

Mid Valley Trails Committee Agenda

All MVTC Meeting information is available here: [Mid Valley Trails Committee - MVTC | RFTA](#)

05-16-2024

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 | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| • Karin Offield – Roaring Fork Valley Horse Council | ✓ |
| • Michelle Thibeault – Town of Basalt Planning Director | ✓ |
| • Angela Henderson – RFTA | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| • Jud Lang– RFTA | ✓ |
| • Abbey Pascoe – RFTA | ✓ |

AGENDA

1. Review and approval of **April Meeting Minutes**
 - a. **Katie made motion to approve, Alan seconded. Minutes approved.**
2. Committee Updates
 - a. MVTC Master Plan and RFTA Rec Trails Plan Review **Attachment A, B & C**
 - i. **Overall goal is to see how plans compare to one another and align with each other. Prioritize projects in the revision.**
 - ii. **RFTA’s preference is to prioritize connections to the RIO as the backbone.**
 - iii. **Temple advised project plans were set by public meetings and where public provided their prioritization. George asked if there are any inconsistencies between the plans, Temple and Abbey advised they align pretty well. Abbey advised Committee would be part of the process once**

project is approved and review has started. Perry asked if there are any other master plans we should be reviewing as part of this? Temple responded that everything that is identified in the Master Plan are projects we could partner with others on.

- iv. George clarified this review would be a revision, whether it's an exhibit, or amendment to the current plan rather than re-doing the entire thing. Additionally, as we find trails that are not in the Master Plan we add them or adopt them as they are identified rather than waiting for a full revision.
- v. Temple read through the project tables for the Committee. Katie asked where Stage Trail is in the Master Plan, Temple will find for discussion at next meeting. Karin added she would like RFVHC added as a proponent to the Valley Floor to Basalt Mountain Trail with the work they've done on Basalt Mounting to date. George advised, they have not identified if this trail is only hiking or biking yet or what the appropriate uses are.

3. Discussion

a. BLM Comments on E-bikes

i. Review and approve revised letter- [Attachment D](#)

1. Perry advised letter is dated April 1, 2024, and asked if there were revisions since last meeting? Temple advised yes, minor revisions. George asked Temple to update the date on the letter before sending it out.
2. Karin asked if Committee would want to include Ebike reporting form she provided with this letter? George responded, if it gets approved it would be appropriate, this is a push to weigh in on the topic right now.
3. Alan made motion to approve letter, Katie seconded. Letter Approved.
4. Letter to be sent to Town of Basalt, Town of Carbondale, Garfield, Eagle & Pitkin Counties, Pitkin County Open Space, BLM & Town Managers.

b. Eagle County Outreach

i. Status Update- Temple

1. Request to Kelly and Bill for a meeting.
2. Trying to coordinate with them on their road plans to know when things are happening and how it may tie to our trails plan.

ii. Open Space Survey

1. <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/EagleCountyOS>

- 4. Updates from Temple Glassier
 - a. Stage Trail
 - i. Review Maps and Phases
 - ii. Discuss when to hold Public Meeting
 - iii. Has identified who main players are for this project. The next step is to send them a letter, or set up a group meeting with all the main parties. George recommended we get all the jurisdictions on the same page so that when we go into the public meetings we have the legal precedence to move forward.
 - iv. Committee asked Temple to schedule the meetings and members will participate if available.
 - v. Karin advised Pitkin County brought the Stage Trail to their attention again. George added they could be a good ally for this.
 - b. Proposed Monthly Work Plan- [Attachment E](#)
 - i. Perry asked what the Marketing bullet point is for? Temple advised social media sites, good connections on RFTA and Eagle County websites. Abbey added this will include advertising for the Public Meetings when we host those.
 - c. Review 2024 Budget- [Attachment F](#)
- 5. Roaring Fork Mountain Bike Association, Mike Pritchard- [Unable to Attend](#), Abbey read [updates from an email](#)
 - a. Project Updates
 - i. Crown Royale Update
 - 1. Trail construction is underway for the season with first contractor working on lower portion, work will start with a second contractor on the upper portion after Memorial Day.
 - ii. Buck Down Trail Build Update
 - 1. Trail build project is scheduled for June 8, we have 32 volunteers signed up, still room for about 20 more sign ups, find project details at RFMBA.org/events/
 - b. Programs Update
 - i. Seasonal Trail Crew
 - 1. 4 crew members started the season at the end of April; so far, basic trail maintenance work has been undertaken on Glassier, Buckhorn Traverse, and Lower Crown Royale. 2 more crew members start next week, and a 7th starts with us in early June.
 - c. E-bike Updates
 - i. Update regarding eMTB access study on the BLM Crown SRMA (+ Lorax Trail + New Castle ERMA). We anticipate continued talks with BLM and Pitkin County staff over coming weeks and months. This topic may go in front of PitCo BOCC in early Fall of this year. Due to this proposal, CPW

has provided feedback to BLM and PCOST that they would like to see the Crown's seasonal closure opening date shifted by two weeks from April 16 to May 1. This gives RFMBA serious pause as many trail users will be disappointed on this potential trade-off (to allow for eMTB access by some users). We may suggest that such a seasonal closure date change should be studied in parallel and based on new wildlife pattern data vs. basing this date change on the potential projected use & increased impacts from future eMTB users. BLM has made prior seasonal date decisions that were not in agreement with CPW & PitCO BOCC, so this is an old topic being raised once again.

6. Roaring Fork Valley Horse Council, Karin Offield
 - a. Crown Mountain
 - i. Work begins middle of June
 - b. Nancy's Path
 - i. Starting work tonight with RFOV, it is a strenuous project. First of two steps for this trail.
 - c. Light Hill
 - i. Meeting with BLM on traversing
 - d. Educational event for Trail Safety
 - i. June 8th at Hoffmann hotel
 - e. TSPP signs being used in Virginia State Parks, received request from Connecticut to use signs.
 - f. E-Bikes and Horses Letter- [Attachment G](#)
 - g. Useful Links:
 - i. E-Bike Incident Reporting Form
 1. [Click Here for Online Reporting Form](#)
 2. [E-Bike Incident Report Form Printable](#)
 - ii. Back Country Horsemen of America VIDEO link on the subject of E-bikes.
 1. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=60ItKbjd5bl>
 - iii. February 2023
 1. [RFVHC Stand on E - Bikes](#)
 - iv. Here is the link to the Wilderness Society letter to use:
 1. <https://www.wilderness.org/articles/media-resources/letter-outdoor-groups-opposes-allowing-e-bikes-non-motorized-trails-public-lands>
7. Roaring Fork Outdoor Volunteers, Rebecca Schild
8. Town of Basalt POST, Michelle Thibeault
 - a. Willits Lane Connectivity and Way Finding Plan-

- i. Discussion on improving connection to Crown Mountain Park came up as a high priority.
 - ii. As well as Relocating WE-cycle Station.
- b. Way Finding Signage Plan starts on May 22, Virtual meeting if anyone would like to attend, Email Michelle for information.
 - i. Important to RFTA discussion on signage for the migration detour.

9. Items to Discuss Next Meeting

- a. Continued review of MVTC and RFTA Plans.
- b. George to meet with Attorney before next meeting.
- c. Follow up on Stage Trail.
- d. Confirm letter for E-bikes goes out.
 - i. Temple will send letter to George to sign with distribution list before sending.

10. Open Discussion

- a. RFTA updates: Asphalt Repair and Replacement Project starts on Monday May 20th, 2024. Impacts Eagle County and there will be trail closure. Bridge project potentially start in July.
 - i. Temple added we should have a RFTA update section moving forward.

11. Meeting Adjourns **8:22 am.**