

CNAC Meeting Minutes, City of Boulder Cherryvale OSMP Office,
April 1, 2005

Council Present: Dave Anderson, Dennis Brinker, Phil James, John Masson, Dr. Tom Ready, Dr. Lee Shropshire, & Kathy Yates

Council Absent: all in attendance

DNR Staff: Rob Billerbeck, Sue Hall, Brian Kurzel, Whit Johnson, Ron West

Others: Linda Mahoney, Larry and RuthMary Allison, Lynn Reidel

Introductions: John Masson called the meeting to order and announced that his puppy was eleven weeks old that day. John provided an editorial on the position of the program and called for introductions. Introductions were made. Dr. Tom Ready stated increased cooperation between State Parks and CNAP. Dr. Lee Shropshire offered to attend field site visits.

Agenda Item 1: Progress on hiring CNAP FTE.

Rob commented on the glacial pace of the hiring process in DNR personnel. John asked if Rob had seen the resumes of all the applicants. Rob updated the council on the hiring procedure and the timing of the process. John asked if the oral interview questions had been written. Rob replied that they had and asked if anyone was interested in sitting in on the oral interviews. John suggested the council be emailed when interviews occurred. Rob reiterated that the pool of candidates included former seasonals. John stated CNAC's appreciation for Rob's efforts.

Rob restated his goal of seeing many of the Natural Areas this year. John asked about a photo file for Natural Areas. Rob replied that the Program was in the process of instituting photo points for each Natural Area. Phil asked if there were natural areas outside a normal buffer of a State Park and if the parks already knew about the natural Areas. The answer was, no. John stated that it was important to get Parks online with NA's and suggested digital photos. Rob said that he wanted to wait until his staff was in place to cement the relationship.

Rob commented on the marketing perspective for CNAP. Some sites are appropriate for visitation and some are not. Work with stewards and owner/managers to determine good sites and features within the Program for visitation. John expressed an interest in participating in this process. Phil James commented that a bullet point list of marketable sites would be useful. John followed by commenting that a matrix in which values for different attributes could be input would be useful. He also expressed an interest in having educational value be a part of this matrix and that school field trips would be a good way to market visitation to some NA's. Lee commented that Kathy Carsey has a list of CO scientists/experts that CNAP does not have. He will try to find the list.

Agenda Item 2: Expansion of Castlewood Canyon NA

Rob explained the agenda item. Call for consideration. Tom motioned for approval. Seconded by Lee and John. Motion passed. It was also noted that Dr. Weber visited the site a couple years ago. Lee added that the site also has good geological attributes. John continued stating that this is a good site for promotion/visitation. John asked if the county commissioners would pass the expansion. Dennis felt that Douglas Co. commissioners are easy to work with.

Agenda Item 3: Status of North St. Vrain Identified Natural Area

Rob explained the item and reiterated the need to get FTEs on board for movement on these types of items. John asked about the role of the USFS and RNAs. Rob explained that CNAP helped the USFS to designate RNAs in the past. Tom asked about other MOUs. Rob responded about the question of an actual need of an MOU and talked about some of the connections CNAP has with the USFS. John mentioned California Park and the SLB section for boreal toads. Phil asked if the USFS is concerned about heightened interest that the USFS might not want. Rob reiterated that he wasn't willing to do much on the site until the FTEs were filled. There was some discussion about the willingness of the USFS to designate. Lyle's perspective was that there could be some political opposition from the USFS. John stated that a state wide understanding with the USFS would be helpful instead of working with the individual forests. Kathy was interested in finding out what is holding up the USFS on this site.

Agenda Item 4: Presentation of the 2005 field season

Presentation materials were passed out. John asked if there was a formal process in place for if someone asks why a site is publicly visitable. He voiced concern about the potential for vandalism and increased use of NAs. Phil asked if there was any sensitivity to Irish Canyon. Dennis said the pictographs. John commented on South Cathedral Bluff NA as having spectacular cliffs, as well as rare and endangered plants. He continued by stating that he likes the idea of marketing certain sites as long as proper precautions are used to ensure the areas retain their natural features. Rob followed by stating that there is dichotomy between these things.

John followed by commenting that maybe only research scientists get "THE BOOK" of the more sensitive sites to visit. Since they may be more likely to not disturb sites. In the book/guide to the general public, best not to include certain values like rare plants or butterflies. A Natural Area book could capture peoples imagination.

Phil asked if the book was a conceptual idea. Rob said it was. Tom asked if the natural area values were going to go into a book. Phil said CNAP should check with Heritage and other experts first. Rob asked Dave if CNHP has a backlog of sites/values. Dave said there is an index cataloging the backlog. Phil asked if archeological sites fit in here. Rob said "Yes", and cited the need to get geologic arch data for parks because of fuel mitigation. There isnt NA data on this. He cited the Castlewood trail arch data that was obtained at the last moment causing the need to move the trail.

John stated the need for overall care in developing a check off sheet for NAs to be visited. Lee followed by stating that a check list would be distributed. Tom said that in Parks they would be part of parks info. John continued by stating that he felt that CNAP was on the right track with the visitation plan.

Presentation of possible CNAC site visits:

Phil stated that High Creek Fen, before the black flies hatched, would be a good site to visit. Nancy Fish at TNC is a good resource on this site.

Several members discussed sites they had been to personally. Tom said that they should try to go to sites not readily available to the public. Conversely, Kathy said they should go to the sites easily visited. Tom said they should choose some sites to visit as the Council, and go to visit others as interest calls. Kathy followed by saying that the Council really wants to go to Irish Canyon right now. Side discussions on the topic ensued.

John asked Phil about the Ruffed grouse west of Irish Canyon. Should this be a Natural Area? Phil said that there may not be a lek there and that it might be a migratory stop. John continued by stating that Ruffed grouse don't lek. Phil thought that it might be a remnant population and it may migrate across the state line. He can check. Lee asked what Rough Canyon was named for. Lee continued by stating that previously, CNAC visited only sites to be designated rather than sites already designated. Rob verified CNACs intent this summer and reiterated the need to become familiar with sites. Lee asked what the items of biological interest are at Irish Canyon. John said that the largest population of trophy bull elk are there. Lee followed by stating that if there are a lot of biological interests on the site that it may take more time. Some discussion about camping ensued.

John asked what dates might work for a visit to Irish Canyon and how long a trip might need to be, three days? Lee couldn't do a trip around June 25th, so the weekend of the 17th was mentioned. Lee will work on planning a 4 day trip.

Discussion on accommodations: prep time? Camping vs. motel. Friday motel, sat and Sunday camping? A decision was made to hold the trip over the 17th – 19th. Kathy and Tom need equipment. Rob mentioned that CNAP could reimburse for rentals. John said he has tons of equipment and would lend out.

Next CNAC meeting scheduled for September 15th.

Approval of previous CNAC meeting minutes – Dennis approved, Phil seconded. Motion carried. Tom and Lee abstained.

Presentation of Ron's Awards – John and Rob gave awards to Ron for his service to CNAP

Public Comment – Larry and RuthMary Allison stated that no public visitation should be allowed at Badger Wash NA because it is too desolate and too fragile.

More information wanted on Stewardship. John said they have the basic information. A Former CNAP director stopped by who was with the program from 1987 – 1989. Currently with Boulder County.

Lynn – Director would be stopping by. Also handouts about NAs in Boulder on table. John asked about the progress on McCoy Delta Fans. Rob said that work on the site was in progress.

Motion to adjourn meeting. John motioned, Dennis seconds. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted:

Jeff Thompson

Approved:

John Masson, Chair