

SUMMIT COUNTY  
OPEN SPACE ADVISORY COUNCIL  
SUMMARY OF ACTIONS

February 6, 2013

OSAC MEMBERS PRESENT: Nancy Redner, Art Girtten, Lynn Amstutz, Jeff Leigh, Turk Montepare, Bruce Fitch, Tim Scanlan, Russ Camp, Laura Rossetter, Howard Brown, Todd Rankin

OSAC MEMBERS ABSENT: None

STAFF PRESENT: Brian Lorch, Brad Eckert, Jim Curnutte

MEMBERS OF PUBLIC PRESENT: Chris Kulick - Town of Breckenridge, Paul Semmer – USFS

Call to Order: Chairman Turk Montepare called the meeting of the Summit County Open Space Advisory Council to order at 5:35 p.m.

Approval of Agenda: The agenda was approved as submitted.

Approval of Minutes: The January 9, 2013 meeting minutes were approved as submitted.

Summary Report: The summary report was approved as submitted.

REGULAR AGENDA:

Public Comments on Items Not Included in the Agenda: None.

Update on Open Space Management Activities:

Highway 9 widening and realignment: CDOT is moving forward with plans for an alternate alignment of Highway 9 between Frisco and Farmers Corner that includes an option through the Iron Springs Open Space. Current discussion amongst County, CDOT and CDLT staff proposes exchanging nine acres of land within the Iron Springs Open Space planned for the highway realignment, for twelve acres of the existing Highway 9 right of way along the reservoir. This may result in a net increase in conserved acres, and allow for a recreation area along the reservoir that would include a new Recpath alignment (to replace the one being lost in highway construction). However, options for maintaining access to the Dickey Day Use Area are still being discussed. Two options under consideration are 1) a new, separate interchange off of Highway 9 and 2) access via the light at the hospital and Town of Frisco lands.

Staff indicated that the negotiations are moving forward in a positive manner, with both CDLT and GOCO giving their preliminary support for further discussions on the alternate alignment. CDOT is also reviewing appropriateness of a wildlife overpass on the highway, and anticipates conducting a public scoping process relatively soon. The pending NEPA analysis will evaluate the previously approved plan for four-lanes along the reservoir as the “no-action,” against the proposed the new alignment through Iron Springs. CDOT is hoping to have the NEPA decision by the end of the summer, and would like to complete this project within 5 years.

CDLT is anticipating that the new alignment will result in an amended and restated conservation easement, rather than a condemnation proceeding. Paul Semmer pointed out that technically CDOT would be abandoning their existing Highway 9 easement on National Forest lands, and the County would then apply for an easement for the new Recpath along the lake. Art Girtten commented that we should take advantage of

this opportunity to create the best possible Recpath outcome, including widened shoulders on the new highway alignment, well-designed underpasses, and a Nordic trail connection from the high school to the Frisco Nordic Center.

Grazing on Cow Camp Open Space (Lower Blue): Clay Culbreath approached open space staff about the possibility of grazing cattle on the Cow Camp and Cow Camp extension properties. He has proposed fixing fences and the water tank, and irrigating the lower meadow. He has pledged to protect wildlife habitat and assist in managing the property. Mr. Culbreath appears to have a good understanding of land stewardship principles, and grazing (particularly by the Culbreath family) would align well with the open space acquisition goal of protecting the agricultural heritage of the Lower Blue.

Mr. Culbreath is proposing a one-year trial for grazing. Advantages of this arrangement would be helping to maintain the water rights on the property, repairing fences on the property (which would allow the property to also be used for emergency grazing), potentially improving sage grouse habitat, and maintaining the agricultural heritage of the Lower Blue. Potential concerns would be overgrazing and the need to draft a grazing management plan and grazing lease. NRCS staff provided a favorable reference for Clay, and has offered to help in the drafting of a grazing management plan. Overall OSAC felt that the trial arrangement was a “win-win” situation, and unanimously recommended that staff move forward with the necessary administrative processes to allow grazing on the property, subject to a determination by the County whether a public bidding process would be required.

French Gulch Gate: As discussed previously, the County is pursuing moving the gate on French Gulch Road further down valley (near the Lincoln TH). The County Attorney recommended that this be addressed officially via a Resolution by the BOCC, and the BOCC has asked staff to solicit additional public input on the project. Staff will be seeking public comment in the coming weeks.

Trail projects/NEPA review: The USFS has indicated they are comfortable with initiating a public process to determine whether additional motorized trails should be developed on Tenderfoot Mountain. Staff also recently learned that both the motorized and non-motorized trails in the Golden Horseshoe will be evaluated together in the NEPA process, rather than the motorized trails being expedited through a categorical exclusion.

#### **Update on Recpath Projects:**

Snake River Bridge and Recpath Improvements: Ten Mile Engineering, Inc. is completing design of project components including replacing bridge decking, addressing drainage and storm water, removing and replacing asphalt, and asphalt overlay. Project limits are from Town of Dillon limits north of Summerwood to Elk Drive. Staff anticipates a request for proposals in late March for spring/early summer construction. Due to bridge repairs, the Recpath will be closed for a portion of the time with a detour on SH 6.

Ten Mile Canyon Recpath Extension: Staff and the engineering consultant have been working to address USFS comments regarding the proposed bridge plans. As a result, the bid opening has been postponed until March 6. This should not affect the project schedule.

Fremont Pass Recpath: Potential alignments have been identified and a map of those alignments is being put together by Conlin Associates for submittal to Climax managers. Conlin Associates did a great job incorporating existing corridors such as canals, road and ditches to piece together a route that avoids operations areas.

Executive Session to Discuss Acquisition of Real Property Interests: Lynn Amstutz moved to go into Executive Session to discuss property acquisitions. Art Girten seconded the motion. OSAC entered into Executive Session at 6:40 pm. Russ Camp moved to come out of Executive Session and Ms. Amstutz

seconded the motion. OSAC came out of Executive Session at 7:45 pm.

Other Business/Announcements: None.

ADJOURNMENT: The meeting was adjourned at 7:45 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

*Brian Lorch*

Brian Lorch

Open Space and Trails Director