TO: RFTA Board of Directors
FROM: Abbey Pascoe- EAM Administrator and Railroad Manager
DATE: May 9, 2024
RE: Background of the CEC

Dear Board Members:

The CEC was established because of an agreement between RFTA's predecessor, the Roaring Fork Railroad Holding Authority ("RFRHA"), and the Board of Trustees of Great Outdoors Colorado ("GOCO"). 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, in nine areas.

The obligations for the maintenance of the Conservation Covenants areas now belong to RFTA. GOCO allowed modification to its original grant agreement in return for RFRHA agreeing to set up the CEC to oversee RFTA's stewardship of the Covenant Areas. As a CEC member, you report on compliance with RFTA's stewardship of the Covenant areas to the RFTA Board of Directors and ultimately GOCO.

In practice, a consultant and RFTA staff member with knowledge of the Corridor and the nine Covenant areas perform an inspection annually and each presents a report to the Committee at the annual meeting.

The focus of the Conservation Covenants is compliance with policies defining the types of uses that may be permitted within the Corridor.

The CEC determines whether or not a proposed or existing encroachment is compatible with the transportation, recreation, and conservation values outlined in the grant agreement between RFTA and GOCO.

Over the past two years, Staff has worked with our General Counsel and adjacent property owners to resolve some of the encroachment and license issues throughout the entire corridor.

Staff continues to focus our attention on protection and preservation of the Railroad Corridor, with special attention on the covenant areas.

Additionally, Staff sends out a railroad brochure to educate all adjacent property owners about the RFTA Railroad Corridor and our obligations to maintain our railbanked Status.

Thank you,

Abbey Pascoe
EAM Administrator and Railroad Manager
apascoe@rfta.com or
970-384-4971