

Roll Call

Jeff Cospolich called the August 19, 2013 BOSAC meeting to order at 5:45 pm. Other BOSAC members present included Jeff Carlson, Jeffery Bergeron, Chris Tennal, Craig Campbell and Devon O'Neil. Staff members present were Peter Grosshuesch, Mark Truckey, Scott Reid, and Chris Kulick. Erin Gigliello from the Breckenridge Resort Chamber and Mike Zobbe from the Summit Huts Association were also in attendance.

Approval of Minutes

The minutes were approved as presented.

Approval of Agenda

The agenda was approved as presented.

Public Comments

There were no public comments.

Staff Summary

Trail Map Update

The newly revised trail map was delivered and is available for sale at retail locations including the Breckenridge Welcome Center.

Gold Run Nordic Center Conditional Use Permit

By law, the grooming operations of the Gold Run Nordic Center (GRNC) are permitted by both Summit County and the U.S. Forest Service (USFS). The USFS special use authorization, which applies to National Forest lands, is valid through 2020. The Summit County conditional use permit, which applies to county roads and county-owned properties, needed to be reissued in time for the upcoming winter season. Town staff recently worked with Summit County staff to submit the appropriate documentation. County staff approved the new conditional use permit which, like the USFS permit, expires in 2020.

Environmental Art Installations

At its July meeting, BOSAC approved the installation of environmental art on the Illinois Creek Low Trail. The installation of the picnic table by Stuart Bremner and Terry Taltry began last week and should be completed shortly.

“The Forest for the Trees” installation at the top of Moonstone Trail was unfortunately removed for forest health purposes. Approximately 250 dead or downed trees, including the ones to which the installation was attached, were removed to improve forest regeneration and reduce wildfire hazard. The Breckenridge Public Arts Commission was notified prior to the removal of the art installation.

Friends of Breckenridge Trails

The Sidedoor Trail project on July 27-28 was a success. Volunteers for Outdoor Colorado (VOC) and the Town and County staffs recruited 145 volunteers to complete the Sidedoor Trail in two days. Rainy Sunday weather ensured that the volunteers who worked that day were both hearty and motivated.

The Upper Flume Trail project on August 10th was also successful on a different level. 15 volunteers joined staff in realigning the poorly draining portion of the Upper Flume. That work will continue until the project is complete.

Please join us for other Friends of Breckenridge Trails projects this summer. More information can be found on the Town [website](#).

Open Space and Trails

Cucumber Gulch Preserve- Docent Program

Staff presented information on the Cucumber Gulch Preserve docent program. BOSAC approved the expenditure of \$1,700 in 2013 to post a docent at the Peaks Trailhead entrance to the Toad Alley Trail for two weekends- one before the trails opened seasonally and one after they opened.

Highlights from the docent program included.

- The docent interacted with about 200 visitors.
- The docent's presence resulted in a statistically lower number of photo captures on the closed Cucumber Gulch trails.
- In 2014, additional fence placement should help reduce visitation during the seasonal closure. Staff will continue to strive to prevent entry during the moose calving and chick rearing period.
- Additional signage will reflect when the trails reopen.

Mr. Bergeron – Is there any chance we could have Friends of Cucumber Gulch docents? (Mr. Reid – That is a good long term vision, but administratively it seems more efficient at this point to utilize Dr. Carello's graduate students to accomplish the task.)

Mr. Cospolich – We should install signage that clearly states the duration of the Cucumber Gulch closure, i.e. May – through weekend after July 4th. (Mr. Reid- we intend to improve our closures and signage in 2014 and beyond.)

Mr. Grosshuesch – We could also install maps that highlight alternative open trails at closure points. This idea was seconded by Mr. Campbell.

Mr. Cospolich – The docent program is a low cost in the grand scheme of Cucumber Gulch management. It seems like money well spent.

BOSAC – Unanimously supported continuing the docent program in 2014, and doubling the docent program funding to \$3,400.)

Cucumber Gulch Preserve- Wetland and Channel Restoration

As previously discussed, the Upper Cucumber Gulch wetland restoration has progressed remarkably in the past ten months. The ponds are functioning well, the wetland boundaries have expanded, and the sediment coming through the 60-inch culvert has been captured in the uppermost Spreader Pond. Town staff and consultants have visited the site regularly, as has a representative from the Army Corps of Engineers.

A motion sensor recently camera captured an image of beavers exploring the dilapidated lodge in the Reset Pond. Mud packing and other evidence suggests that the resident beavers have taken an active maintenance role with this pond.

Despite this success in the lower Reset Pond, beavers have been noticeably absent in the upper ponds of Cucumber Gulch this summer. Following a discussion with the Town's consultants and the Colorado Parks and Wildlife (CPW) wildlife manager, staff decided to proceed with a beaver relocation, which occurred on Friday August 2nd. A beaver slated for removal from the Lower Blue was trapped and released in the Spreader Pond. Town staff acquired a CPW permission letter, which is required for relocating a beaver. To date, the solitary beaver has remained in the northern Spreader Pond and has begun damming the northern rivulet, as intended. This is a hopeful sign that the beaver will take up residence and continue the wetland restoration work. Staff will keep BOSAC posted of any news on this reintroduction.

Also, staff has continued work on the channel restoration project discussed at the [June BOSAC meeting](#). Claffey Ecological, Inc. was hired to design the Boreas Creek channel improvements, which are intended to finalize the wetland restoration by slowing the water, raising the local water table, and reducing future channelization. The design from Claffey Ecological consists of installing multiple log deadfall zones, raising the channel, and recreating historic beaver dams where possible. All of the work is based on bioengineering principles which utilize largely local natural materials to mimic natural processes such as beaver dams, log deadfalls, and vegetation growth.

As with the 2013 wetland restoration work, heavy equipment such as an excavator will be necessary to complete the project. Excavation within the [Cucumber Gulch Preventative Management Area](#) (PMA) must go through the Town Project process including an initial work session with the Town Council, and a subsequent hearing process by both the Planning Commission and Town Council. Staff is scheduled to present this project in a work session to the Town Council on August 27th and to the Planning Commission on September 3rd. Prior to submitting for the Town Project process, staff requests BOSAC understand and approve of the project approach.

Mr. Tennial - Could staff explain how the infiltration galleries work for the latest Peak 8 development. (Staff drew a diagram to explain how the ground water is re-introduced as ground water in the Gulch and the surface water is re-introduced as surface water.)

BOSAC – Unanimously supported the channel restoration project.

Weber Gulch Hut Environmental Assessment

Staff presented key findings from the Weber Gulch Hut Environmental Assessment. The U.S. Forest Service is soliciting comments on the [Environmental Assessment](#). Staff sought BOSAC direction prior to drafting a letter for Council's consideration, which is due on September 11th. The Town is generally supportive of the proposal. The Weber Gulch Hut was originally discussed at the [May 16, 2011 BOSAC meeting](#). One concern regarding the proposal was the impact the extra parking could potentially have on French Gulch through increased trailer parking, increased users and overnight camping.

Mr. O'Neil – Why would we not want trailers at the Lincoln Townsite? (Mr. Reid – The general direction from the public during the Golden Horseshoe planning process indicated a preference for motorized use in the Swan River basin and non-motorized use in French Gulch. Sizing a trailhead appropriately dictates the level of use on the surrounding trails. Also, the French Gulch/Lincoln Townsite trailhead is largely at or over capacity during winter, not summer months.)

Mr. Zobbe - Summit Huts would prefer the additional parking be gated in the summer since the hut would not be open in the summer. The nightmare trail extension in this proposal would be very beneficial for mountain bikers and hikers. We would like to construct this trail as the first phase of project through a large scale volunteer project.

Mr. Bergeron – Is the Forest Service closing the area below the hut to skiing? (Mr. Zobbe– I'm not aware of that requirement.)

Mr. Bergeron – I am concerned with the additional skier traffic on Nightmare and areas on the front side of Baldy taking away from the existing backcountry experience.

Mr. Cospolich – Are the Mountain Meadows owners supportive? (Mr. Zobbe – Yes, they will get a couple extra parking spots at the trailhead.) Why is there no summer use of the hut? (Mr. Zobbe – The summer lynx movement corridor could be affected by summer hut use.)

Mr. Bergeron – Are we committed to install a gate at Baldy Road? (Mr. Reid – The County is considering the request.)

Mr. Carlson – In the EA, it says the parking lot is only for hut guests, is that the case? (Mr. Zobbe – We believe adding more parking only encourages more use. The parking lot is designed to accommodate hut users so it won't impact day users parking but will not provide additional day use parking. There is also the alternative to park at the Ice Rink and take the Summit stage to Baldy.) What will the plan be for the parking in the summer? (Mr. Zobbe – That is to be determined.)

Mr. O'Neil – We should consider allowing trailer parking in the summer since there is legal motorized access right next to the proposed lot, instead of shutting them out. (Mr. Zobbe - We have to keep in mind the parking lot is for the hut under a special use permit and the hut is only allowed to operate in the winter.) Mr. Campbell and Mr. Cospolich agreed with Mr. O'Neil.

Mr. Bergeron – We should gate the parking lot and only use it for the hut in the winter.

BOSAC was generally supportive of the project, but sought additional clarity on the summer management of the proposed Summit Huts trailhead.

Pro Forma

Mark Truckey presented a revised open space pro forma, reflecting recent acquisitions and other expenses for the 2014 budget. The most significant changes include:

1. A change of the accounting for the Bartlett and Shock parcels to spread the purchase cost over five years.
2. The addition of two new seasonal trail crew employees, with an approximate additional cost of \$28,000 annually.

Mr. Bergeron – Should we contribute to Breck Bike Week. (Mr. Reid – That ultimately is a Council and BMAC decision.) If nothing else we should write a letter of support.

Mr. O'Neil – For the record, I think it's great that we're adding two new trail crew members; it really separates us from other communities.

Executive Session

Mr. Tennial – Motioned to move into executive session at 7:38 pm to discuss property acquisition negotiations. Mr. Campbell seconded the motion.

Mr. Bergeron – Made a motion to come out of Executive Session at 8:05 pm. Mr. Carlson seconded the motion.

Next Meeting

The next regularly scheduled meeting is on Monday, September 16, 2013, in the Administrative Conference Room at the Breckenridge Town Hall (150 Ski Hill Road).

Mr. Campbell made a motion to adjourn the meeting, which was seconded by Mr. Tennial.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:07 p.m.

Jeff Cospolich, Chair