

OPEN SPACE ADVISORY COUNCIL

January 4, 2023

OSAC MEMBERS PRESENT: Laura Rossetter, Dave Bittner, Paul Semmer, Meagan Graham, John Taylor, Turk Montepare, Jeff Zimmerman, John Uban, Peter Grosshuesch, Arthur Hardin

OSAC MEMBERS ABSENT: Terry Craig, Robert Gregory

STAFF PRESENT: Katherine King, Allison Mitchell, Jordan Mead, Brad Kremske

MEMBERS OF PUBLIC PRESENT: Anne Lowe – Town of Breckenridge, Cindy Ebbert – USFS Dillon Ranger District, Pete Swenson – Town of Frisco

Call to Order: Turk Montepare called the meeting of the Summit County Open Space Advisory Council to order at 5:31 p.m.

Approval of Agenda: The agenda was approved.

Approval of Minutes: The minutes were approved with the exception that Peter Grosshuesch was marked absent at the December 6, 2022 meeting. This is incorrect, and staff will mark Peter as present on the December minutes.

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

Public Comments: No public comments.

REGULAR AGENDA:

OSAC Appointments

The OSAC had two available appointments beginning February 1, 2023, since Johan Uban's term was expiring, and there was an empty position open in the Tenmile Basin. Only one application was received for the Snake River appointment (John Uban reapplied) and zero applications were received for the Tenmile appointment. In addition, the by-laws state that the OSAC should be comprised of two representatives per basin. With Todd Rankin leaving earlier this year as an Upper Blue representative, OSAC suggested to reassign one At-Large member to an Upper Blue position.

- John Uban shared that he would like to seek opportunities for additional trail connections in the Snake River Basin, especially near Montezuma and Keystone. OSAC unanimously recommended to reappoint John Uban as a Snake River representative. Paul Grosshuesch made a motion to reappoint John Uban and Arthur Hardin seconded the motion.
- Laura Rossetter will remain as the only Tenmile representative in 2023.
- OSAC unanimously recommended to reassign Jeff Zimmerman from an At-Large member to an Upper Blue member. John Uban made a motion, and Laura Rossetter seconded the motion.

Open Space Management

Tenderfoot Meadows Management Plan

OST staff are currently updating the Tenderfoot Meadows Management Plan. Colorado Parks and Wildlife and the Summit County Landfill staff have provided comments. Staff are hoping to bring OSAC a first draft of the updated plan in February. After OSAC has a chance to review the plan, public engagement will occur sometime in early spring.

Tenmile National Monument

OSAC inquired about the Tenmile National Monument designation and to see if there are any opportunities to improve the Quandary Peak shuttle and parking program as a result of the designation. Cindy Ebbert stated that while Quandary Peak, McCullough Gulch, and Spruce Creek are located within the National Monument boundaries, the actual Quandary Peak Trailhead is outside the boundary. OSAC stated that Spruce Creek, McCullough Gulch, Quandary Peak, and Miners Creek provided easy access into the Monument.

As a result of the National Monument designation, the USFS will update the White River National Forest Plan first, which will then be incorporated into the National Monument Management Plan. The USFS has five years to complete this plan and will work with an outside entity to do so. Currently, the Town of Frisco is in a rescoping phase to improve 3,000 acres of their "Frisco Backyard." The Backyard is within the National Monument, so the Town and USFS will work together to implement the Town's Backyard Management Plan into the USFS Forest Plan.

2022 Field Season Update

OST staff provided OSAC with an overview of the 2022 field season and accomplishments. Brad Kremske oversees the three field staff during the summer. In 2022, the field staff included Paul Molnar (12th season), Nathan Guild (6th season), and Hans Vandervlugt (1st season). Goals of the field program include building community support and increasing stewardship, educating the community about OST's work, and increasing OST capacity with volunteers. With the goal of rebuilding the volunteer program after COVID, there were 55 volunteers who contributed 330 volunteer hours for an estimated value of \$9,883 in 2022. Staff will work to continue to grow the program to pre-pandemic levels in 2023.

The 2022 field season accomplishments included:

- Seed harvesting with the Sierra Club.
- Five trail building projects including Mineral Hill (built 1.5-miles to complete a 6-mile loop trail), Betty's to Chantilly trail (built 0.88-mile of new trail), Tiger Road to Summit Gulch (built 0.6-miles of new trail), Willowbrook south trail re-route (replaced eroded fall line with three switchbacks and rock staircase), and Lake View Meadows Trail Easement.
- Forest health projects involving tree thinning and piling projects with the Rocky Mountain Youth Corps and CSU Extension at Settler's Creek and the Beacon Lode.
- Ditch maintenance at Doig Homestead to clear debris and fallen trees and weekly checks at the Carwood Ditch.
- Recpath repairs and maintenance including erosion control, crack sealing, bollard replacement, sweeping, transition zone repairs, and barbed wire fence removal.
- Graffiti removal at multiple sites.
- Fish shocking surveys at the Swan River restoration area.
- Beaver deceiver maintenance at Quandary Peak wetlands.

ADDITIONAL BUSINESS/ANNOUNCEMENTS:

OST staff asked OSAC if they preferred to have the February meeting in person or via zoom. OSAC is open to either, and the meeting location will be decided once the agenda is finalized.

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

Respectfully submitted,

Allison Mitchell

Allison Mitchell, Open Space and Trails Resource Specialist