

**Minutes of the Colorado Natural Areas Council
- Dr. Tom Ready's Residence, Pueblo, Colorado -**

August 10, 2006

Council Present: John Masson (Chair), Kathy Yates (Vice-Chair), Dr. Tom Ready, Dennis Brinker, Dr. Lee Shropshire, Tyler Nifong

Council Absent: Tom Burke

DNR staff: Rob Billerbeck, Brian Kurzel

Others: none

Chair John Masson called the meeting to order at 8:15 p.m.

Agenda Item #1:

Welcome to Tyler Nifong and General Introductions:

- John: Official thank you to Tyler Nifong for joining our council. 'Direct efforts can have an impact. The more you know CNAP, the more you'll grow to appreciate it and love it. It's a labor of love.'
- Tyler introduced himself: Works for corporate affairs consulting group. His background is lobbying. He worked for the governor for several years before he entered private sector. He likes the outdoors, hunting and fishing, and he truly appreciates Natural Areas, many of which he has visited. He's looking for a way to help and protect these places.
- Dr. Tom introduced himself: originally put on CNAC to make sure it doesn't exist... he didn't follow through. Was republican chairman for Pueblo County.
- John: 25 year history in O&G, and this is how he met the governor. He worked for Jefferson County for several years. Lifelong outdoors person. Worked for DOW before O&G.
- Dennis: Put on CNAC by Jay Kenney because he was the most environmental on the SLB. Thought the Program would disappear and saw that it survived and is now thriving.
- Kathy: Background in business. Wants to contribute to the Council and help it become what it would like to become. Moved to Colorado 5 years ago.
- Lee: Career at UNC Greeley. Was on CNAC and was recently asked back by Rob. He is on for a 2nd term because he's dedicated to this program, and it's so important to the state and people.
- Rob: Master's in Cons. Bio; from east coast. Joined CNAP in 1997. Became head biologist for Parks and became program manager of CNAP in 2004. He's very passionate about this program. He intends to give lots of blood, sweat and tears. He wants to keep up the passion and make it sustainable.

Reports from Staff

Agenda Item #2:

CNAP Legislation and Program History: Rob Billerbeck

Rob walked all Council through the history of CNAP, (See handout, CNAP_history.xls). Discussion points are highlighted below.

- Friends Group: John thought that for the Friends 501c3, Kathy should ask Lynn Riedel for a timeline and let us know so that the Council can help.
 - Next meeting, provide an update about the status of the Friends 501c3 status.
- Registration of Natural Areas:
 - John: Can we have a special category of registration for those sites that already have protection, such as Research Natural Areas on USFS land?
 - Maybe we can treat these lands differently.
 - Rob: maybe we can just stay at a registration level and not designate those sites. Maybe we should move quickly for designation after registration for most sites, but others we keep in registration indefinitely.
 - Kathy: What is the benefit of following through with designation?
 - Rob: we are a gadfly for public lands (and fed in particular).
- Volunteer Stewards: Volunteer steward gatherings are very valuable (currently ~85 Volunteer Stewards).
 - John: It is important to spend money on appreciating and recognizing volunteers.
 - New ideas, Rob: we are recruiting volunteers with interpretive backgrounds to help us with talks/walks. Volunteer stewards will also help make tailored forms for State Parks staff visitation.
- The CNAC is up for re-authorization in 2014.
- Program does not need to be re-authorized.

Agenda Item #3:

CNAP Budget: Rob Billerbeck

Rob walked all Council through the current and historic budget of CNAP, (See handout, CNAP_budget_current_future.xls). Discussion points are highlighted below.

- Dennis: How does the state keep track of all of these budget issues?
 - Rob: old computer software that should be replaced.
- Dr. Tom: Parks Board isn't sure if GOCO will have Legacy money this year.
- John: When thinking about approaching SLB for money for switching CNAP inventories of SLB lands into digital form, ask for something more reasonable:
 - Instead of \$17K, revisit this and possibly ask for more money (\$20K).
 - Dennis agrees that this CNAP assistance is important for SLB because it allows them to do work that has to be done, but they wouldn't have to do themselves.
- Fund-raising ideas: Rob asked for help from Council
 - John: Approach institutions (feds, university, etc.) and let them know that we have various projects on NAs that need funding. See if we can get grants for some of these projects that have local interests. It would be an asset for a local town to say that they have a Natural Area.
- Additional Staff:
 - Dr. Tom: El Pomar Foundation... could they help with some maintenance on Parks?
 - John: ask for more staff! Go to Lyle with a large list of what we need for the program. Ask for another full time. If you only ask for a 1/3 of an employee year after year, you won't get a full employee. If they turn you down, you can negotiate for a 1/2 or more later.
 - If you enter into it with the idea that you won't get there, you won't. Next year, ask for things that will let you get the job done.

- Dr. Tom, he supports the FTE that Rob put in this year; the fuels aspect is a part of it that is easy to sell.
- Kathy: Do you have a plan for getting to 9 FTE's?

Agenda Item #4:

Update on CNAP Activities was summarized by Brian. Major discussion points are highlighted below.

- Mount Callahan: the field visit with the Occidental Oil & Gas personnel was very successful. The rare plant on the property (*Penstemon debilis*) was re-surveyed by CNAP, BLM, Denver Botanic Gardens and USFWS staff. It not likely that any Occidental activities will impact the *Penstemon debilis* very negatively on the Natural Area. .
- Sand Creek: Staff visited and found that the geologic values for which Sand Creek was designated is not actually on the property. Council suggests that we should investigate the status of the plant that is known to exist on the Natural Area (*Penstemon larcifolius*), and re-visit the geologic values of the site to make sure these are not of statewide significance.
- Wacker Property purchase: Brian reviewed the details of the fund-raising for the purchase of the Wacker Property to protect the federally endangered clay-loving wild buckwheat.
 - Kathy: Does the Center for Native Ecosystems have Board approval to pass \$\$ on to us? Make sure we have this in writing.
 - Follow up: Ask all CNAC if they have donation form comments. Who should be included on the donation mailing list or to contacted directly?

Items from the Council

Fall Council Meeting Planning

The Fall Council meeting will be held later this year, probably at the end of November or December. Jefferson County was discussed as a potential location, and Lee would be a contact if the School of Mines was a preferred location.

Approval of the June 19 CNAC Meeting Minutes

Dennis motioned to approve the minutes with corrections for the last Council meeting. Tom seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Comments from the Public/Discussions:

N/A

Motion to adjourn at 11:00pm.

Respectfully submitted:

Brian P. Kurzel

Approved:

John Masson, Chair