

Colorado Natural Areas Council
Meeting Minutes
Denver, CO
October 1, 2008

Council (Present): Kathy Yates, Lee Shropshire, Renee Rondeau, Dennis Buechler, Mike Bloom, Jill Ozarski

Council (Absent): none

CNAP FTE Staff: Rob Billerbeck, Brian Kurzel

CNAP Seasonals: Jonathan Huey

Others: Tom Ready

1:10 PM- Call to Order

KY: Announcements

MB:

- SLB acting director John Brejcha
- Lowery project-developing conservation plan, several rare plants, piedmont grasslands. (Renee involved w/ recent survey)
- Questioning seed banking for reseeding after any developments(for piedmont grassland)
- Clean up is progressing rapidly

BK

- Asses Lowery for designation

DB:

- Commission put out 2 policies
- COGCC Rules are being developed and have been assigned to stake holder process.
- Failed to get wildlife commission to endorse amendment 58 (eliminate subsidy to oil/gas)
- Wildlife mgt- 5 year big game process will work on it for next year
- Get update on ANS issue

KY:

- Has CNAP been involved in the oil/gas commission process?

RB:

- In early stages, we were working with CNHP and Rare Plant Conservation Initiative to assess the likelihood of including rare plants in a voluntary manner.

DB:

- Water quality rules already finalized, addressing air and water, not wildlife
- Amendment 52:will bring up to DOW Commission due to the impacts on natural resource management

KY:

- Friends could do a lot to help with amendment 52
- Asked Dennis to draft something to send to friends to talk about these amendments.
- Jill will help wording for any outreach material.

1:35

Council changes

RB:

- Kathy is back
- Lee end of 4 year, got reappointed (needs to submit resume)
- Dr. Tom is leaving (presented plaque)

2008 Field Season

KY:

- How many visits were to privately owned sites?

BK:

- 5 Site visits to private properties
- Will get out w/ Lee to Wildcat Knobs

Two Buttes

JO:

- Offered to talk to Cattlemens Land Trust if we want

KY:

- Really liked the powerpoint and encourages our presentations on the Natural Areas.

Lee:

- Offered to help with geology write-up at Two Buttes

Duck Creek

- A letter following registration needs to be added to CNAP's official procedures to make it official and identify follow-ups.

Ryan Gulch

KY:

- The amount of monitoring on Registered Natural Areas is extremely helpful to push towards designation, however, staff needs to be cautious about spending too much time/resources on Registered sites, because we need to still have an incentive to designate.

Moosehead

DB:

- Is Sage grouse present??

Picketwire Canyon

- Some active management for tracks
- Has features to warrant designation

RB:

- Stabilization question (river rerouting) use natural stabilization methods

Lee:

- Natural barrier not working too well, cited spring 07 run off (divert river might be the only thing to save the tracks)

KY:

- Talked with lead paleontologist about options and different arguments about what to do

BK:

- Also have sensitive and important plant communities on site. There is also a newly discovered quarry w/ brontosaurus fossil.

Lee:

- Asked about talking to Martin Lockley.

RB:

- Has talked to ML about national and international designations...
FOLLOW UP WITH Martin Lockley

Mike:

- Own (SLB) 55 k acre ranch south of here called Chancellor ranch (CNHP surveyed in 08); should talk to Chancellor land owners to see what's going on
- Dina Clark (Denver Botanic Gardens) has been to Chancellors'

Haviland Lake

Pueblo complex

RB:

- BOR waiting on CDOW

Dennis:

- Let me know if I can help with DOW

Miramonte Reservoir

- Money could be used from species conservation trust fund to assist with protection projects on this site.

RB:

- Questions about adjacent ditch need to discuss w/ SLB
- Most likely recommendation would be to leave ditch alone. Now it is beneficial to Bog Alkali Grass

West Duck Creek

KY:

- Where is this in priority? West duck creek and Miramonte

BK:

- Shell is a high priority due to proximity of property to Duck Creek ACEC and potential to work collaboratively with Shell.

3:00

KY:

- Thanked Brian and staff

RB: Audit discussion

- Hiring freeze, PO freeze, money withheld, staffing issues
- Doug Robotham favorable to CNAP

KY:

- Status of presentation for GOCO board?

RB:

- Asked not to go forward with it at this time
- Gary would support to follow up with this

KY:

- Can we have Gary and Dean come to next Board meeting?

RB:

- They and Robotham want to come to CNAC meetings

Jill:

- Can talk to Robotham and John Swartout
-

Species Conservation Trust

RB:

- PO's are limited to \$5,000
- Hired two seasonals off of this money
- Looking into a cooperative agreement w/ CNHP for employee

MB:

- What all is frozen?

RB:

- Can spend money on seasonals but not PO's over \$5,000
- Depends on what happens at federal level

DB:

- Why does this affect CNAP?

RB:

- Ritter put hiring freeze on state.

RB:

- Discussion with Robotham: had only 3 days to get in SCTF proposal
- Asked for \$260K
- Requested an additional \$80k for mapping on State Parks
- Land acquisition piece: pursuing easements for highest priority for rare plants.
- FTE for Natural Area requested (little chance for happening)

Rare Plant Policy

RB:

- Seeking in November to make Parks policy for rare plant review process
- Been in meetings to get DNR rare plant policy in place

- Did analysis of all state lands that have rare plants (acres, pieces of property)

BK:

- Presented tables
- Looked at state ranks

RB:

- Have draft policy written shooting for G1/G2 level
- Want policy to be practical and useful so it is easy
- List of plants based heavily on GIS data
- Asks for 200m buffer
- Would develop guidelines per species and even more for certain areas
- Have checklist of what could effect

DB:

- Where are we with this?

RB:

- Talking to agencies not all region levels

MB:

- Just plants?

RB:

- Yes, but write with wildlife in mind

RR:

- should have a state list of rare plants
- may open up access to more funding (NRCS?)G1/G2=103

RB:

- Staff time for a rare plant review of DNR agencies won't be a whole lot... likely 2 or 3 projects a year
- Some staff time to start this up

MB:

- Can teach

RB:

- Get DNR rare plant list that shows that it works on state lands could make it easier to get done
- Have DNR policy before a state policy is enacted higher up.

MB:

- If gets into place. Need natural state allies to get involved with this

3:55

Mt. Callahan

RB:

- Brian has done a great job, and can use this outside of just Mt. Callahan
- An award was presented to Oxy oil
- Brian got fish/wildlife involved
- FWS was impressed
- Started talks w/ Oxy and FWS

- There is potential for OXY to donate easement and State Parks (CNAP) be holders

KY:

- Need pro/cons about easements

RB:

- 3rd party could hold easement (local land trust)
- Have more discussion than bring back to council
- Asked for monitoring money at this site for long term rare plant monitoring
- Working on 4 designations in Piceance basin

RB:

- Would like Governor signing ceremony

MB:

- Should include rare plant policy if we are going to have a ceremony with the Governor.

RB:

- Earliest for a signing ceremony would be late spring-early summer; more likely next Fall

JO:

- Keep me in loop. Will be ramping up PR work shops
- Wants to coordinate with signing

4:05

KY:

- Determine next steps for CNAC items
- What about book?

RB:

- Parks web store not happening, will be at book store

RB:

- E-mail book flyer to CNAC

LS:

- Put book ad in all magazines possible

KY:

- For CO State Fair, have CNAC members help manning a CNAP display

RB:

- Site visits from council would help
- Ask council to visit at least one site a year

KY:

- Haven't done an outing
- Need to schedule an outing

RB:

- Possibly in Piceance basin
- Meet with Shell or OXY
- Get in field with council and stewards
- Plan 2 trips one day trip and multi day

DB:

- Commission meeting in Meeker next year.

Scheduling 2009 CNAC meetings

- (Set up time with Lee to visit Wildcat Knobs)
- Schedule meeting between Kathy, Rob and Brian

RB:

- Would like to set 4 meetings for the year and be done with it

MB:

- Rob you make the structure and go from there

JO:

- Gave recommendations(for ex. every third Thursday)

BK:

- Monday and Tuesday only because of other times for different boards

RB:

- Wednesday also because to do before other agency meetings

DB:

- Would rather a few more shorter meets than 4 longer ones

RB:

- We will have a lot of voting next year (so short meets might be better)

KY:

- Paper vs. emailed info. What's best?
- For staff time, email is best

DB/KY:

- Should go one way or the other

RB:

- We will email (for you to choose to print)
- But we will print in office as well

MEETING MINUTES

4:28

March/May/July

KY: Does everyone agree with the minutes?

DB: approves

Lee: second

All Agree

Council vote on West Duck Creek

Mike: moves to approve

MB: Second

DB: Third

Unanimous

Council vote on Miramonte

KY: started

Mike 2nd

Jill: 3rd

Unanimous

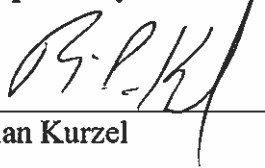
Adjourned until Jan unless phone conversation.

4:31

KY:

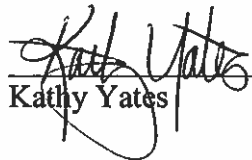
- Signed meeting minutes (all 3)

Respectfully submitted:



Brian Kurzel

Approved:



Kathy Yates