



MEETING MINUTES

Colorado Scenic and Historic Byways Commission

Thursday, January 25, 2018, 10 am – 12 pm
Meeting held at **Colorado Parks and Wildlife (CPW)**
Big Horn Room, 6060 Broadway, Denver

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
*Andy Hill, representing Director of Department of Local Affairs
*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

Staff and others attending:

Lenore Bates, Program Manager, Colorado Scenic and Historic Byways, CDOT
Heidi Pankow, Alpine Loop Byway representative, Ouray Chamber Resort Association

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

Nathan Boyless, representing History Colorado
Charlotte Bumgarner, representing Eastern Byways, Vice-Chair
Jill Lammers, representing Colorado Tourism Office
*Cynthia Nieb, representing President of History Colorado

Absent:

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

5 minutes

Motion to approve October 2017 commission meeting minutes by Deb Perkins-Smith, seconded by Roger Wilson. All in favor, none opposed.

Update/next steps on State Historical Fund grant proposal on byways websites

5 minutes

Jill Corbin at the Colorado Tourism Office will submit a SHF grant on behalf of the state byways program to create content and web hosting for the individual and collective byways on the colorado.com website. She will turn in a draft at the end of February and the final application is due at the beginning of March. This will be a \$160-190K ask. Jill has worked to bring additional

partners to the scope of the proposal. She met with Debbie from CPW and Andy at DOLA. She will meet with History Colorado this afternoon. Cynthia recommended Jill ask to have Brianne at HC join the meeting.

Jill is also working to get feedback on the proposal idea from all 26 byways; she currently has responses from 15. She has a number of letters of support and expects more before they submit the grant application. Announcement of grant awards on August 1.

Presentation and Conversation with Colorado Byway – Alpine Loop

30 minutes

Heidi Pankow, Alpine Loop Byway representative, Ouray Chamber Resort Association

The Apine Loop Byway is working to have regular commissioners and recruiting additional stakeholders into the conversation.

They have a grant with Lake City and Silverton to do some education around Alpine Loop, particularly educating the public that you don't need to be on an ATV to enjoy opportunities on the loop. The total grant ask was around \$50,000. They created a summer and fall adventure guide pamphlet. They created a "Rules of the Road" hangtag, and on the back "Explore the Alpine Loop." These guides are distributed through jeep rental places and the Alpine Rangers as they interact with tourists. Created materials from this grant can be viewed in their shared [Google Drive folder here](#).

The Alpine Loop is also involved in the State of the Trails program. They work with the 6 Basins Project, formed by the Jeep rentals to collect fees for conservation and small management projects e.g., new bathrooms. There is an active discussion of a general "rules of the road." CDOT has a more general resource with all different audiences i.e., ATV, horse, pedestrian, etc.

Finally, the Alpine Loop Byway also recently worked with the Colorado Tourism Office on Road Trip project with three newly posted videos that highlight Ouray, Silverton, and Lake City on the Alpine Loop that live on visittheusa.com. We will look into seeing if we can add them or link to the webpage on the CDOT website.

Updates on byways meetings and outreach

20 minutes

Meeting Updates

The October annual byways meeting felt informal with an energized room. Commissioners saw byways leaders networking and we received positive feedback that can be used for the 2018 meeting.

At CPW's Partners in the Outdoors conference in May, we can set up a meeting room for byways (this has been set and is [advertised here](#)). This will be a meeting with some updates for commissioners and anyone associated with byways. Amanda Hill will explore a potential speaker or presenting tips gleaned from annual survey, but the goal is primarily for conversation over a presentation.

Creative Districts having their [annual summit](#) May 10-11 and could have byways materials/representation there. [Shelia Sears](#) as the newest byways commissioner is interested in learning the overlap of creative industries and the byways.

The Grand Mesa Byway now has 40 people on their committee! They recently met in January, meeting again in February. A big thanks to Kelly Heplar for driving the effort. Gary Thorson, commission point of contact (POC), thinks they may be in a place to give a byways presentation later in 2018.

Guenella Pass Byway is reengaging at this point. Daniel Cressey, commission POC, believes they have an interest in engaging with the commission. They could be another presenting group in the upcoming year.

The Peak to Peak Highway byway meets with Nederland Economic Council to put on occasional luncheons, and recently Deb, Lenore, and Jill attended one. Katrina and Scott were both there and there was discussion about Nederland not wanting any additional tourists.

Roger Wilson shared as West Elk Loop POC that they are actively meeting and have a number of active programs. There is active planning about completing a trail from Carbondale through Redstone and all the way to Crested Butte.

Funding Model for Byways Program

30 minutes

Amanda Hill and Andy Hill led this discussion. There is a need for a full-time staff person for the byways program. We're at a point where we need to implement and set up interagency agreements and MOUs. The goal is to have clear program funding agreements for a year, two, even longer if possible.

We are working with CDOT to commit monies that decline over the next few years. DOLA can't provide money for staff but can be of assistance with grants. We need a written statement that OEDIT is the right home for the program, a description of meeting both the byways program objectives and OEDIT's objectives e.g., contractor versus FTE? There are 11 divisions in OEDIT, their office space lease up in June. Some divisions have carry-forward authority and with other divisions, they may have to spend those funds before June.

CDOT's budget is finalized July 1. "Commitment in Concept" could be the right way forward for a few groups like BLM: list what you need in order to make the commitment

Another feasible idea to support this work is with History Colorado to put in a grant in the October grant cycle (not to compete with Jill's grant to be dispersed in December, under contract in January/February 2019), go for the under \$35,000 grant cycle category. This is realistic and the right proportional amount for a year.

Next step is for Andy and Deb to define executive management language to provide something up the ladder at OEDIT, will work to have the right language that could then be shared with OEDIT.

We need thoughts about what each agency can do this fiscal year and next, email this feedback to Andy.

Election of 2018 Executive Committee

15 minutes

Charlotte Bumgarner opened the election for the 2018 executive committee. She put forward the same slate of officers for 2018 as 2017: Amanda Hill as Chair, Charlotte as Vice-Chair, and Amanda Barker as Secretary. There was brief discussion, and Roger Wilson commended the work of the current committee.

There were no further nominations. Roger Wilson moved to close the nomination discussion, seconded by seconded by Jack Placci, all in favor, none opposed. Voting for the proposed slate, all commissioners in favor, none opposed. Amanda Hill, Charlotte Bumgarner, and Amanda Barker will continue as the 2018 executive committee members.

Commission Open Floor for Shared Updates

15 minutes

Amanda Barker shared Lenore's consistent effort with the byways Facebook page. In 2017, we saw steady engagement with hundreds of new likes and followers.

Charlotte Bumgarner shared the photo display at DIA is moving forward (DIA [program info here](#)). Seven byways have responded so far with their photos. If groups do not submit photos, we have options from CDOT and BLM agency archives. There may be additional opportunities for the canvas prints after the DIA, like the rotunda at the Capitol. (Shelia at CCI moved this forward. The DIA photos will be on display at the State Capitol fall 2018!)

Deb Perkins-Smith shared the Colorado Energy Office is planning to release an RFA in the spring that could include EV (electric vehicle) charging stations on byways. Several byways overlap in Tier 1 and Tier 2 corridors ([p. 4 of CDOT's plan](#)). The State is getting a settlement from Volkswagon and \$10M is identified for EV charging stations and we'll hear later this week if this plan is accepted.

ADJORN:

The Colorado Scenic and Historic Byways Commission adjourned at 12:05 p.m. on January 25, 2018.