

San Miguel County Open Space Commission
Meeting Minutes

Monday, Aug 26th, 2024, 4:00 PM

Attendance:

OSC Members Present: Joanna Kanow, Susie St. Onge, Angela Dye, Laura Kudo, Sefra Maples, Jason Merritt

OSC Members Absent: Roger Wickham, Yvette Henson,

SMC Staff Liaisons Present: Janet Kask, Greg Pollio

Guests: Starr Jamison

Call to Order: 4:07 p.m. by Chairperson Susie St. Onge

Approval of 3/25/24 Meeting Minutes: Approved

Approval of 5/20/24 Meeting Minutes: Approved

Approval of 6/24/24 Meeting Minutes: Approved

Strengthening our Mining Land Use Code (Starr Jamison)

- Starr Jamison and Kaye Simonson have received and commented on the new Land Use Code Proposal
- While writing the natural resources plan, Starr discovered that Garfield County has recently updated their own Mining LUC
 - We will be using this as a framework as it aligns with our goals
- Our LUC will include soil, air quality, rare plant protection water quality, groundwater, NCA, ACEC's, wildlife and corridors, scenic resources and historic and archeological sites
- Would like to include a 1041 to include Mineral Resources in addition to the updated LUC
- The LUC would not call out specific mining types but would apply to all mining types
- The Mining Act of 1872 is currently under review to be updated. There is a lot of pushback from the Western Miners
- The mining exploration permits cannot be denied by the county

Dolores Conservation Area and local recreation sites fees (Starr Jamison)

- The Dolores Monument Bill would not revoke mining leases that already exist
 - The boundaries had to be updated to accommodate these leases
- The new recreation site fees will increase from \$0 to \$12 in some local areas
 - Many of these sites are located in the river corridor and the west end of the County
 - This is for camping and day use fees
- Woods Lake has already implemented something similar where you need a fishing license to recreate at the lake

- An official letter would be sent from the County Commissioners where the Open Space Commissions comments could be incorporated into

Parks & Open Space Budget Update (Janet Kask)

- POS Manages 10 individual budget with 33 divisions within those
- Many of the lines are annual maintenance and will be carried over year to year
- Some new adjustments to the budget
 - Bilk Creek Climbing wall insurance policy
 - Operating Supplies will increase slightly
 - Pheromone Pack Budget will increase
 - PES program will continue and increase slightly
 - Funding for Mill Creek Park
 - Funding for the Down Valley Connector Trail
 - Funding for the Scenic Skyway Scenic Byway mainly around signage and inventory
- The work plan was looked at and many of our budget items are ongoing
- We have submitted our budgets and are currently in the review process
- Jason recommended that we add funding for the Black Swift survey at the Bridal Veil management area

Native Plant Class Report (Yvette Henson)

- Recent class was held at Bridal Veil Falls with a second class August 1st

Next OSC meeting is Monday September 23rd at 4pm

Meeting adjourned: 5:37 PM