



MEETING MINUTES

Colorado Scenic and Historic Byways Commission

Thursday, April 26, 2018, 10 am – 12 pm
Meeting held at **United States Forest Service (USFS)**
1617 Cole Blvd, building 17, Golden, CO, 80401

Attendance

Commissioners in person:

Amanda Barker, representing land conservation, Secretary
Daniel Cressy, representing USDA Forest Service
Amanda Hill, member at large (with Great Outdoors Colorado), Chair
*Debra Perkins-Smith, representing Director of Department of Transportation
Jack Placchi, representing Bureau of Land Management
Shelia Sears, representing Colorado Creative Industries
*Gary Thorson, representing Director of Department of Natural Resources
Roger Ben Wilson, representing Western Byways
Nathan Boyless, representing History Colorado

Staff and others attending:

Lenore Bates, Program Manager, Colorado Scenic and Historic Byways, CDOT

Commissioners by phone:

Charlotte Bumgarner, representing Eastern Byways, Vice-Chair

Absent:

*Andy Hill, representing Director of Department of Local Affairs
Jill Lammers, representing Colorado Tourism Office
*Cynthia Nieb, representing President of History Colorado
Kathy Hall, representing Transportation Commission
Rep. Barbara McLachlan, representing the State Legislature
* *indicates EX-OFFICIO Members, designated through Dept. Executive Directors.*

Remaining 2018 meeting details: online here <https://www.codot.gov/travel/scenic-byways/scenic-byways-map/travel/scenic-byways/bywayscommission>

Approval of Meeting Minutes

10:08am

Motion to approve January 2018 commission meeting minutes by Gary Thorson, seconded by Nathan Boyless. All in favor, none opposed.

Byways Outreach by Commissioners

10:13am

Jack Placchi sent out updates from the Silver Thread. He will coordinate having Kelly Ortiz present on the Silver Thread Byway at the July 2018 commission meeting. The South Fork visitor center is rumored to be removing byway signs, but we need more information.

Daniel Cressey shared that Mount Evans Byway has combined resources with Guenella Pass Byway, and both are updating their management plans. They currently have a 13-page outline. It will be valuable to explain our expectations for management plans. Lenore Bates (byways program manager) is working on a quarterly management plan template (contracted by JVA). Historically, the program had 14 bullet points required by FWHA, but now we have a need to capture more organizational components. Lenore will arrange for a short presentation to the commission at the July 2018 meeting and a longer training at the annual byways meeting in October 2018.

Roger Wilson shared the Elk Mountain Byway had 10 attendees at their April meeting. Colorado Creative Corridor will be a positive impact for the byway. They are applying for funds to replace information panels. The byway supports a memorial for miners going up in Marble.

Gary Thorson shared the Grand Mesa Group is back up and running thanks to Kelli Helper. They are having monthly meetings and looking at some planning with a consultant. They byway will have someone from their byways group at the Partners in the Outdoors Conference.

Nathan Boyless is having trouble connecting with someone at the Trail of the Ancients byway. The Scenic Highway of the Legends was awarded a 101-education tourism grant over 14 weeks. The Lariat Loop Byway is still trying to get a JeffCo Commissioner on the committee. They are reprinting 25,000 brochures for the Loop. They will be at Summer Fest and the IPW this summer.

Moratorium on Byways Designation Applications

10:28am

The moratorium accepting new Colorado Byways designation has been in place for the last 2 years. With the loss of Federal funding, the commission redefined the program's roles and responsibilities. Amanda Hill proposes to continue the moratorium for at least six months.

Discussion about extensions to existing byways:

Lenore as program manager responds to inquiries about extensions, saying extensions and side trips are appropriate and can be described as being a part of the byway. Anytime there is a change in the byways, all documentation and maps provided by CDOT have to be updated, so we try not to do this. The Top of the Rockies Byway had an extension and a process to reference.

To establish an extension to the byway, the byway must go through the existing nomination process for extensions to the byways. Motion to approve this as a policy for extensions to byways by Roger Wilson, seconded by Daniel Cressey. All in favor, none opposed.

Roger Wilson motioned to extend the moratorium on new Byways designations for one year and revisit this at the April 2019 commission meeting, seconded by Deb Perkins-Smith, all in favor, none opposed.

Performance Measures

10:48am

The Federal Hyways Administration (FHWA) DC rep brought up setting statewide performance metrics for the byways program. Amanda Hill will follow-up with this person.

Each state agency sitting on the byways commission should incorporate a metric referencing the byways program in their agency plans.

Review Strategic Plan Goals and Action Items

10:58am

The strategic plan for the Byways Commission was adopted in January 2017, a large and comprehensive set of goals with a wish list. In October 2016, the commission came up with a critical list of things that should be accomplished in 6 months, 12 months, and even longer. The annual plan includes creating results from the annual surveys.

The **top two priorities** for the next 6-12 months are:

1. **Where to house the program?** The commission generally still agrees CTO is the right office to ultimately house the program and/or an interagency agreement between CDOT, CTO, and potentially other agencies. Can we tailor the Byways Program to CTO's Native Voices program?
2. **Who can be the influencers?** We have 265 days until there's a new Governor. We need directors talking with directors.

Conference Updates

11:28am

Partners in the Outdoors (PITO) – Amanda Hill will be there and will convene a conversation with the byways community the day before the conference. There is an opportunity at CPW in a later afternoon session, shaping Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP) goals that guides Federal funding to Colorado.

Preserving the Historic Road (PTHR) – Lenore shares the planning is well underway and is going well. A scholarship application for byways commissioners is being developed. Daniel Cressy will be present on Historic Road Camping. Please be in touch with Lenore about sponsoring.

Open Floor

11:38am

The grant proposal to the State Historical Fund was submitted and well received. The announcement will be August 1 with the goal to receive funding by October. Jill Corbin has secured letters of support from 21 of the 26 byways.

The [photo display is up at DIA](#) now through September. There is a possibility to move them to the Cherry Creek mall in September for a few months. The display will be up in the Capitol for three months starting in January 2019.

Amanda Hill will email logistics for the July commission meeting in Cripple Creek plus tour of the Gold Belt Byway.

The National Scenic Byways Foundation (NSBF) talked with Scenic America about FWHA reauthorization and small grant development. Information will be sent out when it becomes available.

The commission briefly discussed having short check-in calls to keep momentum between commission meetings. However, monthly meetings are a nonstarter. The preparation is overly burdensome to meet sunshine laws for public meetings.

ADJORN:

The Colorado Scenic and Historic Byways Commission adjourned at 12:03 p.m. on April 26, 2018.