

## **San Miguel County Open Space Commission (OSC) Meeting Minutes**

Date: Monday, June 27, 2022

Time: 4:00 PM MST (via Zoom)

### **Attendance:**

**OSC Members Present:** Chairperson Susan St. Onge, Jason Merritt, Yvette Henson, Laura Kudo, Sefra Maples, Angela Dye, Roger Wickham

**OSC Members Absent:** none

**SMC Staff Present:** Janet Kask, Deanna Drew

**Call to Order:** 4:04 p.m. by Chairperson St. Onge. A quorum was established.

**Approval of 5/23/2022 Meeting Minutes:** Motion by Roger Wickham to approve 5/23/2022 minutes as presented, second by Angela Dye, all in favor, unanimous approval.

### **Agenda Items:**

**Memorials in County Parks Discussion:** A request that a memorial tree for a recently deceased county resident be planted in a county park was made to POS staff. There is currently not a policy in place for memorial requests on County property. POS Director presented a 2013 memo to BOCC from previous POS Director Linda Luther suggesting that a policy be developed for memorials in County parks. A Town of Telluride memorial policy was also presented for review. **OSC directed County staff to gather OSC input, develop guidelines, then handle such requests on a case by case basis, use natural or existing materials, and make decisions based on available staffing and maintenance resources.**

**OA Greager Management Plan Update:** OSC reviewed the notes and photos from the May site walk in regard to drafting a management plan for the parcel. Discussion was held regarding the activation of public use and educational activities at the site and how such activities could occur while still protecting habitat for Gunnison Sage Grouse. Reopening and using existing infrastructure and facilities at the site would require maintenance activities and budget allocations. There is no money budgeted for this project in 2022, but light maintenance could occur with existing county staff and volunteers. Until monies are budgeted for infrastructure maintenance and upkeep, and a management plan is in place, only day uses are allowed and leave-no-trace ethics must be followed. OSC may propose costs for infrastructure upgrades, signage, etc. in the 2023 budget. A permitting process may be developed for larger group uses of the site. A management plan developed with BOCC must include whether overnight camping and hunting are permitted on the parcel. **Staff was directed to develop an interim management plan for this year until a long term use management plan and budget is adopted.**

**E-Bikes:** USFS and Telski are reviewing policies for e-bikes on their trails and roads and an announcement may come out soon. Two county trails are currently permitted for e-bike use, Whiskey Charlie and M59. County trails are signed for e-bike use. E-bike policy education and enforcement is challenging. **Staff will confirm USFS and Telski policies and bring an update to OSC.**

### **Old Business/Other:**

**CCALT LCE Closing:** Bray Ranch land conservation easement of 9,257 acres is closing. This will be the largest conservation easement in the county.

**Mill Creek Park Water:** Legal counsel for SMVC confirmed with Staff that permanent structures including restrooms and a water well will not be allowed at the MCP site and water rights were not deeded with the parcel. Therefore, the best option for water at the site will be to tap into the Town of Telluride water line. Staff will share updated park designs with OSC when received.

**Pheromone Packs:** Staff drafted an educational article about pheromone packs and bark beetles for local newspapers and website. Federal and state forest service agencies, County and Town of Telluride staff are installing bubble packs on Doug fir trees in the region. It was agreed to coordinate efforts next year.

**Via Ferrata BOCC Comments:** POS Director submitted OSC comments to NRSP Director Starr Jamison for inclusion with BOCC comments to USFS by deadline of June 6. OSC would like to participate in, and monitor the progress of this project to make their comments known.

**Down Valley Connector Trail:** A contract with OTAK contractors and CDOT for a DVCT feasibility study is being finalized. Staff is looking for members of the OSC to join a DVCT project study committee with trail project partners, and Angela Dye has volunteered. The project study committee will examine various trail alignments and perform education and outreach with down valley property owners. Meetings will begin in July and continue through fall. Required outreach and education regarding this project will include public forums with the down valley community and public noticing. A sub-contractor will be hired to perform formal public scoping for this project.

**TOT OSC Crossover Report:** USFS/EPA tailings removal project on the Valley Floor at Boomerang is bigger and more extensive than anticipated. Telluride Open Space has concerns about the revegetation plan for the Forest Service lands, and has expressed their concerns to County and Telluride Town Council officials, however the EPA has oversight of the project.

**Miscellaneous:**

- There is an open seat on the OSC, seven of eight seats are currently filled.
- San Juan Skyway magazine has a large two page ad promoting jeeping on the San Juan Skyway.
- Interpretive signs on the County portion of the Skyway are in disrepair, and funding will be needed to replace them.
- Perimeter Trail site walk with Idarado representative is still pending.

**Meeting Adjourned by Vice-Chairperson Merritt @ 6:18 pm**

**Next meeting:** July 25, 2022 @ 4 pm.