

Roll Call

Jeff Cospolich called the November 17, 2014 BOSAC meeting to order at 5:40 pm. Other BOSAC members present included Chris Tennal, Elisabeth Lawrence, Jeffrey Bergeron and Elizabeth Miller. Jeff Carlson arrived at 6:00 pm. Staff members present were Peter Grosshuesch, Scott Reid, Mark Truckey and Chris Kulick. Brian Lorch and Jason Lederer from Summit County Open Space and Trails and Breckenridge resident Blaize Panariso were also in attendance.

Approval of Minutes

The minutes were approved as presented.

Public Comments

There were no public comments.

Staff Summary

Field Season Update

The summer field season is almost complete and seasonal trail crew members are wrapping up the final open space and trails tasks. Recently completed projects include:

- Finalize and sign ZL Trail for the year.
- Repair Slalom Trail from brake bumps and logging impacts.
- Complete interpretive spur and primary route on Wirepatch Trail.
- Remove wooden features adjacent to pump track.
- Remove hazard trees along French Gulch routes.
- Install gates and signs and clean up Laurium and Candler open space properties.

2014 has been another highly productive year for the trail crew. A final report summarizing this year's projects and volunteer initiatives will be presented to BOSAC in December.

Mr. Bergeron – I might be a good idea to erect some educational signage on yielding for higher use trails. The message needs to be that downhill traffic should yield to uphill traffic and not just ride around the person and widen the trail.

Mr. Bergeron – When will the excavation of the Laurium trail head happen? (Mr. Reid – We are still hoping to complete the trail head improvements this year.)

Ms. Lawrence – When will the clean-up of the cabins on the Laurium take place? (Mr. Reid – Most of the work drying-in the cabins was already completed. The dilapidated cabin on the hill has been closed off with Keep Out signs and a buck-and-rail fence.)

Forest Health Projects Update

Iowa Hill tree removal work is complete and the Iowa Hill Trail has reopened. Two small fuel reduction projects in the Highlands area (along the Middle Flume Trail) were also recently undertaken; one is already complete and the other will be finished in spring 2015 due to weather concerns and sensitive soils.

The larger scale Golden Horseshoe open space forest health projects have begun in earnest. The planned tree removal projects near the Preston Townsite have concluded, as have the tree removal projects on the adjacent National Forest lands. Together, these projects should diversify the area age-

class structure and species composition while also providing defensible space for area homes and public infrastructure. The final open space cutting unit to be addressed is along Rac Jac Way above Summit Estates. Work has begun on this 25-acre unit and is scheduled to be completed by year's end.

Open Space

Town Council Budget Retreat Follow Up

On October 28th, Council held its annual budget retreat to discuss the 2015 town budget, including the open space fund. In general, Town Council approved the 2015 budget as previously presented to BOSAC. However, Council also requested BOSAC evaluate potential future budget surpluses in the pro forma and prioritize ways to address Town open space goals with these potential surplus funds. Specifically, Town Council highlighted early debt retirement, property acquisition, and river restoration as priority open space program goals to be addressed via the open space fund.

Councilmember Lawrence updated the BOSAC on the Town Council budget retreat. She highlighted accessible, close-in open space, river restoration and trail improvements on McCain and paying down debt as Council's identified priorities.

In addition, the Open Space Plan also prioritizes stewardship efforts to be undertaken by the program as follows:

- Natural resource efforts (including protection of open space values, ecological restoration, environmental enhancement, education and interpretation, forest health management, and monitoring)
- Recreation efforts (including trails, trailheads, signage and small structures)
- Other activities (including invasive species eradication, scenic backdrop maintenance, storm water treatment, developed recreation facilities, and historical resource protection).

Mr. Bergeron – Has there been any thought of the repercussions of breaking up the flow of Main St. with the park? (Ms. Lawrence – No, if anything, there was discussion of regret that there haven't been more in-Town open space purchases.)

Mr. Cospolich – What about restrooms at the park? (Ms. Lawrence – Currently, we did not pursue restrooms because of historic land marking eligibility issues on the Carter Museum property.)

Ms. Lawrence – Much of McCain is designated for open space and we are still trying to decide how to best program it. There is a possibility of a bike park like Frisco's because we will have the funds and it would make that open space parcel more accessible to the general public.

Mr. Grosshuesch – In the near future we will continue to pursue grants to help develop the parks on Block 11.

Mr. Carlson – We have to juggle many issues but river restoration is very high on my list. Is there a possibility to restore the Blue River behind City Market? (Ms. Lawrence – That is desirable but it may have to wait for a private redevelopment of City Market due to land ownership issues.)

Mr. Bergeron – River restoration is a feel-good topic but we could spend the whole fund in perpetuity on all the sections that need treatment; it may get overwhelming in a hurry. We need to

seek a good balance. (Mr. Grosshuesch – Large-scale river restorations are manageable if we complete restorations section by section.)

Mr. Cospolich – I can't highlight my priorities without really studying the pro-forma more in-depth.

Ms. Miller – Is there ever any reason keep a little bit in reserve for leaner times? (Mr. Grosshuesch – Even in down years, the open space fund still has money to spend and the Town's general philosophy is there is no reason to keep a fund balance. The money should be utilized to meet the open space program goals.)

BOSAC – Recommended adding a “habitat restoration” line item (to include river restoration and other habitat repair work) to the pro-forma because several river restoration projects are anticipated over the next several years.

Mr. Tennial – I have an issue with adding too much development on the McCain property whether it be recreation or commercial. McCain is our Town's gateway and it should remain more passive open space. (Mr. Carlson – I was also under the impression that McCain would mainly be passive open space.) (Mr. Truckey – 30% of McCain is set aside as open space (based on the 30% open space contribution to the purchase price) but the remainder of the site will have to accommodate other Town/public uses such as parking and snow storage.) (Mr. Grosshuesch – The stretch of river through McCain has high wildlife conservation values. It serves as a wildlife corridor.)

Ms. Miller – I hope the McCain river stretch looks like the Four Mile Bridge stretch of reclaimed river, which turned out really well.

Mr. Cospolich – It appears the Town Council seeks to better accommodate visitors on our open space which might mean its time amend the open place plan. Currently, the plan speaks more to the community and less to attracting and retaining visitors.

Ms. Lawrence – I don't think that's really the case. It seems that Council supports the open space program and wants to see the funds expended to benefit the public. In general, the closer to town the project and more accessible to users, the better.

Mr. Bergeron – My priorities are 1. wildlife habitat, 2. paying down the debt, 3. natural resources

Mr. Carlson – I second Mr. Bergeron's priorities.

Ms. Miller – Can we look at the pro-forma with a couple different allocation scenarios? That may be helpful in establishing our priorities. (Mr. Truckey – Yes, we can provide a couple different scenarios for the December meeting.)

Mr. Cospolich – Are we still comfortable with adding only \$25,000 for trail maintenance considering were adding more miles of trail? It seems like this would be a good place to expend any surplus funds.

Mr. Bergeron – I think it would be worthwhile to reacquaint ourselves with the open space program’s mission statement and the Open Space Plan as a whole. (Ms. Miller – Read the Mission Statement.)

Mr. Cospolich – We should consider allocating some funds to the Hoosier Pass Bike Path too.

BOSAC – A general consensus was reached that the following four program priorities should be addressed with the growing fund balance: Land acquisitions, trail construction/maintenance, early retirement of debt service, and “habitat restoration” (including river restoration). Staff was asked to present a revised pro forma to BOSAC in December reflecting scenarios in which additional funds are spread between those priorities. The recommendations from those discussions could then be presented to Town Council.

Swan River Restoration Project Discussion

As previously [discussed](#) with BOSAC, work on the Swan River restoration project has been ongoing for several years. The project, intended to recreate a functioning river and riparian corridor in a formerly dredged landscape, is focused on joint Town/County open space property, National Forest lands, and private property in the Swan River valley. The long-term goal is to reestablish a circuitous, above-ground river that supports riparian vegetation and, ultimately, a meta-population of the Colorado River cutthroat trout.

A coalition including representatives from the Blue River Watershed Group, U.S. Forest Service, Summit County Government, Town of Breckenridge, Trout Unlimited, Friends of Dillon Ranger District, L.G. Everist, private landowners, and others has been formed to establish a vision and execute the Swan River restoration plan. This group has been meeting monthly and is moving into a more active fundraising and river restoration mode.

To date, the Swan River restoration project has involved acquiring valley bottom open space lands, designing a general river restoration plan, removing dredge piles to establish rough grades, placing a topsoil cover, and reseeding the site. The 2014 goal, to which BOSAC and Town Council committed \$30,000 of open space funds, was to realign Muggins Gulch Road to avoid wetlands, install a fish barrier and box culvert, and enhance river function by reducing the number of road crossings. Unfortunately, this project did not come to fruition in 2014. Instead, the coalition opted to include the Muggins Gulch Road realignment concept in a broader Phase 1 restoration to include 3,500 feet of new river restoration on the joint Town/County open space properties. The estimated \$2 million project would complete a portion of the restoration vision and provide a model for future upstream restoration on open space, private property and National Forest lands.

To accomplish Phase 1 of the Swan River restoration project, the coalition is pursuing funding from all available sources. Currently, Summit County Government has committed \$200,000 in Denver Water settlement funds and \$300,000 from the recently passed 1A fund, totaling \$500,000. Grants are also being pursued from multiple grant sources, including the Colorado Watershed Conservation Board, EPA Brownfields program, Climax Molybdenum, and Fishing is Fun. The Town of Breckenridge previously committed \$30,000 to the 2014 Muggins Gulch road realignment project which was not completed. BOSAC should anticipate Summit County staff and other coalition

members requesting additional funds from the Town open space program to help cover restoration costs and demonstrate the Town's support for the Swan River restoration project.

Brian Lorch of Summit County Open Space presented detailed information on Phase 1 of the Swan River restoration project, including a budget, map of the overall restoration effort, and a list of funding sources. It was noted during the discussion by Town staff that BOSAC should keep in mind that other potential river restoration efforts on McCain, Block 11, and potentially even French Gulch, are closer geographically to Town and will likely also require open space funding in the coming years.

Mr. Truckey – It is assumed any additional funding from the Town of Breckenridge will come from the Open Space fund. Will Summit County's Open Space fund contribute anything on top of the County's 1A contribution? (Mr. Lorch – The County's contribution will come from 1A funds, not the open space fund. In the past, open space has contributed to many river restoration projects.)

Mr. Bergeron – Will the restoration design be an improvement for fisherman? (Mr. Lorch – Yes, there is a trail designed into the plan on the south side of the river. There are also parking areas retained to ensure angler access.)

Mr. Carlson – Phase 1 of the restoration began this summer? (Mr. Lorch – Yes, but we are now in a fundraising mode to complete the remaining design for 3,500 linear feet of realigned river.)

Mr. Truckey – Since this is a big project, one thought is to get your general feelings for the project tonight and then come back with some updated figures to the proposed river restoration line item.

Mr. Cospolich – I agree with Mark's suggestion to come back and review it in the larger context of the pro forma.

Mr. Reid – Remember also that timing will be very important. Any French Gulch project would be years away, but McCain and the Swan River project are both scheduled to really start in 2015. How much funding will be important, but so too will be the timing of those expenditures.

BOSAC expressed support for this restoration project and looks forward to a pro forma review in December.

BOSAC Retreat Discussion

BOSAC reviewed their October 29th retreat at Sky Mountain Park near Aspen. Staff members from Pitkin County Government, the City of Aspen, and the Town of Snowmass Village guided BOSAC members and staff on a mountain bike tour of the trails in Sky Mountain Park and discussed governmental partnership models, seasonal closures, dog prohibitions, trail design and construction, and open space management planning. The discussions were wide-ranging and fruitful, and provided staff with insight on how other open space programs accomplish similar goals.

BOSAC members shared their perspectives on the retreat, including lessons learned and ideas for future retreat locations and topics.

Ms. Miller – It was interesting to see their land use issues such as equestrian interaction and winter wildlife habitat.

Mr. Cospolich – The location of the Skyline trails was good because it was convenient for the down valley commuters. Overall, what we saw was a really good design and programming of open space.

Ms. Miller – For future field trips I think we should look at programs that are more on the same scale as us. In that regard, the Aspen trip was a good choice.

Mr. Carlson – Due to its long history and broad range of use issues, Jefferson County might be interesting to check out.

Mr. Tennial – It might be interesting to go somewhere and look at in-Town open space acquisition issues and river restoration project examples.

Mr. Bergeron – Is Salida too small? They seem to be doing a nice job with their trails.

Mr. Reid – Steamboat might be a good option as well because they are relatively close, have a partnership model similar to ours, and the Emerald Mountain area has improved tremendously in the past few years.

BOSAC will evaluate options for a spring and/or fall site visit to another open space program.

Executive Session

Mr. Bergeron – Motioned to move into Executive Session at 8:21 pm to discuss property acquisition negotiations.

Mr. Carlson – seconded the motion.

Mr. Cospolich – Made a motion to come out of Executive Session at 8:37 pm. Mr. Carlson seconded the motion.

Next Meeting

The next regularly scheduled meeting is on Monday, December 15, 2014, at the Breckenridge Town Hall, 150 Ski Hill Road.

Mr. Tennial motioned to adjourn the meeting, which was seconded by Mr. Bergeron.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:37 p.m.

Jeff Cospolich, Chair