

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

May 6, 2020

**OSAC MEMBERS PRESENT:** Turk Montepare, Diane Hunt, Laura Rossetter, Art Hardin, Jeff Leigh, Bob Gregory, Todd Rankin, Bruce Fitch, John Taylor, Terry Craig

**OSAC MEMBERS ABSENT:** John Uban

**STAFF PRESENT:** Brian Lorch, Jason Lederer, Jordan Mead, Christine Zenel, Brad Kremske, Jim Curnutte

**MEMBERS OF PUBLIC PRESENT:** Anna Bengston - USFS, Pete Swenson - Town of Frisco, Anne Murphy - Town of Breckenridge, Danelle Cooke - Town of Silverthorne

**Call to Order:** Turk Montepare called the meeting of the Summit County Open Space Advisory Council to order at 5:35 p.m.

**Approval of Agenda:** Brian Lorch noted that Brad Kremske will provide trails project updates. The agenda was approved with that additional item.

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

**Summary Report:** Michael Wurzel (Resource Specialist) left to become the Sustainability Coordinator for Summit County; Jordan Mead was hired in his place. Katherine King (Senior Resource Specialist) left to become the Director of Eagle County Open Space; Christine Zenel was hired in her place. Brad Kremske began his season with OS&T and will bring his three seasonal employees on this month. After County offices completely closed to mitigate COVID-19, OS&T staff are now going into the office by appointment as needed, but still working from home as much as possible. Seasonal staff will follow proper social distancing protocols in the field. On the ground, trails and trailheads are seeing significant increases in use, and as the State begins to unlock from shelter-in-place orders, the demand for trails will likely accelerate. The Sheriff's office has begun ticketing at trailheads for parking misconduct, and OS&T, in partnership with the USFS, installed signage related to COVID-19 on trails. The USFS is aligning with the County's public health orders in addition to following Federal direction. COVID-19 information and resources can be found on the County's website.

**Public Comments not included on the Agenda:** None.

**REGULAR AGENDA:**

**Trails Project Updates:** Brad Kremske noted that last year was the biggest volunteer year for OS&T. A similar, volunteer base this year is unlikely due to COVID-19. However, trails projects will still move forward, including the following new trails. The Mineral Hill Trail is a hiking-only trail that provides access to the top of Mineral Hill from the B&B Trailhead. Rocky Mountain Youth Corps will assist with this project for two weeks. The goal is to connect B&B Trailhead with the bottom of Backdoor Trail. Bekkedal Trail is a joint project with the Town of Breckenridge to improve neighborhood connectivity to the multi-use trail. A local high school group from Rocky Mountain Youth Corps will assist with this project for one week. There is also potential for a machine contractor to work on this project. The Rose Trail is another joint project with the Town of Breckenridge to create a 1-mile, beginner directional mountain bike trail between French Gulch Road and X10U8 (to be built with trail technicians and a contractor). A new addition to the Barney Ford trail, joint with the Town of Breckenridge, will create uphill mountain biking and hiking access from the bottom of the Barney Ford Trail and connect with the new Red Pig Trail (to be built with

trail technicians and volunteers).

The Recpath is being cleared and seasonal staff will begin installing signage such as mile markers. Additionally, staff will continue with irrigation ditch work in the Lower Blue, and will continue working with the Sheriff's office on spring clean-up (e.g., removing terrain parks and transient camps).

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

**Wetland Mitigation Opportunities:** Brian Lorch and Jason Lederer met with the BOCC last Tuesday to discuss wetland mitigation opportunities. The County has a no net loss policy for wetland acreage which guides development countywide. The Clinton Ditch and Reservoir Company is looking at potential sites for wetland impact mitigation as they seek to raise the spillway on Clinton Reservoir. They have identified several potential sites on OS lands south of Breckenridge and at the Swan River Restoration site. The BOCC requested staff to provide a conditional letter supporting the use of County lands to improve wetland functions for this wetland mitigation. OS&T is also continuing to scout locations for future wetland improvement and/or banking opportunities with an environmental services firm that is working on a pro-bono basis in hopes of finding a location for wetland banking.

**Swan River Restoration:** Updates to the Swan River Restoration project will go before the BOCC on May 26<sup>th</sup>, 2020, a requirement of the conditional use permit. All parties affected by this project (primarily Tiger Road property owners) will be notified of this meeting. Last season, the site opened to the public thanks to the seasonal crew and volunteers. This past winter, skiing and snowshoeing took place at the site. From a permitting standpoint, the Phase 1 restoration has been accepted by Colorado Division of Reclamation, Mining, and Safety, and is no longer considered part of the active mining permit. According to Colorado Parks and Wildlife, there has been an excellent recovery in the fish population to date and they intend to continue to monitor this progress. The contractor is allowed to crush until May 2021 under the conditional use permit (with an additional year to remove material that has been stockpiled). Environmental Resources Consulting has provided an updated grading plan to the contractor to optimize the volume of gravel removal in support of the restoration, including floodplain and wetland features. Public outreach and communications on the project via postcards, emails, the newspaper, the County website, and blog posts have paid off with strong public support of the project. Staff anticipates Reach B of the project will have a similar level of support. Staff offered to provide tours of the site to any OSAC members or public that desire to learn more about the project.

**Forest Management Planning:** Jordan Mead provided updates on the Wellington Forest Fuels Reduction project, a joint project with Town of Breckenridge, being overseen by Colorado State Forest. A planned Open House has been cancelled and replaced by targeted outreach efforts to provide information to neighboring residents and HOAs. Hand-cutting, piling, and burning will take place on 83 acres starting in July to increase stand diversity and decrease fuel loading (37 acres are Open Space and 46 are under the USFS).

Rocky Mountain Youth Corps will partner with OS&T to thin previously treated sites and assist with aspen regeneration. OST is also partnering with The Nature Conservancy to undertake a study to identify strategies to promote aspen regeneration in the Rockies.

**Quandary Trailhead:** A task force was formed to generate solutions for managing the parking and visitation challenges currently facing Quandary via multiple trailheads. OST Staff is taking the lead to prepare an RFP for a consultant to assist on this multi-stakeholder project between OS&T, the White River National Forest, Town of Breckenridge, Colorado Springs Utilities, and CDOT. Over the past few years, a graduate student group from CU Boulder provided a report on management recommendations and the Volpe Center recently provided stakeholders a memo on management best practices; both provide a good starting point for moving forward. The OSAC recommended funding for this project, which is anticipated to be between \$7500-\$10,000.

**Discussion of Recpath Management:** Avalanche clearing and snow removal will occur soon on the Tenmile Canyon and Vail Pass Recpaths once avalanche risk has been cleared by the Colorado

Avalanche Activity Center. The remainder of the Recpath opened approximately a month early based on direction from the County manager to provide recreation opportunities during COVID-19. The contractor will initiate the Freemont Pass Recpath project soon.

**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 at 6:38 p.m. A motion was made to exit Executive Session and seconded. OSAC leaves Executive Session at 7:16 p.m.

**ADDITIONAL BUSINESS/ANNOUNCEMENTS:** Keystone Resort submitted a request to expand into the Bergman Bowl, with an additional lift and on-mountain services. Comments to the USFS are due May 31. OST Staff has been requested to draft a letter on behalf of the County. If any OSAC members are interested in or concerned about the expansion, they can visit the USFS website to learn more and comment.

**ADJOURNMENT:** The meeting was adjourned at 7:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

**Brian Lorch**

Brian Lorch, Open Space and Trails Director