

Roll Call

Jeff Cospolich called the March 16, 2015 BOSAC meeting to order at 5:36 pm. Other BOSAC members present included Chris Tennal, Elisabeth Lawrence, Jeffrey Bergeron, Jeff Carlson, Craig Campbell and Elizabeth Miller. Staff members present were Peter Grosshuesch, Scott Reid, Mark Truckey and Chris Kulick. Brian Lorch from Summit County Open Space, Jeff Zimmerman from the Breckenridge Ski Resort, Larissa O'Neil from the Breckenridge Heritage Alliance, Mark Beardsley and Jessica Doran from EcoMetrics, Jess Hoover, Sustainability Coordinator for the Grand Lodge on Peak 7 and local citizen Matt Powers 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

Breckenridge Ski Resort On-Mountain Amenities Draft Environmental Impact Statement

At its February 24th meeting, Town Council discussed the Breckenridge Ski Resort (BSR) on-mountain amenity proposal and the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) produced by the U.S. Forest Service and SE Group. Following a lengthy discussion that included a presentation by Forest Supervisor Scott Fitzwilliams, Council chose to not finalize a letter from the Town. Instead, Council members were encouraged to submit individual letters by the comment deadline. Mr. Fitzwilliams will review all submitted public comments and issue a decision in the next several months. Staff will keep BOSAC updated on the decision.

Pump Track Relocation

The submittal deadline for Stillson Pump Track RFB proposals was March 13th. Staff will review all submissions and choose a contractor by April 3rd. Staff is currently hunting for suitable soil for the pump track and will update BOSAC on the project as it progresses.

Reiling Dredge Preservation Master Plan

As has been previously discussed, the Reiling Dredge Preservation Master Plan has been commissioned by the Breckenridge Heritage Alliance with grant support from the State of Colorado Historical Fund. A [final draft](#) has been circulated to the Town and County staffs outlining the preservation goals for this important historic site. Based on prior Summit County and Town feedback, the Reiling Dredge Preservation Master Plan has been revised to omit consultant recommendations regarding the scale of rock pile preservation to preserve the site's "historical context". Staff's expressed concern was that restrictions on rock pile removal would impact any potential future French Creek river restoration. The revised final draft of the Reiling Dredge Preservation Master Plan addresses previously expressed staff concerns and focuses on strategies to stabilize the Reiling Dredge itself, as has been budgeted in 2015. Staff will keep BOSAC informed of any progress on the Reiling Dredge stabilization. Any future discussions regarding preserving the rock piles for historical context will involve both BOSAC and Council.

Swan River Restoration

The restoration of the Swan River continues to be a focus of Town and County staff members. Fundraising for the \$2 million first phase of the restoration project is ongoing, and staff hopes to receive word on March 19th regarding a \$975,000 grant request to the Colorado Water Conservation Board. Obviously, the success or failure of this grant request will determine the amount of work to be completed on the project in 2015 and 2016. Staff will continue to update BOSAC on this project.

USFS Mine Closure Referral

Council Update

McCain Master Plan – The most complicated aspect about the planning for the parcel is all of the different desired programming elements. Whether or not a reservoir is required will dictate how we can program the site. Overall, Council supports preserving substantial open space and trails on the site and has directed staff to include some area for affordable housing and service/commercial uses. BOSAC will receive a more formal update, including maps, at a future meeting.

Mr. Campbell – Is the reservoir required for water treatment or the preservation of water rights? (Ms. Lawrence – It is about water rights and if we can retain those rights without developing a reservoir, that is preferred.)

Ms. Miller – Why would we keep any dredge piles? (Mr. Truckey – All of the piles lie within the 150’ setback from highway 9 and provide historic context and site buffering.)

Open Space

2014 Cucumber Water Quality and Wetland Health Report

Mark Beardsley of Eco Metrics presented the 2014 Cucumber Water Quality and Wetland Health Report, provided by EcoMetrics as a report card for the Cucumber water quality protection efforts. As outlined in the report, the Town’s recent wetland and river restoration efforts have succeeded in improving the upper Cucumber Gulch area, but additional stressors outside of Cucumber Gulch Preserve have influenced the overall health of the Preserve. Specifically, the spread of noxious weeds, increased residential home and lodge construction in the area, and the influx of sediment and elevated nutrient levels are identified as issues of concern by EcoMetrics. On the other hand, an increasing beaver population, the successful wetland/river restoration efforts, and indicators being monitored by the consultants suggest overall improvements in Cucumber Gulch Preserve management.

2015 Cucumber Gulch Preserve Monitoring Program

Consultant budgets for the 2015 Cucumber Gulch Preserve monitoring program were presented. The research program budgets reflect prior monitoring priorities and include increases in the docent program and some changes to water quality monitoring in upper Cucumber Gulch to provide more real time water quality data. Per BOSAC’s previous recommendations, the docent program proposal has been expanded to include additional coverage during the seasonal trail closure and after the trails are open.

In total, the attached budgets for the Cucumber Gulch monitoring suggest a \$75,791 program cost for 2015. By comparison, the 2014 budget was \$81,211, but included a semi-annual vegetation survey. Currently, the 2015 open space budget contains an \$80,000 placeholder for monitoring.

Mr. Grosshuesch – How are the piezometer readings? Are they way up? If we had to remap the wetlands would the area be much larger? (Mr. Beardsley – Yes to all of those questions.)

Mr. Cospolich – Should we re-delineate the wetland boundaries? (Mr. Beardsley – I don't think we need to go to that level of review and expense. The test wells are giving us good information related to the presence of ground water.)

Mr. Grosshuesch – The piezometers will tell the story of ground water health.

Mr. Cospolich – Do you measure the speed of the water throughout the creek or just at the culvert leading into the Gulch? (Mr. Beardsley – We measure at the culvert only.)

Mr. Cospolich – Will removing the sediment out of the upper portion of the Gulch be an on-going, annual, job? (Mr. Beardsley – Probably a one-day job, every couple of years.)

Mr. Carlson – Is there any way to cut down the source of sediment above the Gulch? (Mr. Beardsley – Well, the ski area could add more on-mountain infrastructure to withhold the sediment, but it would be expensive and would take up valuable ski terrain. The sediment is not a huge problem if it's addressed frequently enough. It is inevitable if you have a ski resort as the watershed above a wetland preserve.)

Mr. Campbell – There seems to be a disconnect between the progress in your presentation and some of the categories down trending in the report from last year. (Mr. Beardsley – The report card is not so much a year-to-year comparison as it is an on-going calibration of the post restoration conditions. We want to set the bar high for the management of this area.)

Mr. Campbell – I understand there is a lot development in the buffer zone but from the evidence that we have been presented by Dr. Carello, it appears wildlife diversity in the Gulch is healthy. This would lead me to believe our connectivity is healthy despite the surrounding development. (Mr. Beardsley – Although Cucumber is healthy, the surrounding development in the buffer zone has an impact, however hard to quantify. This is a standardized methodology for evaluating wetland health and connectivity and buffers are important to retain whenever possible.)

Mr. Bergeron – When would we take care of the sediment excavation and will the ski resort participate in the cost of the work? (Mr. Reid – We will request ski resort participation. Most likely, the work will take place during dry season in the fall.) (Mr. Zimmerman – I will present a budget request to my organization.)

Mr. Carlson – In regards to nutrient loading, how much fertilizer does the ski resort use? (Mr. Zimmerman – Not very much, we haven't had a large scale revegetation in a long time.) (Mr. Beardsley – My best guess is the nutrient loading is not associated with the ski resort. It is most

likely from the re-watering releasing oxidizing minerals.) (Mr. Grosshuesch – Isn't it similar to the nutrient level spiking when a reservoir is re-watered.)

BOSAC supported the sediment dredging and requested the ski resort partner in the cost of the project.

BOSAC supported the proposed Cucumber Gulch Preserve monitoring budget.

Executive Session

Mr. Bergeron – Motioned to move into Executive Session at 7:06 pm to discuss property acquisition negotiations. Ms. Miller seconded the motion.

Mr. Bergeron – Made a motion to come out of Executive Session at 8:01 pm. Mr. Tennal seconded the motion.

Next Meeting

The next regularly scheduled meeting is on Monday, April 20, 2015, at the Breckenridge Town Hall, 150 Ski Hill Road.

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

The meeting was adjourned at 8:05 p.m.

Jeff Cospolich, Chair