

**Colorado Natural Areas Council**  
**Meeting Minutes**  
**August 13, 2010**

**Council (Present):** Jill Ozarski, Lee Shropshire, Bruce Schumacher, Lenna Watson, Dennis Buechler

**Council (Absent):** Mike Bloom, Renee Rondeau

**Council (Present on phone):**

**CNAP FTE Staff:** Rob Billerbeck, Brian Kurzel, Gary Thorson

**CNAP Seasonal:** Carol English

**Others:** Rick McNeill, Wendy Jo Haskins, Kris Sexton

2:15 pm – Call to Order

**Presentations from Commissions and Appointees:**

**DB:** The Wildlife Commission asked CDOW to make access a higher selection criterion when prioritizing potential acquisitions using Habitat Stamp funds, which they are doing. The problem is that most landowners offering conservation easements do not want the public on their land. Therefore, fee title acquisition is sometimes the best way to get public access for hunting, fishing, and/or hiking. However, the Cattlemen's Assoc., Farm Bureau, and several state legislators are opposed to such acquisitions by a government agency even when it is the express desire of the landowner that their land be managed by CDOW.

On August 10 on the west steps of the capitol, Governor Ritter praised industry, the Division of Wildlife, and the Oil and Gas Conservation Commission for working together to implement the wildlife conservation rules that resulted from House Bill 1298 of 2007. Nine companies have signed mitigation agreements with the CDOW that will help protect 355,000 acres (550 square miles or about 20% of the basin) in the Piceance Basin. This habitat is important for elk, deer, raptors, sage grouse, and native cutthroat trout. The biggest agreement was with Exxon Mobil Corp. (150,000 acres) in Rio Blanco Co. The first agreement was signed with Encana Oil and Gas (USA) Inc. on their North Parachute Ranch. A comprehensive drilling plan has been approved for a portion of the Uncompahgre Plateau, and there are several other ongoing efforts to develop additional agreements for other basins such as the San Juan.

**LW:** State Parks Board. Two main issues being addressed by State Parks Board: 1. Dogs at Chatfield and Cherry Creek. 2. OHV grants. They have been very happy with recent outcomes.

**JO:** In the Land Conservation world, the big news is that most Land Trusts are rushing to get easements completed by the end of the year. Starting in 2011, the amount of Tax Credits allowed per year will be capped, so those who will be first in line will get the tax credit. There will be lots of changes in the next few years due to the economy.

**BS:** Encourages CNAP to have more attention placed on paleo in the future. Has been working to pass a Federal paleo law in 2009. This is not a compliance law but a conservation law and it provides stability and consistency for DOI to communicate with a "trickle down" effect.

**Matters from Council and Staff**

- *Approval of Designation for State Land Board's Arikaree River and Division of Wildlife's Haviland Lake and Miramonte.*
  - Motion to approve designation of Arikaree River, Haviland Lake and Miramonte  
DB, 2<sup>nd</sup>-JO, Unanimous approval.
- *Approval of Registration for the Nature Conservancy's Fox Ranch (Arikaree River)*
  - Motion to approve registration of Fox Ranch

JO, 2<sup>nd</sup>-BS, Unanimous approval.

BK: Designation of Arikaree River and the Registration and future designation of Fox Ranch will allow us to look at the entire River in a more comprehensive way. We have had great success working with the CDOW staff; kudos to CDOW staff in being good stewards to Miramonte and Haviland Lake and partnering with us to keep these sites in great condition!

JO: Both of these sites (Arikaree and Fox Ranch) are working ranches with lessees. One is a 5<sup>th</sup> generation ranch.

BK: Grazing is compatible and necessary for the preservation of the area. The current grazing by cattle is sustainable and important. It is a great example of not needing to exclude a use to protect the area.

LS: Often there is interagency disagreement due to a lack of communication. With communication agreements occur.

- *Discussion of Council Status Updates*

Re-appointment of Jill Ozarski

BK: Jill is reappointed by the governor (4 year appointment), and Dennis and Mike are on a 3-year appointment. Need to discuss with Mike King to suggest Dennis and Mike be re-appointed. Renee ends on June 20, 2011 and we will either need a replacement or she may continue. If she does not, Dave Anderson (Executive Director of CNHP) may be interested.

- *Chair and Vice-Chair positions*

JO: I am willing to be the chair.

LS: Vice Chair will be Bruce Schumacher.

DB, 2<sup>nd</sup>-LW, Unanimous approval.

Takes effect immediately.

LS: Minutes approved from the last meeting.

BS: Motion to approve.

JO: 2<sup>nd</sup> the motion; All in favor.

- *Comments from Council*

LS: Provide CNAC with updated Organization Charts, along with the Quick Reference Guide dated 2006.

LS: The field trips to identified or registered sites are excellent use of our time. It helps to see the areas before they are designated.

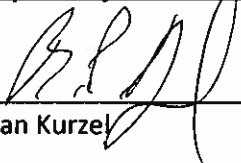
LS: Motion to adjourn

BS: 1<sup>st</sup> motion.

JO: 2nds; Unanimous approval.

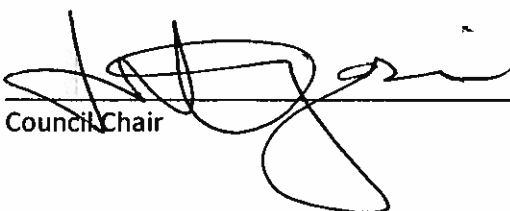
Adjourned

Respectfully submitted: Brian Kurzel



Brian Kurzel

Approved:



Council Chair