glassier but the ground was too wet and the ticks were really bad so they were unable to. Rheta suggested clearing brush in April instead of May. George asked Becca if she could talk to Pitkin County about it because it is a safety issue with the blind corners. Becca said that RFOV does not solicit ideas but Becca will make a note of it. Sarah asked George if this could be a project that Temple could create a scope of work and submit to RFOV as a stewardship program. George thinks it's a great idea and we should follow up with Temple about it. The hiking trail and the mountain bike trail on Glassier needs to be brushed out on the corners.
- George asked if there are any projects on Basalt Mountain besides RFMBA projects. Rheta said that we might be missing in on another partnership. There is an organization that clearing and restoring Basalt Mountain from the wildfire. She is unsure of the name them but will do some research and get back to MVTC about it. Becca stated RFOV has done some projects for restoration from the fire on Basalt Mountain.

- George asked the committee if they knew of any other projects or had any recommendations. Alan put forward an idea to solidify the “bandit trail” from the Tree farm connecting to Two Rivers. The committee titled this the Tree Farm to Two Rivers Connection. George would like to add this to the 2024 work plan and have Temple take a look into this potential project. George would like Temple to talk to Michelle about the property search along the trail because Town of Basalt may have already done one.
- 2024 MVTC Budget. Sarah read through the 2024 budget line items. Perry asked when would we see how much money MVTC get yearly from taxes. Abbey said she will know by the first meeting in March.
- Michelle joined the meeting via Webex and George asked Michelle if POST has the Tree Farms to Two River Connection on their radar. POST has it on their 2024 work plan but has not developed a scope of work yet. POST will look at it more in January of 2024. Sarah asked what is the name they have it under so MVTC and POST can have similar names. POST has it under the same name as MVTC.
- MVTC 2020 Summary. Sarah included the summary just in case the committee wanted to review it. George asked when will we need to update the projects on it. Abbey thinks it’s every 5 years so the committee should start working on it in 2024. Phillip suggest prioritizing the projects and Perry suggested putting in the stages of development of the projects. George explained that the purpose of the summary plan is for when Town of Basalt or Eagle County notifies MVTC of new developments in the area MVTC could provide comments and reference their summary plan.

#### 6. Action items

- In the March 2024 Meeting prioritize projects for the year. Next Meeting is tentatively scheduled March 21<sup>st</sup>, 2024, depending on the local school’s spring break schedule.
- New running agenda item in 2024 will be to discuss the 2025 MVTC Project Summary Plan.