



Minutes
**Colorado State Parks Board
Meeting**

Monday, November 26, 2007
Board Meeting: 3:30 PM - Adjournment

Colorado State Parks Headquarters
Centennial Building, Room 623A
Denver, CO
(303) 866-2884

**MONDAY, November 26th
3:30 PM**

PARKS BOARD MEETING

(A) – Agenda Amendments, if necessary

PUBLIC COMMENT

AGENDA

(A) – Colorado Front Range Trail – Large Scale Grant

Dean Winstanley

ADJOURN

(A) = Action Items (I) = Information Items

** APPROVAL OF “ITEMS REFERRED FOR DIRECTOR’S ACTION” BY THE PARKS BOARD IS BASED ON WRITTEN MATERIAL. NO DISCUSSION WILL OCCUR UNLESS THERE ARE QUESTIONS FROM THE PARKS BOARD OR FROM THE PUBLIC.

** PUBLIC COMMENT ON **BOARD MEETING AGENDA ITEMS IS WELCOME**. PLEASE SIGN UP ON SPEAKER SIGN-UP SHEET UPON ENTERING THE PARKS BOARD MEETING ROOM.

NOTE: ALL PROGRAMS, SERVICES AND ACTIVITIES OF THE COLORADO BOARD OF PARKS AND OUTDOOR RECREATION ARE OPERATED IN COMPLIANCE WITH THE AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT. IF YOU NEED A SPECIAL ACCOMMODATION AS A RESULT OF A DISABILITY, PLEASE CALL LINDA FOSTER AT (303) 866-2884. TO ASSURE THAT WE CAN MEET YOUR NEEDS, PLEASE NOTIFY US OF YOUR REQUEST AT LEAST SEVEN BUSINESS DAYS PRIOR TO THE SCHEDULED EVENT.

ATTENDANCE

Parks Board Members:

Dr. Tom Ready, Chair
Bill Kane, Secretary (via conference call)
Tom Glass
Lenna Watson (via conference call)

Division Staff:

Dean Winstanley, Director
Paul Orbuch, DNR
Tim Monahan, Attorney General's Office
Larry Kramer, Deputy Director
Richard Storm, Chief of Law Enforcement (via conference call)
Kurt Mill, Rocky Mountain Region Manager (via conference call)
David Giger, High Plains Region Manager
Michael Regan, GOCO Liaison
Linda Foster, Assistant to the Director

Guests:

Lise Aangeenbrug, GOCO Deputy Director

MEETING MINUTES

AGENDA AMENDMENTS - None

PUBLIC COMMENTS – None

ACTION ITEM

Colorado Front Range Trail Large-Scale Grant

-Dean Winstanley

PURPOSE: Affirm the State Parks Board's support for the 2007 Colorado Front Range Trail Large-Scale Grant Application as submitted to Great Outdoors Colorado in September 2007.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION: Great Outdoors Colorado (GOCO) conducts Large-Scale Grant cycles on a semi-regular basis. The most recent cycles were held in 2002 and 2004. The Large-Scale (sometimes called Legacy) Grant cycle is designed to provide significant capital funding awards for projects that are regional in scope and impact.

Due to strong revenue projections from the Colorado Lottery and GOCO's current strong cash position, this past spring the GOCO Board determined that they are in a position to conduct such a cycle during 2007. In March Colorado State Parks was invited to participate in this 2007 cycle.

In August, significant discussion occurred between State Parks staff, the State Parks Board, Department of Natural Resources (DNR) staff, and GOCO staff regarding the projects under consideration by State Parks for this Large-Scale Grant cycle. At this time the Division was in a transitional period, with a vacant Director position.

On August 3, DNR Executive Director Harris Sherman met with GOCO's director and deputy director. During this meeting, GOCO staff indicated that the GOCO Board could provide flexibility with regards to the timing of State Parks' proposed Large-Scale project list. According to GOCO staff, GOCO could effectively set aside a portion of the 2007 Large-Scale cycle's overall funding specifically and exclusively for State Parks projects; conceptually, funding for the first set of projects would be awarded in 2007 and the balance for the remaining projects in 2008 and/or 2009. Under this proposal, State Parks would submit some Large-Scale grant applications in fall 2007 and submit grants for other projects at a later date.

In an August 20 letter sent to GOCO Board Chair Norma Anderson and the State Parks Board, Mr. Sherman outlined the following plan for State Parks' 2007 Large-Scale grants:

- 1) Colorado State Parks will submit a portion of the original grant applications for Cheyenne Mountain State Park and St. Vrain State Park, and the complete application for the Colorado Front Range Trail in fall 2007.
 - Cheyenne Mountain request: \$840,000 for property acquisition on the top of Cheyenne Mountain.
 - St. Vrain request: \$2.0 million for acquisition of water rights.
 - Colorado Front Range Trail request: \$1.0 million in funding to construct priority segments of the Front Range Trail.

In addition to these projects, Colorado State Parks agrees to serve as a partner in the Northeast Greenway Corridor project, authorizing the use of up to \$1.0 million in Parks purpose funding for the development of Front Range Trail segments associated with the project area.

- 2) In 2008 and/or 2009, once planning and other timing aspects are understood, Colorado State Parks will likely submit additional applications for a defined set of projects: supplemental applications for Cheyenne Mountain and St. Vrain, and complete. Large-Scale grant applications for Staunton State Park and Lake Pueblo State Park.

Following confirmation of this plan with Parks Board members, State Parks staff prepared the three Large-Scale grants as described in item number 1, above, and submitted these to GOCO in September.

DISCUSSION AND SUMMARY: Following an October 30 meeting of the GOCO Projects Committee in Golden, there has been significant discussion about the scope, funding level, and administrative plan for the Colorado Front Range Trail project. Since its inception as a proposed project, the 2007 Colorado Front Range Trail Large-Scale project has been envisioned as follows:

- Colorado State Parks will request \$1.0 million in GOCO Parks-purpose funding.
- If awarded, this funding will be administered through the State Trails Program.
- The GOCO large-scale funding will be earmarked specifically for projects that are part of the Colorado Front Range Trail, and the availability of this funding (as a special, one-time grant cycle) will be publicized to the Colorado trails community.

State Parks staff still strongly supports the notion that this funding, if awarded, should be administered by the State Trails Program. The State Trails Program has extensive resources and expertise in the management of trail projects and has successfully administered grants affiliated with the Colorado Front Range Trail for several years.

In light of recent conversation with the State Parks Board and GOCO Board, Parks Board Chair, Tom Ready, and State Parks staff, believe that at this time it might be appropriate to review and revise two elements of the original grant proposal.

Timing: At the October 30 meeting, GOCO Board members expressed concern about the timing of the grant administration as outlined in State Parks' application. Based on these concerns, an internal review by State Parks staff and discussion with the State Parks Board, staff recommends an accelerated timeline for the disbursement of GOCO Parks purpose funds through the Trails Program for Colorado Front Range Trail grants. State Trails Program staff have prepared a proposal for a special grant cycle to award this funding, to be conducted in spring 2008 *with awards made no later than April 2008.*

See *Attachment A* for more details on this proposal.

DIVISION RECOMMENDATION: Regarding the Colorado Front Range Trail Large-Scale project request, under consider action by the GOCO Board, the Colorado State Parks Board should support the following statements:

- The Large-Scale grant for the Colorado Front Range Trail, if awarded by GOCO, should only commit \$1.0 million in GOCO Parks-purpose funds. The Colorado State Parks Board should support any additional GOCO funding that is not Parks purpose that may be awarded by the GOCO Board to the Colorado Front Range Trail Large-Scale project request.
- If the Colorado Front Range Trail request is approved by the GOCO Board on December 3rd, 2007, trail grants funded with GOCO Parks-purpose funding should be administered by the State Trails Program.
- The State Trails Program will make every effort to expedite the disbursement of these funds, making awards to individual recipients no later than March 2008.

SUGGESTED MOTION: “I move that the Board of Parks and Outdoor Recreation support the statements, listed under section 4) of this document.”

DISCUSSION: Dean Winstanley briefed the board on the action item and discussed concerns raised by the GOCO Projects Committee. Lise Aangeenbrug indicated the GOCO Projects Committee amended their staff recommendation to give Parks until December 3rd to address their concerns.

Tom Glass represents Colorado State Parks on the GOCO Board. Mr. Glass stated he wanted clear and concise confirmation of the board’s support for the Front Range Trail Program prior to his participation at the GOCO meeting on December 3rd, 2007. He noted the accelerated time line supports GOCO’s concern and with the changes to the time line supports the State Trails Committee administering the program for the Parks purpose funds.

Tom Glass made some minor amendments to the Division Recommendation, outlined below:

DIVISION RECOMMENDATION: Regarding the Colorado Front Range Trail Large-Scale project request, under consider action by the GOCO Board, the Colorado State Parks Board should support the following statements:

- The Large-Scale grant for the Colorado Front Range Trail, if awarded by GOCO, should ~~only~~ commit \$1.0 million in GOCO Parks-purpose funds. The Colorado State Parks Board ~~should~~ supports any additional GOCO funding that is ~~not Parks~~ **from Local Government** purpose **or other purpose** that may be awarded by the GOCO Board to the Colorado Front Range Trail Large-Scale project request.
- If the Colorado Front Range Trail request is approved by the GOCO Board on December 3rd, 2007, trail grants funded with GOCO Parks-purpose funding should be administered by the State Trails Program.
- The State Trails Program will make every effort to expedite the disbursement of these funds, making awards to individual recipients no later than March 2008.

MOTION: “I move that the Board of Parks and Outdoor Recreation support the statements, as amended, listed under section 4) of this document.”

Moved: Tom Glass
Seconded: Lenna Watson
Vote: Unanimous

OTHER BOARD BUSINESS:

- Dean Winstanley announced there would be two simultaneous press conferences on December 3rd following the GOCO Board meeting announcing GOCO Legacy grant awards for 2007. Parks Board members were invited to participate at either location; The Capitol in Denver or Cheyenne Mountain State Park in Colorado Springs.
- Dr. Ready discussed the dates and possible locations for 2008 Parks Board Meetings. The schedule will be finalized at the December 6th, 2007 meeting.
- Correspondence from Colorado Springs Utilities supporting the Colorado Front Range Trail was distributed to board members and Lise Aangeenbrug, GOCO Deputy Director. (*see attachment*)

MEETING ADJOURNED

Dr. Ready, Chair

Bill Kane, Secretary

STATE OF COLORADO

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Department of Natural Resources
1313 Sherman Street, Room 718
Denver, Colorado 80203
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DEPARTMENT OF
NATURAL
RESOURCES

August 20, 2007

Norma Anderson, Chair
Board of the Great Outdoors Colorado Trust
1600 Broadway, Suite 1650
Denver, CO 80202

Bill Ritter, Jr.
Governor

Harris D. Sherman
Executive Director

Dear Senator Anderson,

With the support of the Colorado State Parks Board, I am writing to you with a request related to GOCO's upcoming Large-Scale grant cycle. Your response, and that of the GOCO Board, may substantially change the Large-Scale grant requests that are submitted by Colorado State Parks later this month.

As you know, in June 2007 the Great Outdoors Colorado Board approved a \$100 million spending plan for 2008, including up to \$66 million for Large-Scale projects. These Large-Scale awards represent a cornerstone of GOCO's grant program and have helped fund projects of tremendous benefit to Coloradans statewide, including many through the two eligible Department of Natural Resources agencies.

In March 2007, Colorado State Parks was invited to participate in the 2007 Large-Scale cycle. After conducting a review of the agency's capital needs and priorities, State Parks staff assembled a list of potential projects that meet GOCO's requirements for consideration. On June 15th, 2007 the State Parks Board voted to submit the following five Large-Scale grant applications to GOCO for funding consideration:

Project	GOCO funding request (as of June 15, 2007)
Cheyenne Mountain development	\$2.5 million
St. Vrain water acquisition and development	\$4.5 million
Staunton infrastructure development	\$2.0 million
Lake Pueblo infrastructure development/campground enhancement	\$2.0 million
Colorado Front Range Trail development projects	\$1.0 million

In addition to the above listed projects, State Parks has offered to serve as a partner for the Northeast Greenway Corridor project, supporting the proposal to provide \$1.0 million in GOCO Parks-purpose funding for development of Front Range Trail segments within this project boundary. Also please note that State Parks has been in a dialog with GOCO and dozens of local governments to establish a multi-year program to implement similar partnerships along the Front Range Trail. This initiative, if implemented, would involve GOCO Parks-purpose, GOCO Local Government-purpose, and significant local government matching funds to further the Front Range Trail.

Subsequent to this vote by the Parks Board, however, discussion about these projects has occurred, raising a number of questions about planning and the timing of funds for the individual Large-Scale projects and the projects list as a whole. In addition, State Parks is currently in a significant transitional period, with three (of five) new Board members and a vacant Director position.

With these factors in mind, I met with John Swartout and Lise Aangeenbrug of GOCO on August 3rd to discuss State Parks' proposed Large-Scale grant applications. During that meeting, GOCO staff indicated that the GOCO Board may be interested and willing to provide flexibility with regards to the timing of State Parks' proposed Large-Scale project list. According to GOCO staff, GOCO could effectively set aside a portion of the 2007 Large-Scale cycle's overall funding ("Parks purpose" funding) specifically and exclusively for State Parks projects; conceptually, funding for the first set of projects would be awarded in 2007 and the balance for the remaining projects in 2008 and/or 2009. Under this proposal, State Parks would submit some Large-Scale grant applications by the regular deadline of August 29, 2007 and submit grants for other projects at a later date.

I am intrigued with this potential adjusted funding approach and am in agreement with State Parks that it would help to ensure a more efficient expenditure of these public funds. Therefore, I'd like to propose the following scenario for Colorado State Parks' Large-Scale grant applications:

- 1) Colorado State Parks will submit a portion of the original grant applications for Cheyenne Mountain State Park and St. Vrain State Park, and the complete application for the Colorado Front Range Trail by the 2007 Large-Scale grant cycle's August 29 deadline.
 - The Cheyenne Mountain application will request \$840,000 for property acquisition on the top of Cheyenne Mountain.
 - The St. Vrain application will request \$2.0 million for the acquisition of water rights.
 - The Colorado Front Range Trail application will request \$1.0 million in funding to construct priority segments of the Front Range Trail.
- 2) In 2008 and/or 2009, once planning and other timing aspects are understood, Colorado State Parks will likely submit supplemental applications for Cheyenne Mountain and St. Vrain, and complete Large-Scale grant applications for Staunton State Park and Lake Pueblo State Park.
 - The Cheyenne Mountain supplemental application will likely request approximately \$700,000 in GOCO funding for park development.
 - The St Vrain supplemental application will likely request approximately \$3.590 million in GOCO funding for park development.
 - The Staunton complete grant application will likely request approximately \$2.0 million for the rehabilitation of dams and associated water control structures at the park. This project is vital to retaining water rights at the park and is the first step toward developing additional infrastructure and recreation amenities at Staunton.
 - The Lake Pueblo complete grant application will likely request approximately \$2.0 million for major rehabilitation work at the park.

Under this proposed funding scenario, the total requested GOCO funding by State Parks may be approximately \$12.130 million (plus an additional \$1.0 million in Parks-purpose funding for the

Northeast Greenway Corridor project). Therefore, Colorado State Parks would request \$3.84 million during the 2007 Large-Scale cycle and then request approximately \$8.290 million in 2008 and/or 2009. As such, I would like to request that the GOCO Board set aside no less than \$8.290 million from the 2007 Large-Scale cycle, with the understanding that this "Parks purpose" funding would be awarded to State Parks at a later date, upon submittal and consideration of grant proposals.

Revised Parks Large-Scale Request

Project	2007 Funding Request	2008-2009 Funding Request*	Total
Cheyenne Mountain	840,000	700,000	1,540,000
St. Vrain	2,000,000	3,590,000	5,590,000
Staunton	0	2,000,000	2,000,000
Lake Pueblo	0	2,000,000	2,000,000
Colorado Front Range Trail	1,000,000	0	1,000,000
Totals:	3,840,000	8,290,000	12,130,000

* All 2008-2009 figures are estimates at this time and are subject to change

Colorado State Parks staff will present this scenario to the State Parks Board for their endorsement on the morning of August 24th. To ensure coordination with GOCO, I propose that further discussion of this funding scenario occur at the joint meeting with the Parks Board and the GOCO State Parks Committee meeting during the afternoon of August 24. I look forward to your response to this proposal at your earliest convenience.

Regards,



Harris Sherman
 Executive Director
 Department of Natural Resources

cc: Colorado State Parks Board Members
 John Swartout, Executive Director, GOCO
 Gary Thorson, Deputy Director
 Larry Kramer, Deputy Director



Colorado Springs Utilities

It's how we're all connected

November 15, 2007

Dr. Thomas Ready, Chair
Colorado State Parks Board
1313 Sherman Street
Denver CO 80203

Dr. Ready,

Colorado Springs Utilities understands that Colorado State Parks is interested in creating the Colorado Front Range Trail (CFRT). The vision of the CFRT, as we understand it, is to create an 876-mile multi-purpose trail from Wyoming to New Mexico, along the Front Range of Colorado, that links diverse communities, scenic landscapes, cultural and historic points, parks, open space and other attractions.

Colorado Springs Utilities is an active participant in the cooperative efforts occurring through the Fountain Creek Vision Task Force. This effort seeks to make Fountain Creek a regional asset. In this spirit of regional cooperation, Colorado Springs Utilities would allow Colorado State Parks to build a portion of the CFRT through the City of Colorado Springs-owned Clear Spring Ranch property if a mutually-agreeable route can be identified which balances recreational amenities with operational needs.

Sincerely,

Bruce McCormick
Chief Water Services Officer

c: George Luke
Kirsta Scherff-Norris

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