

Colorado Scenic and Historic Byways Commission



Meeting

May 11, 2022 Meeting Minutes

Time: Wednesday, , May 11, 9:30 am- 11:30 am

Location: Online with Zoom

Attending: Lenore Bates (CDOT), Nathan Boyless (Commission), Chris Bowles (Commission), Kelli Hepler (Commission), Debbie Lininger (Commission), John Porco (Tracks Across Borders) Heidi Pankow (Commission), Lisa Leben (Clear Creek County), Andrew Grossmann (Commission), Chad Schneckenburger (Commission), Tim Finger (BLM Commission), Anna Scott (South Platte River Trail), Darius Pakbaz (CDOT), Cheryl Glanz (Cache la Poudre) Mark Garcia (Transportation Commission), Barb Bowman (Care for Colorado).

Nathan Boyless called the meeting to order at 9:33 am.

Minutes have been reviewed. Andrew Grossmann moves to approve the minutes as presented, Chris Bowles 2nd, M/P/U.

Update from the Byways

- **John Porco** updates from Tracks Across Borders. Working to meet Byway requirements. Planning more information to manage the visitor and maintain expectations.
- **Lenore Bates** updates us on various byways:
 - Kelly Ortiz is developing an improved Interpretive Plan. A draft was submitted 5-10-22 adding signage and improved pullouts.
 - Pawnee Pioneer Trail is now holding monthly meetings. Working with Downtown Colorado Inc. to do the updates on the CMP.
 - Peak to Peak meeting qrtly. Have a new leader Miranda Fisher. Using a Roadmap to Recovery and updating the CMP. Looking for grants to improve the trailhead near Blackhawk.
- **Kelli Hepler** update: Grand Mesa just launched the Palisade Plunge. A mountain bike trail for advanced and intermediate riders.
- **Cheryl Glanz** update: Cache la Poudre had a digital sign show up on the Byway. They are working to get it taken down. Have camping restrictions in place until June 16th.
- **New Board:** There has been an update to the Executive Order to include up to 17 Commission Members. Names added include Sami Powers (NPS) and Imogen Ainsworth.

Other Updates

Chris Bowles update on History Colorado Markers. 390 markers have been identified around the state in various styles and conditions. GOCO now funds the whole projects vs phases part of the program. This means History Colorado needs to have a good idea of the full scope before beginning any updating. Keep Lisa Schoch in the loop on getting new roadside signs.

- NSBF Update: Just finished up the Heartland Byways Conference. There was great turnout. Colorado remains one of the model states for Byway organization projects and sustainability. Working to get the FHWA grants put in for review. Awards were granted to the Silver Thread and Scenic Hwy of Legends.
- CPW is rolling out a progressive Keep Colorado Wild for \$29.00. The Park Pass will be available when you renew your vehicle registration. Funds will go to assist with Avalanche search and rescue and some of the CPW projects. This is a new funding mechanism for CPW. They are creating a brand new site, but must update the current information.

July 1 an awareness campaign will roll out.

Update the Find Our Parks social media and links on our pages. They will be ready after Jan 1, 2023 will put out an awareness campaign.

- There is a new National Tourism contact: Connie Jacobs. She is based in Colorado and will focus on CO BLM Byways.
- The CO Recovery CARES Act money for Destination Development Strategic Planning grant awards went out to 7 Byways.
- Gold Belt got one of the CTO grants and is using it for a photo contest. They are also refining the job description for the Ex. Director in preparation for Charlotte's retirement, yet to be announced.
- Byway Leadership Training Registrations need to be sent to Charlotte and not register online to get the Colorado rate supplied by Colorado Byways Program.
- Other byways were given awards for Board Development, Merchants Group (MOB) Revitalization, CMP updates, Asset Inventory and Signage Inventory. Templates on these are with the CTO if other Byways need them.
- Next Funding will be for the Reimagine Destinations Industry Associations.
- Andrew Grossmann reported on the Electric Byways Program definitions for Electrified Byway Designation.

1. DC Fast Charging stations are located at least every 100 miles within the start and terminus of each byway.
2. When byways are less than 70 miles, a DC fast charging station must be available within 15 miles of the start or terminus of the byway so that drivers can still access a charging station within 100 miles of starting their drive.

Encourage Level 2 as well on Main St.

There have been some great photo shoots on Electric Byways. Andrew will send out the link to the drive where they can be found. Photos are for our use only. Please credit the photographer if you use them. B-roll is available too. Colorado Auto Dealers provided the cars and the models.

They (CTO) bought ad space on charging stations in neighboring states to advertise Colorado to travelers.

COVID slowed their progress for getting the EV program rolled out.

- Barb Bowman with Colorado Cares reports 84 new members. She attended the Partners in the Outdoors conference. Had a lot of good response and are looking for more messaging around water and conservation. June messaging will be around the International Dark Skies and Wildfire Prevention. She also attended the Travel Adventure Show where 950 State Vacation Guides were distributed.

Around Labor Day there will be one Care for Colorado principle per day

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- There is legislation in the works to get more Dark Skies designated and will have resources to support the programs.

- FHWA Lenore has a template for the NOFO. Due to FHWA June 20th. Send your application into CDOT Byways Commission by June 9th for ranking. Pay attention to the NOFO pages 15 to 19 and follow format , names and directions. Do not stray from it. Not sure when they will be awarded, maybe this fall.
- Mount Evans plan will include the PR for name change.

Open Floor

For information on Excel Energy on the Unawep Tabeguache Byway contact Ilana Moir.

2022 Byways Commission Meetings to Save the Date:

Wednesday, November 2, 9:30 am - 12:00 pm