

**San Miguel County Open Space Commission Meeting Minutes
(Meeting held via ZOOM)**

Date: Monday, January 24, 2022

Time: 4:00 PM MST

Attendance:

OSC Members Present: Susie St. Onge, Roger Wickham, Jason Merritt, Yvette Henson, Olivia Coe, Sefra Maples, Angela Dye, Laura Kudo

OSC Members Absent: none

SMC Staff Liaison: Janet Kask

Guests: Deanna Drew, Starr Jamison

Call to Order: 4:05 PM by Chairperson St. Onge. A quorum was established.

Introductions of Guests: Deanna Drew, Parks & Open Space Administrative Assistant is now working with Janet Kask and Rich Hamilton; Starr Jamison, replaced Lynn Padgett as Director of Natural Resources and Special Projects (NRSP)

10/25/2021 Meeting Minutes Approval: The OSC unanimously voted to approve the 10/25/2021 minutes with a motion from Jason Merritt and a second from Yvette Henson.

Agenda Items:

Updates from Starr Jamison, SMC Natural Resources and Special Projects Director

- **Oil and Gas Update-** SMC is working with COGCC to address state and county climate action plans and rulemaking and review the high priority habitat maps to determine if there is a decrease or increase in wildlife habitat for rulemaking processes; developing payment plans for oil and gas operators and requiring them to provide insurance that is financially capable of fulfilling payment and reclamation/remediation obligations to ensure remediation efforts are completed and special districts receive funding; effective 1/15 COGCC finalized rules for oil/gas leasing, reviewing County's 1041 regulations to align or exceed with COGCC state regulations such as distance from homes, etc.;
- **Restore Grant with Montezuma Land Conservancy for Gunnison's Sage Grouse Update-** Job description for San Miguel Basin Working Group Coordinator was recently announced, each county (SMC & Dolores) will have their own coordinator, there could be regional college students interested in the position; tentative Dry Creek Tamarisk Removal work is slated for September; work with CPW on Zeedyk structures in Miramonte Meadows in July/August; CPW, Rocky Mountain Wild and other agencies are working on a habitat conservation planning tool to assist recovery efforts for Gunnison's sage grouse; POS staff will share OSC Work Plan goals with NRSP staff and staff investigate if there are abandoned/orphaned, active wells in SMC and provide any relevant maps to OSC at a later meeting date.

County Open Space Commission 2022 Work Plan Review/Finalize for BOCC Approval:

- **Land Heritage Program:** no changes to Work Plan.

- **Payment for Ecosystem Services:** no changes to Work Plan. PES brochures have been distributed in the county in attempt to get additional participants for 2022; staff is having a work session with BOCC 1/26/22 to plan the future of the PES program.
- **Work Plan:** Add timeline; begin development of annual OSC Work Plans in Sept./October and take to BOCC for adoption in January.
- **Education/Outreach:** Staff may submit article regarding PES program for summer edition of Telluride Magazine. Staff submitted a 2021 OSC year-end wrap up to the Daily Planet for publishing. Add e) that once adopted, annual Work Plan is posted on the website.
- **Mining, Oil and Gas Development:** No changes to Work Plan. Add SMC Director of NRSP to c); add consultant Chris Hazen to e).
- **Gunnison's Sage Grouse:** No changes to Work Plan.
- **Planning Department Referral Process:** No changes to Work Plan. Put on future agenda to review High Country Area Zoning District with Town of Telluride. Change word in d) from pursue to monitor.
- **Enhancing Recreation Opportunities and Trails:** No changes to Work Plan. Suggested to submit new regional trail map to festival guides. New map could also include acknowledgement of Native American lands. Sheep Mountain Alliance is showing interest in taking ownership of the new map but considering they are not landowners, at this time OSC is not in favor of SMA managing the project, and believes control should remain with the investors, responsible parties and the stakeholder committee.
- **Collaboration with TOTOSC:** No changes to work plan.
- **Scenic Resource Protection:** Take the word "more" out of a). Take date and place out of e). OSC members suggest Scenic Byway interpretive signage could include more information regarding historic tribal areas and routes, indigenous peoples and names, and Native American history.
- **2022 Work Plan will be finalized, circulated once more to OSC, and staff and OSC chair will present to BOCC for approval.**

TOTOSC Crossover Report: TOTOSC is also finalizing the 2022 work plan; recently gave permission for Bluegrass and Blues and Brews Festival to use Zone 1 on Bear Creek High Country Zone however because the area has been heavily impacted, permission will include monitoring, camper limits (400) and development of a restoration fund with monies coming from festival tickets .

Chairperson St. Onge adjourned the meeting at 6:05 PM

Minutes respectfully submitted by Deanna Drew

*Next OSC Meeting - Mon. 2/28/2022 @ 4:00 p.m.