



## Colorado Scenic and Historic Byways Commission Meeting

### NOTES

Wednesday, October 22, 2014, 10 a.m. to Noon

**Location:** History Colorado, 1200 Broadway, Denver CO 80203 (Enter door off of Lincoln)

**Room:** The Stephen H. Hart Library and Research Center classroom

Food is not permitted in classrooms and liquids must be in a spill-proof container.

Conference Call Option (RSVP required): 1-877-820-7831 (passcode 321805#)

#### **Commission:**

Chris Spurl, USDA Forest Service (present)  
Margaret Hunt, Colorado Creative Industries (absent)  
Georgi Contiguglia, Member at Large (present)  
Roger Ben Wilson, Western Byways (present)  
Leah Quesenberry, BLM Representative (on phone)  
Shannon Gifford, Transportation Commission (present)  
Lyn Deal, Eastern Byways (absent)  
Greg Yankee, Conservation/Open Space Rep (present)  
Robert Mutaw, History Colorado (present)  
Senator Jeanne Nicholson, State Legislature (absent)  
Kelly Barbello, Colorado Tourism Office (absent)

#### **EX-OFFICIO Members:**

Don Hunt, Executive Director of Dept. of Transportation (absent)  
Edward Nichols, President, History Colorado (absent)  
Mike King, Executive Director of Dept. of Natural Resources (absent)  
Stephanie Troller for Reeves Brown, Executive Director of Dept. of Local Affairs (absent)

#### **Commission Alternates:**

Charlotte Bumgarner, Gold Belt Tour National Scenic and Historic Byway (absent)  
Cynthia Nieb, History Colorado, State Historical Fund/for Edward Nichols (absent)  
Jack Placchi, BLM/for Leah Quesenberry (present)

#### **Colorado Dept. of Transportation:**

Debra Perkins-Smith, CDOT DTD Division Manager (Invited)  
Lenore Bates, Colorado Scenic and Historic Byways Program Manager (present)

#### **Agenda**

1. Introductions & Announcements (5 minutes)

- a. Jack Placchi – asked about MOU mentioned by Don Bruns. Lenore mentioned that Chris is working with the NSBF. Lenore will schedule a meeting with USFS, BLM, NSBF to discuss MOUs.
2. Vice/Co-Chair Updates (5 minutes)
3. National Scenic Byway Foundation Update (5 minutes)
4. Set next year’s meeting dates (Proposed set of dates for 2015) (Third Wednesday, Every Three Months)
  - a. Jan 21
  - b. Apr 15
  - c. Jul 15
  - d. Oct 21 (Tentative Hokkaido Scenic Byways Anniversary in the Fall)
5. Discuss a moratorium on letters of interest/nominations until a national call is announced. Gary Jenson with FHWA National Scenic Byway program stated that there is not going to be a call for nominations. In regards to the current tour for Tracks across the Borders, Roger stated that it has to stand out and be unique. Evident that this is a Byway. Need to make it clear. Suggest one paragraph form/letter of intent and say nothing else will be accepted at this point. No further actions, until we call for proposals.
  - a. Jack – we also need to incorporate a de-designation process
  - b. ACTION: Roger motioned to suspend nominations
    - i. Chris seconded the motion
    - ii. Three exemptions to this motion is the three current nominations/extensions in process
      1. West Elk Loop Extension
      2. Cochetopa Byway
      3. Tracks Across the Borders Byway
  - c. ACTION: Georgi motioned to establish an online letter of interest
    - i. Rob seconded motion
6. Recruit/Renew Commission members (List online) – send out members and application and who they represent
  - a. Leah Anne Quesenberry, rep. BLM
  - b. Margaret Hunt (Elaine Mariner), CO Creative Industries
  - c. Lyn Deal, rep. Eastern Plains Byway Org
7. Discuss Tracks Across the Borders Tour
  - a. Commission Attended: Chris, Georgi, Cynthia, Roger, Leah
  - b. Leah - Scenic is okay, fall colors, history is main concept. – If there was local group with strong commitment and they could really make something out of it.
  - c. Roger – Ignacio to State Park was unremarkable, only Native information at visitor centers, trailers/junk yards, part of the byway follows the Spanish Trail, Tribes could give access to limited visiting areas with specific instructions, road improvements through counties and Indian Affairs – excellent sales job – interesting places such as Chimney Rock,

Visitor Center, a little at the State Park, part was unremarkable and no different than any other route/valley in Colorado, trailers and run down, not unique to a railroad, Tribal interests may not include railroad history/preservation of railroad, not physical evidence of Indian lifestyle or Tribal lands, Tourism groups want to be on a byway to get people into town, Tribes want to attract visitors into town/casino, Railroad purpose is to preserve history/railroads, Wow factor does not exist

- d. Georgi – some of the byway follows the Ute Trail and not mentioned, access to land needs to be addressed – Georgi likes it because of the history of the area – Ruth Lambert background geology/hydrology of area – is there a local historian that can serve on the byway – interested in ranching – felt there was support – history is rich – County supporters should have stated that they will support this project.
- e. Chris – no mention of Ute Trail, Jicarilla support, not sure about Southern Ute, not a wow factor
- f. Greg – Would other Byways say that this dilutes our program?
- g. Cultural Center Speakers – Ignacio, orientation, partners attended meeting, past Southern Ute member attended, Elise Redd greeted, Chairman Frost, Edward Fox III planner, described partners in support of the byway (Get names from Roxanne)
- h. Navajo State Park – Doug Secrest, introduction to state park, recently built visitor center in past 10 years, Park in NM and CO, entrance to state park not obvious, or route into the park not well marked, such as how far to restroom/parking/visitor center
- i. Chimney Rock – USFS Paul Blackman, talking about expanding parking facility, no accommodation for large vehicle/bus, only national monument in CO managed by USFS, entryway is not obvious, did not get a tour to the top
- j. Pagosa Junction – logging was the main function of the railroad, few remnants are left – Concerns about trail to river since people will want to see the river, this is a natural place for restrooms, the group is establishing agreement for park area, this could have interpretation/explanation about Southern Ute culture – The group was served lunch here.
- k. The Gap – road conditions depend upon weather, NM Sign, Jicarilla/Apache land, need large warning signs of road conditions and no cell coverage.
- l. Dulce – There is a full water tower that supports railroad, 2 gas stations, restaurants, from NM border to Dulce is NM Byway, and the Continental Divide is marked.
- m. Lumberton – State Highway
- n. Cumbres Toltec Railroad

- o. Provide Feedback regarding tour, giving all of the supporters, empathetic, draft for Commission
- 8. Approve Nominating Process
  - a. Steps
  - b. Also add a de-designation
  - c. Vote on at the beginning of next meeting
- 9. Each meeting possible funding Sources or other items, promotion, letter of intent...
- 10. Review periods for items that need review (annual reports, review process),
- 11. Strategic plan draft
- 12. Recap & Next Meeting (15 minutes)

**Program Vision:**

Guiding travelers to experience and be inspired by treasured places that comprise Colorado's Scenic and Historic Byways. (Commission Approved 5/14/13)

**Commission Mission:**

The Commission is a partnership to evaluate and designate the state's Scenic and Historic Byways and to develop and recommend funding sources and provide administrative support to sustain the byways for future generations. (Commission Approved 12/7/12)

**Program Definition:**

The Colorado Scenic and Historic Byways program is a statewide partnership intended to provide recreational, educational, and economic benefits to Coloradans and visitors by designating, interpreting, protecting, and promoting a system of outstanding touring routes in Colorado.

**2014 Meetings Dates & Times:**

History Colorado

Tuesday, January 14, 10:00 am to 12:00 pm Heckendorn Library, 3rd Floor

Tuesday, May 13, 10:00 am to 12:00 pm The Stephen H. Hart Library and Research Center classroom

Wednesday, July 16, 10:00 am to 12:00 pm The Stephen H. Hart Library and Research Center classroom

(NEW) Wednesday, September 17, 2014, 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. The Stephen H. Hart Library

Wednesday, October 22, 10:00 am to 12:00 pm The Stephen H. Hart Library and Research Center classroom

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