



MEETING MINUTES

Colorado Scenic and Historic Byways Commission

Thursday, July 26, 2018 10 am to 12 pm
Meeting held at **Cripple Creek Heritage Center**
9283 CO-67, Cripple Creek, CO 80813

Attendance

Commissioners in person:

Amanda Barker, representing land conservation (with Colorado Preservation, Inc.), Secretary
Amanda Hill, member at large (with Land Trust Alliance), Chair
*Debra Perkins-Smith, representing Director of Department of Transportation
*Gary Thorson, representing Director of Department of Natural Resources
*Andy Hill, representing Director of Department of Local Affairs
Jack Placchi, representing Bureau of Land Management
Roger Ben Wilson, representing Western Byways
Charlotte Bumgarner, representing Eastern Byways (with Gold Belt Byway), Vice-Chair
Shelia Sears, representing Colorado Creative Industries
Jill Lammers, representing Colorado Tourism Office
*Cynthia Nieb, representing President of History Colorado

Staff and others attending

Lenore Bates, Program Manager, Colorado Scenic and Historic Byways, CDOT
Sandra Harris Howard, JVA Consulting
Kelly Ortiz, Landscape Architect, United States Forest Service, Silver Thread Byway
Tori Martinez, Sangre de Cristo National Heritage Area, Los Caminos Antiguos Byway

Commissioners by phone:

Daniel Cressy, representing USDA Forest Service
Kathy Hall, representing Transportation Commission
Nathan Boyless, representing History Colorado

Absent:

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

10:05am

Motion to approve April 2018 commission meeting minutes by Roger Wilson, seconded by Deb Perkins-Smith. All in favor, none opposed.

Silver Thread Byway Presentation

10:08am

Kelly Ortiz is a Landscape Architect with the United States Forest Service, and is the Forest

Service liaison for the Silver Thread Byway. Erin Euharis (sp?) is the new director for Silver Thread which meets monthly and is active and independent. The Silver Thread Byway became a 501c3 nonprofit in 2017 (under the name Western Colorado Interpretive Association, Inc.).

The Silver Thread byway planning started in 1990 and started applying for grants in 1992. Interpretive signage was first created in 1994 with 20 in the original grant. The Silver Thread byway created their first Corridor Management Plan in 1997 and set up visitor centers in 2000. Now in 2018, they are changing out some of those original signs.

In 2006, the byway set on improvements near North Clear Creek Falls. The goal was to make the whole byway 100% accessible with trail improvements and road pavements. The black swift bird is coming back to the region. Interpretive signage around the beetle kill has been developed in recent years. Clay Mine worked with HistoriCorps (or another Corps) to reroof and put in fence. The mined clay in early 1900s was used for women's makeup and saltwater taffy.

The Silver Thread Byway had an extension in 2012 and that was in the final round of grants administered the byways commission. In recent years as FWHA funds disappeared, the larger focus for the Silver Thread Byway is on developing and expanding partnerships as well as innovative ways to promote the byway, including creating a phone app.

They are considering a recent proposal from Viera to put up seven cellular towers along the byway. They are focusing on disguising as trees and using dark colors – some will be as tall as 90 feet.

Los Caminos Antiguos Byway Presentation

10:32am

Tori Martinez with the Sangre de Cristo National Heritage Area which oversees the Los Caminos Antiguos Byway briefly presented about the byway.

This byway celebrates Spanish heritage in the San Luis Valley. This is the most northern portion of the Spanish empire, structured around land grants from this period. Locals provided the stories for the byway's interpretive signs. The Salazar Initiative is creating staging areas for tourists. There are recently reworked and beautiful portal signs.

The oldest continuous family-owned business in Colorado, Romera Market, is located along the byway with talk about turning it into a co-op.

The [Caminos del Valle is a youth-guided walking tour](#). After a youth volunteers 60 hours, they gain the designation of a heritage enthusiast, after 150 hours, a heritage connoisseur, and after 300 hours, a heritage expert.

Byways Outreach by Commissioners

10:44am

- **Santa Fe Trail Byway** – Shelia hears the person in charge is done and moving on. We might brainstorm and encourage new leadership for the byway committee.
- **Collegiate Peaks Byway** – Shelia had no response in connecting with the new director. Charlotte has the contact info and will connect her.

- **Flat Top Byway** – Andy shares there will be an upcoming meeting.
- **West Elk Loop** – Rogers went to a recent meeting. Hickenlooper is committed to expanding trails, particularly a connecting trail from Crested Butte to Aspen.
- **Grand Mesa Byway** – Gary joined their last few conference calls. They are particularly looking for new business partnerships.
- **Top of the Rockies** – Charlotte and Jill have been in recent communication. There was some feedback that the right photo wasn't selected for the DIA, but things are ironed out.
- **Dinosaur Diamond** – Jill shares that Kelli Helper is now working with this byway (she's also connected with Grand Mesa).
- **San Juan Skyway** – Jill is still struggling to connect with the committee and looking for suggestions to bolster the regional organized group.

Byways Funding and Structure Working Committee

11:02am

The working committee concludes that the program is understaffed with Lenore's time and capacity. The goal is to move the program out of CDOT. The committee has not met in a few months. Another meeting of the working group will be set soon. Andy is keeping track of conversations we need to have.

Roger talked with Sen. Kerri Donovan which might result in a new executive order with some legislation to direct a home for the byways program. The executive order was previously *assigned* to CDOT. That assignment was removed in the last/current order. An executive order is probably appropriate to have a top-down assignment to the chosen agency or organization. Rep. Rankin on Joint Budget Committee could be helpful when talking money associated with legislation.

The feedback from agency partners is we need to demonstrate the value of the byways program. Andy and Jill sat with Meredith about the data we need. The sense is the raw data is there, but we need to make it usable and useful to our case. CDOT has lots of base data and can help pull things together. BLM has data surveyed every three years that could prove useful. Providing good data in our fact sheet will be paramount to having legislation move forward.

Corridor Management Plan (CMP) Template

11:18am

Sandra Harris, a consultant with [JVA](#), was hired to create an updated CMP template for the Colorado byways. There was a survey on existing Corridor Management Plans. There will be a training at the annual meeting in October, followed by an online webinar.

Sandra walked us through the summary of survey results. She reviewed best practices and management plans from other states. She received 11 responses out of 44 contacts at 26 byways. There is good information from the survey which confirmed many things we knew, and will inform the template outline.

Sandra is looking for feedback on format for getting this information and sustaining it as relevant for the next five years and so. The goal is to make this user-friendly and a go-to resource for the byways.

2018 Annual Byways Meeting Planning

11:38am

Amanda Hill secured a room reservation for the full day on October 29 in Vail. This is the soft opening for the Tourism conference. The commission would like to move the regularly-scheduled commission meeting as part of that day's meeting.

The general flow of the meeting will be the commission meeting first thing in the morning, followed by the annual meeting. We will schedule time for lunch, time for happy hour, or off to the Governor's welcome at the conference.

Open Floor

11:47am

- **State Historical Fund Grant** – Jill shared that CTO submitted the application to rebrand the website on April 1 and will be notified about the award on August 1. If awarded, the timeline includes development of website content with Miles Partnership in December, a mock-up of the new website in spring 2019, June-December 2019 photo and video shoot of 26 byways, Oct–December 2019 video editing, all work completed by April 2020.
- **DIA and Capitol Photo Display** – Charlotte shared the [DIA exhibit is up now](#) and remains through September. The next step is finding storage October – mid-December. In mid-December, the photos will be up at capitol (32-36 photos only, will only hang 26 32"x36"). Charlotte might approach History Colorado or the Art Museum, wants to consider the Grand Junction airport, Union Station, hotels like the one at DIA, and the Convention Center
- **Wayfinding Assessments** – Lenore is working on these assessments across the state in August. She takes a front seat/back seat approach: experts in the back observe with newcomers in the front. Then, byways experts put together highlights they want to capture and prioritize. A statewide wayfinding assessment report is expected Spring of 2019.
- **CPW's Partners in the Outdoors Conference** – Lenore provided a brief update on the May 2018 conference.
- **Southern Colorado Tourism Summit and EV Charging Stations** – Lenore provided a brief update of upcoming funding opportunities may align with specific byways. She will connect with those contacts directly.
- **Preserving the Historic Roads Conference** – Lenore provided a brief update of the planning for the September 13-16, 2018 conference at the Elizabeth Hotel in Fort Collins.

ADJOURN:

The Colorado Scenic and Historic Byways Commission adjourned at 12:07 p.m. on July 26, 2018.