

**SUMMIT COUNTY  
OPEN SPACE ADVISORY COUNCIL  
SUMMARY OF ACTIONS**

April 7, 2021  
Meeting Held by Zoom Conference

**OSAC MEMBERS PRESENT:** Todd Rankin, Diane Hunt, Jeff Leigh, Laura Rossetter, Terry Craig, Turk Montepare, John Uban

**OSAC MEMBERS ABSENT:** Bruce Fitch

**STAFF PRESENT:** Jim Curnutte, Brian Lorch, Jordan Mead, Allison Mitchell, Christine Zenel

**MEMBERS OF PUBLIC PRESENT:** Anne Lowe – Town of Breckenridge, Danelle Cook – Town of Silverthorne, Pete Swenson – Town of Frisco, Anna Bengston – USFS, Bob Gregory, John Taylor, Art Hardin, Peter Grosshuesch, Paul Semmer

**Call to Order:** Todd Rankin called the meeting of the Summit County Open Space Advisory Council to order at 5:40 p.m.

**Approval of Agenda:** The agenda was approved as submitted with the addition of electing officers and introducing new staff after public comments.

**Approval of Minutes:** The minutes were approved as submitted.

**Approval of Summary Report:** The summary report was approved as submitted.

**Public Comments not included on the Agenda:** No public comments.

**REGULAR AGENDA:**

**New Staff:** Allison Mitchell is OST's new Resource Specialist; she comes to us from the City of Boulder Parks & Recreation Department.

**Election of Officers:** The BOCC informed staff that it will reappoint Turk Montepare, Bob Gregory, John Taylor, and Art Hardin at the April 27, 2021 BOCC meeting. The BOCC will also appoint Paul Semmer and Peter Grosshuesch, thereby expanding the OSAC to 13 members. Paul Semmer has decades of experience working with the USFS and Dillon Ranger District, and played a role in the development of the Summit County OSAC. Peter Grosshuesch is the former community development director for the Town of Breckenridge.

Turk Montepare was nominated as Chair of the OSAC and Todd Rankin was nominated as Vice-Chair. Unanimous approval.

### **Discussion of Open Space Management Activities:**

Staff recently gave an overview of the Open Space & Trails program to the new County Commissioners, including an overview of ongoing forestry projects. During this overview, the BOCC also provided input on the Open Space & Trails Master Plan, and approved the scope of work moving forward; commissioners also stated the importance of providing equitable opportunities for public input in the development of the plan.

Staff also discussed wetland mitigation opportunities at a recent BOCC work session, during which the BOCC directed staff to continue identifying mitigation opportunities on County property. Staff will discuss these opportunities with the OSAC in the near future.

Staff held a third work session with the BOCC, in executive session, to discuss a “community purposes” land trade with the USFS. The BOCC directed staff to continue working with the USFS to identify properties for this trade; staff will bring an updated list to the OSAC/BOCC in the near future.

Staff has three upcoming meetings scheduled with the BOCC:

- May 4: work session to discuss two EPA clean-up projects that the County has been instrumental in moving forward – the Manila Lode outside of Montezuma and the Puzzle Lode in Illinois Gulch off Boreas Pass Road. The clean-up of the Illinois Gulch Site is being funded and executed by landowner under the direction of the EPA. The Manila cleanup will be an EPA funded and lead project. The County is negotiating a restrictive covenant on the Manila Lode to protect the site as open space after the reclamation occurs.
- May 18: Presentation and discussion of the Quandary Peak, Blue Lakes, and McCullough Gulch interagency effort to address parking and capacity challenges.
- June 1: Update on the Swan River Restoration Project. Staff received a near-final design of the next phase of the restoration project, which will be built this summer. Staff will notice the public/residents up Tiger Rd. on project updates as they do annually.

### **Open Space and Trails Master Plan:**

Staff provided an update on the request for proposal for a consultant to assist with the Open Space and Trails Master Plan, and on a work session with OSAC volunteers held the previous week to discuss the original 1996 Open Space Protection Plan. Comments were as follows:

- A question was asked whether it would be a conflict of interest for an OSAC member to submit a proposal. Can members of the OSAC submit an RFP? Jim Curnutte will look into the matter.
- A Recommendation was made that the RFP be explicit about exploring opportunities to allocate more resources to the Open Space and Trails Department, to be proportionate to the increasing assets the department holds.
- Re-statement of the necessity to align the master plan with the Towns of Breckenridge and Silverthorne, as they simultaneously update their master plans. The County will also need to address joint-management with Breckenridge in its master plan.
- Re-statement of the necessity to engage the USFS in the planning process and work in concert with all towns/government agencies in the County.
- What are the public’s desired experiences? We will need to identify this through public surveys to help us identify the carrying capacity of our assets. We may need to “redefine” new standards of the recreational experiences we offer.
- Invite new USFS leadership to OSAC meetings.
- Look into demand management strategies to manage capacity and the desired visitor experience.
- Need to gather baseline data to understand how things are changing.
- A consultant could assist with researching other County plans with a similar context to Summit County.
- A consultant should help organize and lead a retreat with staff and OSAC.

**Open Space Forest Management Activities:**

See Summary Report.

**Discussion of Recpath Management:**

The Road & Bridge Department starting plowing the Recpath and already completed the Breck to Frisco section, but left ice to melt naturally so as not to adversely impact the pavement. Plowing will continue from the County Commons through Bill's Ranch, and will soon commence on Swan Mountain and Dillon Dam Rd. as weather/conditions allow. The opening of the Tenmile portion of the Recpath is dependent on avalanche conditions. The CAIC is analyzing snowpack there weekly. For the next couple of weeks the snowpack is likely to be unstable due to the warm weather, but we can expect the Tenmile Recpath to open earlier than normal this season.

This summer, the existing spur of the Hwy-91 Recpath section will be open. The contractor on the project has indicated the new Recpath will be paved and completed by August.

**Executive Session to Discuss Acquisition of Real Property Interests:** A motion was made to enter into Executive Session, and it was seconded. OSAC entered into Executive Session. A motion was made to exit Executive Session and seconded. OSAC leaves Executive Session at 8:15p.m.

**ADDITIONAL BUSINESS/ANNOUNCEMENTS:** None.

**ADJOURNMENT:** The meeting was adjourned at 8:16 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

*Brian Lorch*

Brian Lorch, Open Space and Trails Director