



## **MEETING MINUTES**

### **Colorado Scenic and Historic Byways Commission**

Friday, July 28, 2017, 1 to 3 p.m.

Meeting held at **Colorado Parks and Wildlife (CPW)**, Bighorn Room  
6060 Broadway, Denver, 80216

#### **Attendance**

##### **Commissioners in person:**

Amanda Barker, representing land conservation, Secretary  
Charlotte Bumgarner, representing Eastern Byways, Vice-Chair  
Daniel Cressy, representing USDA Forest Service  
Jack Placchi, representing Bureau of Land Management  
Nathan Boyless, representing History Colorado  
\*Cynthia Nieb, representing President of History Colorado  
\*Debra Perkins-Smith, representing Director of Department of Transportation  
\*Gary Thorson, representing Director of Department of Natural Resources  
\*Andy Hill, temporarily representing vacant seat for Director of Department of Local Affairs

##### **Staff and others attending:**

Lenore Bates, Program Manager, Colorado Scenic and Historic Byways, CDOT  
Greg Liverman, representing Gold Belt Byway

##### **Commissioners by phone:** 1-712-432-0220 (passcode 7579786#)

Amanda Hill, member at large (with Great Outdoors Colorado), Chair  
Kathy Hall, representing Transportation Commission  
Jill Lammers, representing Colorado Tourism Office  
Rep. Barbara McLachlan, representing the State Legislature  
Roger Ben Wilson, representing Western Byways

##### **Absent:**

Margaret Hunt, representing Colorado Creative Industries

*\* indicates EX-OFFICIO Members, designated through Dept. Executive Directors.*

#### **Remaining 2017 Meeting Dates**

Commission meeting -- **October 12, 2017, 1:00-3:00pm**

Colorado Department of Local Affairs (DOLA)  
1313 Sherman Street, Denver, 80203

Byways Annual Meeting -- **October 24, 2017, 9:00am-4:15pm**

Two Rivers Convention Center  
159 Main St, Grand Junction, CO 81501

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**Approval of Meeting Minutes**

Motion to approve the January and April 2017 commission meeting minutes by Deb Perkins-Smith, seconded by Andy Hill. All in favor, none opposed.

**Commissioner Outreach to Individual Byways: Check-In**

Commissioners gave updates on outreach to individual byway groups as were assigned at the April 2017 meeting.

Amanda Barker will provide online access through Google Drive to the annual byways survey to provide additional context and information about each byway, as well as a link to access the online byways guidelines.

Charlotte Bumgarner will provide some sample documents and resources from the Gold Belt, and we will look to share those in Google Drive, too. That will be a good location for further resource sharing, too.

**Presentation and Conservation with Colorado Byway – Gold Belt**

Greg Liverman presented about the Gold Belt Byway. He serves as an at-large board member and on the Gold Belt executive committee.

- 131 miles connecting two counties and five communities (Canon City, Florence, Victor, Cripple Creek, and Florissant)
- Historically farming community but now grasses mainly only with lower water table
- Formal organization of the nonprofit byway committee in 1999
- Focus on land preservation and protection, education, and outreach
- Manages a resource inventory to support grant activities and project priorities
- Created brochures, interpretive signage, books, DVD, and CD
  - Most popular is “Junior Explorers” activity book for local 4<sup>th</sup> graders
- Started the Colorado Byway Conservation Coalition (8 byways and respective land trusts), resulting over \$2M in grant monies coming in for conservation and planning projects
- Restoration effort of Garden Park School (10-year project)
- Pursuing economic development strategies to support local economies on byway
- Current issues are funding challenges – shifting to work with Foundations, hosting events, volunteers, etc.
- Lessons learned
  - Focus on developing an active and diverse board that will allow funding and project opportunities from many different interests
  - Embrace succession planning, because Charlotte won’t run the byway forever!

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**Funding Model for Byways Program**

Staffing for the byways program was reduced at end of 2016 from one full-time employee down to one part-time employee. At the October 2016 meeting, the commission identified priorities for the program and the commission. There is general agreement the current staffing and funding model are inadequate to accomplish program goals.

Commission discussed funding partners, legislative options, and next steps to have new funding plan in place for FY2019 (budgets are set by June 2018). Group agreed to set up half-day working session to flesh out and evaluate options.

Daniel, Jack, Deb, Andy, Nathan, Jill, Amanda B and Amanda H volunteered to take a lead on the discussion and participate in the working session on the topic. All commissioners will be polled for availability and participation. Amanda Barker will coordinate logistics and plan for mid-September.

**Revisit moratorium discussion on new byways applications**

Last October, the Commission decided unanimously to extend the moratorium on new byways applications and to revisit the topic today.

In that timeframe, Lenore Bates and the commission surveyed existing byways for capacity, strengths, and needs. The survey is complete, but there is additional outreach and support needed with the current 26 byways.

The Executive Committee's recommendation is that the byways program is not ready to lift the moratorium. Motion from Nathan Boyless to extend the moratorium and revisit at the January 2018 commission meeting. Seconded by Cynthia Nieb. All in favor. None opposed.

**Commission Open Floor for shared updates**

Events:

- Lariat Loop is having an expo in Golden on September 29 to highlight businesses and partners to the byways.
- Historic Roads Conference is coming to Colorado! Mark your calendars for September 21-23, 2018 at the Elizabeth Hotel in Fort Collins.

Bicycle Tourism and Byways?

- Jill Lammers (CTO) wants commission to think about increasing exposure through bicycle tourism. Looking at "[Bike the Byway](#)" website from Bicycle Colorado), CDOT now has "strata data" that tracks road use, elevation, etc. There could be good overlap with byways.

**ADJOURN:**

The Colorado Scenic and Historic Byways Commission adjourned at 3:03 p.m. on July 28, 2017.