

Mid Valley Trails Committee Meeting Minutes

August 24th 2023

7:30am – 8:25am

1340 Main Street Carbondale, CO 81623 – RFTA Office

INVITED ATTENDEES

- George Trantow – MVTC Chair – **Attended.**
- Phillip Ring – MVTC Treasurer
- Alan Luu - MVTC Member – **Attended.**
- Perry Kleespies – MVTC Member – **Attended.**
- Temple Glassier – MVTC Project Manager– **Attended.**
- Rebecca Schild – Roaring Fork Outdoor Volunteers
- Michelle Daniels – Roaring Fork Outdoor Volunteers
- Mike Pritchard, Roaring Fork Mountain Bike Association– **Attended.**
- Karin Offield, Roaring Fork Valley Horse Council– **Attended.**
- Michelle Thibeault, Town of Basalt Planning Director– **Attended.**
- Angela Henderson, RFTA
- Brett Meredith, RFTA
- Jud Lang, RFTA– **Attended.**
- Abbey Pascoe, RFTA– **Attended.**
- Sarah Faichney, RFTA– **Attended.**

AGENDA

1. Review and approval of previous month's minutes. **Approved.**
2. Updates from MVTC Partnerships
 - Roaring Fork Mountain Bike Association (RFMBA) Update – Mike Pritchard
 - Update on Crew's Maintenance work this season and projected work for the rest of the season. **The RFMBA seasonal crew has worked on Vasten Trail, Buckhorn Transverse, Mill Creek, Basalt Mountain Trail and new fence ride over structures in several locations on the Crown. A total of 499 hours so far. Mike is predicting there will be more to come due to cutting brush back on the Vasten Trail. RFMBA has calculated about \$16,000 has gone into their seasonal work crew at \$32 an hour and Mike thanks the MVTC for contributing the \$10,000 towards the seasonal crew. Most of the work is cutting back trees, clearing the trail and drainage work. There was 7 people on the seasonal crew in the peak of the season but it has been cut back due to workers leaving to go back to school or going back to their own seasonal jobs. There will be 3 crew members continuing for the rest of the season until late October and RFMBA is looking into hiring one more part-time worker for the crew who has trail experience. Mikes asks to keep in touch with any observations or requests for maintenance on the trails, RFMBA wants to keep on top of the trails and things happen all the time and priorities may need to switch**

from time to time so he says he is happy to hear about any feedback. George asked Mike what is the timeline for Imperial Gardens and Crown Royale Trail. Mike says the signs are up and the bridges are in place so RFMBA will notify their members this weekend that Imperial Gardens and Upper Crown Royale are open and then Monday 8/28 advertise more publicly that the trail is open. The whole project itself is 2 miles and about 1.4 miles of the trail is ready to be opened. There is a double track that connects to the Imperial Gardens trail to keep people from going on to the unfinished part of the Crown Royale. There will be another connection to the Vasten Trail from the upper Crown trail being completed in September. There have been some issues with the dry soil and cows on the trail.

➤ Roaring Fork Valley Horse Council (RFVHC) Update – Karin Offield

- Update on TSPP project. RFVHC will be focusing on installing the TSPP signs on the Rio Grande Trail and Light Hill this year. The RFVHC will present a similar budget for next year for the TSPP to install signs in other areas in the mid-valley region. Karin is continuing to work with different land managers to get the signs approved to be installed. RFVHC would like to note Nancy's Path is not for beginners or intermediate children riders. The trail suffers from a geological disadvantage and when it rains it makes the trail very difficult to use. The RFVHC has turned the graffiti nuisances into a positive by using it as an example for younger crews to show the importance of Leave No Trace.

➤ Basalt Parks, Open Space and Trails (POST) Update – Michelle Thibeault

- Construction and trail plan progress updates.
Mid-Valley Trail Connection update- the section that would go west from the Mid-Valley Medical Center to the lake looks like it will not work anymore. The Oak Grove Townhomes are not supportive of granting a trail easement and they are also going to build a fence. Going in the other direction behind the Willits Bend Townhomes towards Willits Lane those residents were surveyed and they just want the trees and trail cleaned up a little bit. They don't want the trail widened or allowing bike access. They want it strictly for pedestrians. The connection from the sidewalk behind the Mid-Valley Medical Center to the RFTA bus stop has been completed. Basalt POST will not need the allocated \$10,000 from MVTC for trail improvements. George asked about a potential trail that would go from the Mid-Valley Medical Center to the condos across Original Road and asked if that was within the Town of Basalt. Michelle responded that it is within the Town of Basalt but she is not sure who owns property in the area. Temple said that she could research it. George thinks this could be a project that maybe Basalt POST and MVTC could partner on. George asked Michelle if she has heard any updates from Colorado Parks and Wildlife about the closure from the Basalt shooting range up into the Wildlife area. Michelle said the Town of Basalt did have a meeting with CPW about the late opening date and discussed opportunities for more trail connections. CPW is not interested in opening the trail earlier due to wildlife and do not want any new trails in the area. CPW wants to give the wildlife their space. Michelle will send the Basalt POST FRP for improving bike trails and signage and see if MVTC could participate in the project.

- Roaring Fork Outdoor Volunteers (RFOV) – Rebecca Schild

Becca was unable to attend the meeting on short notice but sent Sarah an update for each of the items that Sarah could read for the committee.

 - Nancy's Path Project- The Nancy's Path trail project went really well, despite one evening being cut short due to heavy rain and the trail getting damaged due to the rain. On the first night, there was a great turnout (22 volunteers) and volunteers almost completed the finishing work on the new trail that had been mechanically created. The second night ended early due to weather and on the third evening, volunteers worked on both the new trail and old trail. We didn't end up completing the entire project on the new trail because the rain from the previous week destroyed the old trail (2 inches in 2 hours) and also negatively impacted the new trail. A lot of work still needs to be done to fix damage from that storm. Additionally, there's a lot of maintenance that needs to be done on the BLM section. Alan Czepinski from the BLM is going to scout it and possibly put in a proposal for a project next year. If this is something that MVTC is interested in, we could definitely use funding as the BLM has no funding. George thinks that Nancy's Path needs a trail counter since not a lot of people use the trail due to the storm damage. George would be interested supporting a project to bypass Nancy's Path instead of putting more money into Nancy's Path to rebuild it. Karin agrees and states the RFOV has been working with Pitkin County Open Space to come up with a Family Community Trail project that would go around the agricultural field as an alternative to parking at the bottom of the Glassier equestrian trail and heading up the mountain right away. The trail would be a circular loop that connect to the trail the Pitkin County Open Space just created. George wanted to know if Pitkin County Open Space completed that open trail and if it connects to the Nancy's Path trailhead to the Glassier horse path. Karin said it does, Pitkin County Open Space idea was to have everyone park at the Glassier and use the new trail to cross over. The RFOV would like to start the Family Community Trail in Glassier with the support of the MVTC. George asks if Karin could come up with a scope of work for this project and the MVTC could potentially help fund part of the project. Karin asked if she can include MVTC in a letter to Pitkin County Open Space stating that they agree that funds should go towards the Family Community Trail over improving Nancy's Path. Karin will send over the letter to MVTC to validate it before sending it to Pitkin County.
 - Update on Stewardship work to date-To date, RFOV has completed three work days on Light Hill and three work days on the new Nancy's Path equestrian trail. There are one or two more days planned on the Arbaney Kittle trail this fall.
 - RFOV Project Selection Process. See attachments D1-D7. Project proposals for 2024 are due September 30, 2023. We would love to continue exploring how RFOV can help support implementation of the Mid-Valley Trails master plan.

3. New Business

- Discuss outcome of the August 17th budget meeting. Could not display the budget because it couldn't have been submitted 10 in advance in order to make it into the agenda. However, George discussed that each budget request in 2024 made by partnerships have been approved. MVTC needs a name to put for the RFOV project in

2024 to solidify on the budget, right now there is only a placeholder. MVTC did approve the additional \$35,000 for RFMBA.

➤ George Trantow

- Stage Trail Project- Next steps is to meet with Cedar Drive HOA and ask them if MVTC can use their easement in part of the trail. Temple thinks this could be done by contributing to the HOA or road district fund to use towards the maintenance of the future trail. George asked Temple what materials does the Cedar Drive HOA have and what does MVTC have. Temple informed George that MVTC has the title for the old county Stage Road easement that was never vacated except for the first section of the road. Where it comes from Basalt and makes the Y where Cedar Drive starts that is the part that is not on the easement. However, it is a public road and George would like to bring information to the HOA Meeting proving that it is.

4. Action Items

- Cancel the November and December Meetings
- October Meeting will be discussing the 2024 Work Plan
- Attending the Cedar Rock HOA Meeting later in the fall to discuss the Stage Trail Project.
- Find out tax benefits for trail easements to convince property owners to allow them.

RFVHC – UPDATE FOR THE AUGUST 24, 2023 MEETING

There may be included some answers to any questions that our Invoice for this year's work in the Mid Valley answers:

1. We used the Voss website for cost projections on several different size sign orders. We are calculating this is a two-year project, as Basalt Mountain Trails and Glassier Open Space may be chosen for new signage next year. Most likely we will be using our local sign companies for product. This year, the Rio Grande Trail, and Light Hill / Emma Open Space trails are the areas for our attention.

2. Specifically, the \$4800.00 invoice is for the three projects this season: "Light Hill with BLM", "the leased property of the Emma Open Space PC OST (where the signposts are needed to keep folks on a trail), and the "Rio Grande Trail RFTA in the area of the mid valley, before Pitkin County takes over management duties." BLM; RFTA; PC OST & Eagle County have been contacted.

3. Buying 25 signs at a time we felt was a safe choice because we don't know how many signs any one land manager would need or allow. Currently, the numbers are completely speculative until we get a land/trail manager to collaborate with us on actual specifics. Discussion on the size of signage is on-going.

4. We have several land management teams in several areas to work on this with us, so each part of the educational sign and wayfinding budget is shared, including our labor costs. Some teams will and can supply their own labor.

5. The hikers and trail riders coming from Light Hill and onto Emma Open Space continue to become lost or dead - ended on the leased Emma agricultural land. Two Roots Farm – Harper Kaufman asked if some signage (we suggest: carsonite signs and decals) could be installed, so we are taking this fix to Pitkin County for approval. The signpost and decals for wayfinding should solve that problem. The new connection point of the Light Hill Trail through Emma Open Space to the Rio Grande Trail across the new Home Supply Ditch solves this wayfinding confusion.

6. The "labor" line item is the labor cost to be split between all the areas, and we factored in a work week of 5 days, but each project may only take a half day to one day each. Generally we work with Rocky Mountain Youth Corps (RMYC), and we'd like to schedule out one more week with them this year, if not then in spring 2024.

7. A final item not yet mentioned is the RFVHC's initiative that the RFVHC and RMYC take care of graffiti nuisances when occasions arise. Teaching the young crews, the importance of Leave No Trace is a bedrock principle for our trails use. We want to use this initiative for educational purposes – for everyone.

INVOICE #100

Roaring Fork Valley Horse Council

Box 127, Snowmass, Colorado 81654
970-948-2151 or 561-301-7818

DATE**BILL TO**

Mid Valley Trails Committee

Care of: sfaichney@rfta.com

PHONE

FOR

Trails Safe Passing Plan (TSPP)
RFVHC Directional Signs and Trail
Signs

Details**AMOUNT**

Carsonite Posts (20)

\$560.00

Fed Rec Decals

\$300.00

Voss Custom Trail Signs (25)

\$418.00

Shipping Costs TBD

(\$150.00 TBD)

Equipment costs \$1,278.00

Labor RMYC Teams \$2,800.00

OTHER TBD

TOTAL \$4,228.00

If you have any questions concerning this invoice, use the following contact information:

Karin Reid Offield 561-301-7818

Thank you for Keeping Horses on Trails !



Request for Community Project and Trail Crew Project Proposals

2024 Project Season

Deadline: September 30, 2023

ABOUT RFOV

RFOV promotes stewardship of our public lands by engaging the community in education, restoration, and conservation projects. We work on roughly 60 different project sites annually in four counties: Pitkin, Eagle, Garfield, and Gunnison with a diversity of volunteers, youth, and paid professional staff. Since 1995, we have completed over 700 stewardship projects in four different counties: Pitkin, Eagle, Gunnison and Garfield. Detailed below are our primary programs:

Community Projects: Each year, we offer 15-25 public volunteer events open to all community members. Projects are one to seven days in duration and typically involve 25 to 85 volunteers each.

Group Projects / Adopt-A-Trail: RFOV offers customized stewardship projects for over 50 groups a season. This program is designed around team building, service, and business or organization recognition. Groups can take this opportunity further and make an annual commitment to adopt a trail.

Young Stewards Programs (YSP): Our goal is to motivate and inspire local youth with first-hand knowledge of the significant role they have to play in taking care of our great landscape. We offer fun, educational and satisfying outdoor service experiences grounded in the greater context of conservation education and stewardship principles. We partner with local schools, youth-focused non-profits, and faith organizations to reach over 1,000 students aged 5-18 annually.

Trail Crew: RFOV's professional Trail Crew, composed of 3-5 members, works independently of volunteer programming to complete projects that are long-term, technical, or otherwise not an ideal fit for volunteer projects.

This form is specifically requesting proposals for Community Projects and Trail Crew projects. If you have suggestions for the other program areas, you can list them on the last page. We will also reach out again in the spring to request projects for our Group & Youth Projects.

Please return this proposal to:
Melissa Daniels | Program Director
mdaniels@rfov.org

Community Project Proposal

CRITERIA FOR COMMUNITY PROJECTS

We are looking for a diverse portfolio of projects suitable and appealing to our extensive volunteer community. We select projects using the following criteria:

- A balanced spread of projects that fit under our Sustainable Recreation, Fire, and Restoration categories.
 - Sustainable Recreation. Examples: tread repair, drainage structure installation and maintenance, corridor trimming, rock & other natural material structures (steps, walls, turnpikes, etc), structure maintenance and installation (bridges, benches, kiosks, etc.)
 - Healthy Landscapes. Examples: planting, seeding, barbed wire removal, erosion control, seed collection
 - RFOV prioritizes invasive species removal projects that meet **at least one** of the four following criteria. In addition to these criteria, control/removal plans must follow current scientific knowledge and best practices. 1) Target species is a Colorado A-list noxious weed, 2) Invasion is threatening a sensitive species/habitat, 3) Population has a realistic chance of eradication, *or* 4) Land manager has a follow up plan to seed or plant after removal to create a higher quality ecosystem that will be resistant to re-invasion
 - Fire Adaptation. Examples: vegetation thinning/clearing, post-fire erosion control, post-fire revegetation
- A balanced spread geographically and seasonally within our service area of Independence Pass to Parachute, Glenwood Canyon to Marble.
- A mix of easy, moderate, and strenuous projects
- Benefit and impact to our community
- Project funding already secured, although this is not a requirement. Hosting a community project typically costs RFOV between \$3,500 and \$6,000. Land managers are not required to contribute that entire amount.

BENEFITS OF BEING SELECTED

If your project is selected, RFOV commits to recruiting and mobilizing professional staff and volunteers to accomplish the identified objectives and scope of work. RFOV coordinates all volunteer recruitment and registration, logistics and food/beverages, supplies a fleet of tools, and highlights the project in our publications. RFOV can also help in the project planning itself, including needs assessment, mapping and quantifying proposed work, creating site plans, staging, acquiring materials, etc. and serving as technical advisor for the project. RFOV can add additional value through user education and other interpretive materials for the public.

REQUIREMENTS FROM PROJECT PARTNER

We ask partners to clearly articulate their goals and objectives for the project and schedule at least one site visit with our staff. In almost all cases, partners are asked to attend the event to serve as a technical advisor, provide oversight in decision-making, and educate volunteers and participants. Partners are also required to help market the event and acknowledge RFOV in communications. Though we do not require that project partners provide funding, any direct funding or grant opportunities are an important factor in our decision-making.

Organization Contact Information

Organization Name	
Contact Person	
Contact Phone	
Contact Email	
Organization Website	
Organization Mailing Address	

Please fill out one table for each proposed project

Project Proposal Information

Project Name	
Project Location	
Project Type <i>(Healthy Landscapes, Sustainable Recreation, Fire Adaptation - see above for descriptions)</i>	
Land Managers - who owns/manages this project site? Are there special permitting requirements or permission that needs to be given?	
Project Length (# hours, days)	
Project Timing (month)	
Project Difficulty (easy, moderate, strenuous, very strenuous)	
Is there funding for this project? If so, how much?	
Other partner contributions (design, logistics, volunteers, etc.)	
Approximate number of volunteers needed	
Project Description	
Types of users of the trail, open space, or project area	

Educational Opportunities	
Level of priority for your agency (how it fits into your master plan, helps you accomplish your mission, etc)	

Trail Crew Project Proposal

CRITERIA FOR TRAIL CREW PROJECTS

We select projects for the Trail Crew using the following criteria:

- Although the Trail Crew is most specialized in trail projects within our Sustainable Recreation domain, they are also available to work on Healthy Landscapes and Fire Adaptation projects.
 - Sustainable Recreation. Examples: tread repair, drainage structure installation and maintenance, corridor trimming, rock & other natural material structures (steps, walls, turnpikes, etc), structure maintenance and installation (bridges, benches, kiosks, etc.)
 - Healthy Landscapes. Examples: planting, seeding, barbed wire removal, erosion control, seed collection
 - RFOV prioritizes invasive species removal projects that meet **at least one** of the four following criteria. In addition to these criteria, control/removal plans must follow current scientific knowledge and best practices. 1) Target species is a Colorado A-list noxious weed, 2) Invasion is threatening a sensitive species/habitat, 3) Population has a realistic chance of eradication, *or* 4) Land manager has a follow up plan to seed or plant after removal to create a higher quality ecosystem that will be resistant to re-invasion
 - Fire Adaptation. Examples: vegetation thinning/clearing, post-fire erosion control, post-fire revegetation
- The Trail Crew is generally working on backcountry wilderness projects from late-June to mid-September and are available for additional projects, as proposed through this process, from early-May to late-June and again from mid-September to mid-October.
- The cost of the 4-5 person trail crew for a 40-hour week (four 10-hour days) is around \$6,500. Unlike most RFOV programming, we don't currently have the ability to cover these costs through grants and other funding. If you are interested in having the trail crew work on your projects but do not have funding to cover these costs, we are open to working with you to explore alternative avenues to additional funding.
- We prioritize projects that have a strong benefit and impact to our community.

REQUIREMENTS FROM PROJECT PARTNER

We ask partners to clearly articulate their goals and objectives for the project and schedule at least one site visit with our staff.

Organization Contact Information

Organization Name	
Contact Person	
Contact Phone	
Contact Email	
Organization Website	
Organization Mailing Address	

Trail Crew Project Proposal Summary

Total desired length of time (number of 10-hour days)	
Do you have complete funding for the desired length of time? <i>See notes and description above.</i>	

Please fill out one table for each proposed project

Project Proposal Information

Project Name	
Project Location	
Project Type <i>(Healthy Landscapes, Sustainable Recreation, Fire Adaptation - see above for descriptions)</i>	
Land Managers - who owns/manages this project site? Are there special permitting requirements or permission that needs to be given?	
Project Length (number of 10-hour days)	
Project Timing (month)	
Project Description	
Level of priority for your agency and if applicable, in comparison to your other proposed Trail Crew projects	

Other Priority Sites / Projects

If you have project ideas that may not align with our public Community Projects or the Trail Crew but are better suited for our Group Project, Adopt-a-Trail, or Youth Programs, please provide the details below. This will allow us to align our programming and calendar as closely as possible with your priorities.