

Mid Valley Trails Committee Agenda

04-18-2024

7:30am- 9:30am

RFTA Office – 1340 Main Street, Carbondale, CO 81623 or WebEx

Join from the meeting link

<https://rfta.webex.com/rfta/j.php?MTID=m4eb598c6c4adc4cc6af36cd4709d6141>

INVITED ATTENDEES

In Attendance

- | | |
|---|--------------------------|
| • George Trantow – MVTC Chair | ✓ |
| • Phillip Ring – MVTC Treasurer | ✓ |
| • Alan Lu – MVTC Member | ✓ |
| • Perry Kleespies – MVTC Member | ✓ |
| • Katie Stookesberry Ralston –MVTC Member | ✓ |
| • Temple Glassier – MVTC Project Manger | ✓ |
| • Rebecca Schild – Roaring Fork Outdoor Volunteers | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| • Jack Douglas – Roaring Fork Outdoor Volunteers | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| • Mike Pritchard – Roaring Fork Mountain Bike Association | ✓ |
| • Karin Offield – Roaring Fork Valley Horse Council | ✓ |
| • Michelle Thibeault – Town of Basalt Planning Director | ✓ |
| • Angela Henderson – RFTA | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| • Brett Meredith – RFTA | ✓ |
| • Abbey Pascoe – RFTA | ✓ |

AGENDA

1. Review and approval of **March** Meeting Minutes
 - a. Phillip facilitated on behalf of George
 - b. George made motion to approve, Katie seconded. Minutes approved.
2. Committee Updates
 - a. 2025 Update to Mid-Valley Trails Plan
 - i. RFTA to update this in conjunction with their Rec Trails Plan
 1. Headed by Planning Department, Committee will be included throughout the process.
 2. Temple advised Eagle County changed format of plan, future discussion will be had on formatting preference.

3. Phillip asked if Committee for comments. George recommended looking at them side by side, if plans have a similar mapping view it would be easier in the long run to dovetail the plans. George added we need to determine if current plan only needs a few tweaks with small updates, or if we need to rewrite it as a whole. Compare two-three critical areas side by side to begin with.
4. Temple added to make sure goals align as the plans were not previously done together.

3. Discussion

a. BLM Comments on E-bikes

- i. Phillip read Georges letter to the Committee.
- ii. Committee is in support of letter; a few edits will be done and Committee will vote on approval to send at next meeting.
- iii. Temple asked if this was consistent with what was discussed last month. George advised yes, it is. Phillip explained Class 1 is pedal assist, whereas Class 2 & 3 are throttle. Temple asked if this aligns with what RFTA allows, Brett responded RFTA allows Class 1 & 2, Pitkin County only allows Class 1.
- iv. Phillip advised the biggest challenge will be regulation of what Class is allowed, however, there should not be a limitation set for those who need the assistance, or want it to continue biking.
- v. Alan asked if we should simplify the response on the environmental impact/commuter aspect of it, since it is only in the three dedicated areas? Phillip advised it was alluding to fewer people using trail heads, it's not necessarily reducing commuter traffic by utilizing any of these trails. Perry added he doesn't think it's necessary to provide an opinion on e-bikers meaning less people are driving to the trail head to use the trail. It is a statement that we don't have any data on. Phillip advised it is more of an opportunity to improve the traffic pattern, the letter doesn't state it as fact. Brett added parking lots are more contentious than the trail. It helps alleviate congestion at the trail head and the parking lots can be smaller, we're encouraging that type of use so that people don't have to drive, he feels it's worthwhile mentioning in the letter.
- vi. Karin commented that getting your e-bike to some of the trail heads will require riding your bike down the side of the road and could mean an increase in trails off of the main arteries. She feels the "opportunity" phrase should be left in the comment letter.
- vii. Mike clarified there is no comment period right now, they are still months away. This should not stop the group from submitting our comments. Recommended also submitting them to Pitkin County. Phillip asked if it would be more useful to do this now, or wait until the open

comment period? Mike advised it may not be impactful to BLM, but could be to Pitkin County. Added BLM will only change their proposal if there is a substantive comment that points out a flaw. Mike added that the letter should introduce who MVTC is and the investments we have made in the areas. George agrees we should submit it early and include BLM, Pitkin County, Eagle County and Town of Basalt. Phillip added to submit to Garfield County and Town of Carbondale as well.

- viii. Karin mentioned that there is a new reporting system for things that happen on trails with e-bikes, she will share the information with Abbey to distribute to committee. E-bike trails users are brand new user group to educate. Include everyone when we submit letter. Phillip asked if there was any apprehension from the Horse community about the e-bikes and less education? Karin advised yes. The e-bikes can go in places where regular bikes could not, their horse trails will now be multi user trails. Back Country Horseman put together a strong position paper on this topic, she will submit to Abbey to distribute as well. George added, all good points, we are really only looking at three areas. Phillip added we hope to align with more universal rules being established globally so it is easier to understand outside of our three areas.
- ix. Letter will be mailed to all county managers, town managers and any trails or open space organizations, mailed out in advance of comment period.
- x. Edits:
 - 1. Temple to provide a history on MVTC and who we represent.
 - 2. Add importance of trails we have supported in the valley
- b. Eagle County Outreach
 - i. Abbey has not had time to reach out to Eagle County yet.
 - ii. Temple has a list of who she was going to start reaching out to
- c. Pitkin County Open Space Outreach
 - i. We did have a meeting with PCOST
 - ii. George summarized key points:
 - 1. Reestablish working with the group
 - 2. Received attorney contact, George to reach out.

4. Updates from Temple Glassier

- a. Stage Trail
 - i. Need to make this a priority
 - ii. Her contact has been out of town, hopes to start discussion soon.
 - iii. Recommends possible Public meeting for more than Cedar subdivision input. Phillip is supportive of this and added he'd like a schedule included.

- iv. Mike recommended include bikes when developing plans. Temple advised supportive of bikes, CPW would be biggest challenge. Phillip and George supportive of not taking anything off the table and moving forward with developing a process before we do any community outreach.
 - b. Working with RFTA on contract.
 - c. Begin a work plan to add to agenda and get updates on projects each month.
- 5. Roaring Fork Mountain Bike Association, Mike Pritchard
 - a. Project Updates
 - i. Crown Royale Update- Trail will be finished this summer, Middle segment under construction, waiting on access to site, project will be underway May, June & July.
 - ii. Buck Down Trail Build Update- Descent trail only for ¾ miles. June 8th trail volunteer day to build it. Colorowdies coming into town for this project. George asked if Buck Down was a new trail or renamed? Mike advised it is a new trail, it is an alternate route.
 - b. Programs Update
 - i. Seasonal Trail Crew- 4 Crew Members returning, 3 new crew members, starting on Monday 4-29. Possible 1 or 2 additional people depending on budget. Phillip asked if this was the same as last year, Mike advised similar. Crew will be focused on basic maintenance throughout valley and training opportunities.
 - ii. Trail Agent- Independent Volunteer program. Gets people trained up on items and lets them complete work on their own schedule. Includes clearing trees and reporting on trail conditions. Training event at Aloha at the end of the month, or they can train one-on-one.
 - c. New Fund-Raising Event- Crown Ride-A-Thon, mid-June. 8 days people are encouraged to ride as many miles as they want on crown trails. Get family and friends to pledge per mile. Conclude with an Après party in Carbondale on June 23. Karin commented that they have a big project on the Crown and they finish the same weekend as the Après. She will reach out to Mike later to discuss.
- 6. Roaring Fork Valley Horse Council, Karin Offield
 - a. Thank you Letter
 - b. Trail Signs delivered to appropriate Land Managers for installation Needs to get with everyone to see how this will proceed. RFVHC was featured in Equine Land Conservation Spring Newsletter, out of Kentucky.
 - c. CPW and USFS Outreach Campaign-Continuing to work in mid valley area.
 - d. Light Hill Update- Project denied until they can get BLM survey of back and forth trail. Pushing this to 2025.
 - e. Nancy's Path
 - i. May 16th RFOV working on connector path

- ii. Second one planned later in summer
 - f. Educational Events
 - i. Trail ride safety June 8th at Hoffman hotel in Basalt
 - ii. Had 75 turn out for March 21st event
 - g. Crown project 3rd week in June, received grant from Round Up Riders of the Rockies, Rocking Mountain Youth Core coming in. Over \$10K project, hoping to place new gates and put up new signage.
- 7. Roaring Fork Outdoor Volunteers, Rebecca Schild
- 8. Town of Basalt POST, Michelle Thibeault
 - a. Open House, April 17th 4-6pm in the Alpine Bank meeting room at TACAW
 - b. Good turn out for Open House, about 50-60 people.
 - c. Another meeting on Wednesday the 24th, would appreciate anyone on committee to join, in Town Hall from 4-6 p.m. Come in, put your input on boards. Plan is about connecting trails, bikes, possibly extending bike infrastructure around Willits lane, promote alternative mobility and transit on Willits Lane. Asked if anyone on this committee would join the Stakeholders group. Katie advised she would plan to attend next week. George added he thinks it's important to get committee members there, asked Temple to attend.
 - d. Received feedback about connection near Oak Grove Subdivision.
 - e. Earth day event on Monday. E-bike rebates will be advertised at that event as well.
- 9. Items to Discuss Next Meeting
 - a. Compare Mid Valley Plan and RFTA Rec Trails Plan.
 - b. Temple to have draft program put together for Stage Trail outreach and Schedule.
 - c. Temple to Develop Work Plan to discuss each Month.
- 10. Meeting Adjourns **8:43 a.m.**