



**The State Board of the Great Outdoors Colorado Trust Fund
Board Meeting
Limon, Colorado
Thursday, April 7th, 2016**

Board Members Present: Heather Carroll, Katie Cattanach, Jenn Dice, Hollie Velasquez Horvath, John Howard, Bill Kane, Tony Lewis, Dave Palenchar, Bob Randall, Chana Reed, Jacy Rock, Jody Rogers, Alan Schwartz, Jim Spaanstra

Board Members Not Present: Jason Brinkley, Tom Burke, Linda Strand

GOCO Staff Present: Lise Aangeenbrug, Matt Brady, Madison Brannigan, Laura Cardon, Andrea Conrad, Rosemary Dempsey, Peter Ericson, Michele Frishman, Amanda Hill, Jake Houston, Jackie Miller, Emily Orbanek, Jim Ott, Chris Yuan-Farrell

Public Present: Tasha Brackeh (El Paso Country Parks), Julie Cosuts (Town of Limon), Crystal Dreiling (CPW), Jennifer Freund (Town of Stratton), Mike Hines (Limon Schools), Jennifer Kiely (Town of Limon), Joe Kiely (Town of Limon), Dave Marx (Limon Schools), Troy McCure (Lincoln County EDC), Daleen Munoz (Melon Field Project), Tammy Ridenoure (Melon Field Project), Justin Rutter (CPW), Carla Stone (Town of Limon), Dave Stone (Town of Limon), Kelli Vaughn (Town of Stratton), Madeleine West (DNR)

Board Chair Heather Carroll Called the meeting to order at 8:15AM.

I. Approval of Meeting Minutes

Mr. Spaanstra moved that the minutes from December be approved. Mr. Lewis seconded, motion carried unanimously.

II. Director's Update

Ms. Aangeenbrug presented the director's update. She opened by saying there is currently no legislation that directly affects GOCO and shared about recent engagement opportunities with legislators GOCO took part in since the last board meeting in December 2015.

Ms. Aangeenbrug went on to share information on two legal matters including the verdict of a case between the Town of Silverthorne and landowners on the Blue River Trail whose construction and planning received GOCO funding, as well as the legal impact on GOCO a recent GOCO performance audit requested from the state auditor in conjunction with CPW as it conflicts with the constitutional language of the GOCO amendment.

Ms. Aangeenbrug gave an update on GOCO staff updates as two positions were filled since the last board meeting along with a brief Lottery Commission and revenue update. GOCO's cap was reached in 2016 though there remains concerns about being able to meet GOCO's cap in future years.

Finally, Ms. Aangeenbrug gave an overview of GOCO Communications, Programs, and upcoming events in the near future.

III. Policy & Procedures Discussion

Mr. Ericson introduced the subject of reviewing GOCO's governance, policies, and procedures. After describing the topic and a basic timeline, he requested that the chair constitute an ad hoc committee of the board to sponsor and guide this project to completion. Ms. Carroll agreed to take lead on the formation of the new ad hoc committee.

IV. Ability to Match Discussion

Ms. Aangeenbrug facilitated the Ability to Match Discussion. She discussed GOCO's current practices towards grant matching requirements. Mr. Houston, GOCO Local Government Program Manager, provided supplemental information on exact match requirements and data on average matching percent based on applicant community population. The data showed that both rural and urban communities are equally as successful at acquiring matching contributions. Ms. Aangeenbrug proposed the board the question as to whether requirements or scoring methods for grant matching requirements should be adjusted.

Mr. Spaanstra commented that given the data, it seems the policies on matching requirements that GOCO has been following are working so why make changes.

Mr. Lewis questioned that while the applicant data shows no bias in community population size to being statistically more successful to meet matching requirements, there could be an unforeseen effect on less affluent/smaller communities who may be discouraged from applying for GOCO funding at all because the matching requirement aren't feasible and therefore wouldn't be represented in the data presented.

Ms. Reed from Lamar commented that she has heard of this happening in other small communities on the eastern plains.

Mr. Lewis suggests looking into ways to present data to the board on communities that would have liked to apply for GOCO funding but opted to not apply due to inability to meet current matching requirements. This could be communities that have never applied or communities have haven't applied in over 10 years. From there, the board could start discussions on whether adjustments should be made to current grant models.

Mr. Houston agreed to look into ways to present the requested information to the board at the June board meeting.

V. Finance Update

Ms. Conrad and Mr. Ericson presented the finance update. Ms. Conrad began by sharing current lottery trends noting lottery is on track to meet GOCO's full constitutional cap this year. Additionally, Ms. Conrad reviewed grant expenditures, outstanding grants, and summarized GOCO's FY16 operating budget variances for the year to date (February 29, 2016). Overall, GOCO anticipates ending FY16 under budget by 6%. Mr. Ericson then discussed significant projects and expenditures that GOCO staff were seeking to implement in the final quarter of FY16 and/or early in FY17. Mr. Ericson emphasized that staff were focused on staying within the overall FY16 operating budget. Ms. Cattanach inquired as to the progress of the paperless office initiative. Finally, Mr. Ericson discussed GOCO's cash management indicators and policies and potential adjustments to GOCO's overall spending plans, recommending that the board maintain current months ahead of lottery target of 18 months and its current spending plan, with the notable exception of considering a recommendation to move spending from future years to FY16 at the June board meeting in order to pursue urgent Protect Initiative projects.

VI. Marketing Discussion

Ms. Aangeenbrug presented the Marketing and Strategic Plan update. Since the last update in December, GOCO has moved forward with accepting and reviewing proposals from agencies on a robust marketing campaign centered around Inspire with the goal of getting kids and families into the outdoors. Ms. Aangeenbrug recommends to the board to approve the first part of the communications budget to allow for the selected agency to begin the research and discovery process, which will be vital to the agency making future progress on creative concepts and a media plan.

VII. Parks and Wildlife Update

Mr. Prenzlów, CPW Southeast Regional Manager, presented an update on CPW's southeast region and ways GOCO funding has impacted its ability to provide engagement opportunities for park guests, as well as covering necessary maintenance and staffing needs.

Mr. Prenzlów invited Ms. Dreiling, State Park Manager at Trinidad Lake State Park, to present on both Trinidad Lake State Park, as well as share her experience attending the Conservation Leaders for Tomorrow (CLFT), a four-day workshop that focuses on hunting and conservation education for professional leaders within the national resource sector.

VIII. Local Government Outdoor Recreation

Mr. Houston gave an overview on Local Park and Outdoor Recreation (LPOR) grants citing that local government staff received 54 applications and recommends to the board to fully fund 21 projects and partially fund one additional project for a total just under \$6 million.

Mr. Spaanstra moved Resolution 2016-01; Ms. Reed seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

IX. Mini

Ms. Brannigan presented the Mini grants update citing that local government staff received 14 applications and recommends to the board to fully fund 7 projects for a total just under \$300,000.

Ms. Cattanach moved Resolution 2016-02; Ms. Rogers seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

X. Planning

Ms. Brannigan gave an update on planning grants citing that local government staff received 16 applications and recommends to the board to fully fund 10 projects for a total just under \$700,000.

Ms. Dice moved Resolution 2016-03; Ms. Velasquez Horvath seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

XI. Executive Session

Ms. Carroll moved to enter Executive Session pursuant to Colorado Revised Statute §24-6-402(4)(f) to A) discuss a legal matter and B) discuss a personnel matter related to the selection of an Executive Director; Ms. Rock seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Room was cleared and the board entered Executive Session.

Board votes to come out of Executive Session.

Ms. Carroll presented highlights from Executive Session. She explained that with Ms. Aangeenbrug stepping down from her position as GOCO's Executive Director (ED) as of May 1, the board has decided to appoint an ED to fill the vacancy.

Mr. Lewis moved to appoint Mr. Spaanstra as Executive Director starting May 1 until appropriate measures can be taken to select a new long-term candidate; Ms. Cattanach seconded; Mr. Spaanstra abstained. Motion passed unanimously.

Ms. Carroll noted details of Mr. Spaanstra's purposed engagement. The board expects Mr. Spaanstra to commit to employment with GOCO through the conclusion of Colorado's 2017 Legislative Session (May 15, 2017), and at a compensation equal to Ms. Aangeenbrug's annual salary. This engagement will provide for flexibility to accommodate a transition period for the next GOCO Executive Director whenever that new Executive Director is selected.

XII. Connect Concept Papers

Mr. Houston presented the concept papers of the new Connect Initiative. Local Government staff received 18 concept applications requesting \$23.5 million total and recommended the board invite nine projects to submit full applications to compete for \$10 million in available funding. Total requested amount for all nine projects is \$16 million.

Mr. Lewis moved to invite the nine recommended projects to submit full applications; Mr. Schwartz seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

XIII. Protect Concept Papers

Ms. Frishman presented the concept papers for the spring 2016 cycle of the new Project Initiative. Open Space staff received 15 concept papers requesting just under \$58 million total and recommended the board invite four projects to submit full applications for funding in the spring 2016 cycle. The initiative has \$47 million in available funding for awards to be made up to twice per year over the next three years. If awarded, the four projects to be invited to apply for the spring 2016 cycle would represent an investment by GOCO of just under \$20 million.

Mr. Schwartz moved to invite the four recommended projects to submit full applications; Ms. Cattanach seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

XIV. CPW Investment Proposal

Ms. Orbanek presented on CPW's FY15 Annual Report and FY17 Investment Plan. Ms. Orbanek expressed how pleased she was at how far CPW's Annual Report has come as it is now much more user friendly for its readers and applauds CPW's hard work in making this happen. As far as the Investment Plan, Ms. Orbanek sites that many projects and programs seen in this year's plan are similar to those funded from the FY16 Investment Plan. Ms. Orbanek highlights more significant changes to this year's investment plan which included an increase in acquisition dollars, larger capitol project investments, as well as an increase in youth program funding.

Ms. Orbanek recommends to the board to award funding for both parks and wildlife program investments.

Ms. Rock moved Resolution 2016-04; Mr. Palenchar seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Ms. Reed moved Resolution 2016-05; Ms. Rogers seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

XV. CPW RFP Overview

Ms. Orbanek presented an overview on CPW's Request for Proposals (RFP) citing that 39 total applications by CPW staff were received and 12 tier 1 and tier 2 projects totaling just under \$10 million are recommended for board approval.

Ms. Reed moved Resolution 2016-07; Mr. Lewis seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

XVI. CPW Extensions

Ms. Orbanek presented on CPW extension requests citing that 20 grants (1 wildlife and 19 parks purpose) totaling a little over \$2 million request extension from their June 30, 2016 expiration to December 31, 2016 to give CPW field staff the summer construction season to finish capital related projects.

Ms. Dice moved Resolution 2016-06, Ms. Rogers seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

XVII. Overdue Grants

Grantee:	Town of Center – Center Downtown Park
Award Date:	December 2013
Amount Funded:	\$216,614
Original Completion Date:	December 2015
Staff Extension:	March 17, 2016
Comments:	The project is delayed due to weather delays which have prevented them from completing irrigation, landscaping, concrete work and water features. Staff recommends the board issue an extension to September 1, 2016. Staff further recommends that if the project is not closed by its extension date deadline, funds allocated to it will be automatically deauthorized with no further action by the board being necessary.
Staff Recommendation:	
Grantee:	Town of Jamestown – Jamestown Town Square
Award Date:	April 2014
Amount Funded:	\$131,784.26
Original Completion Date:	April 2016
Comments:	The town is requesting additional time to complete this project due to delays in other urgent flood related projects.
Staff Recommendation:	Staff recommends the board issue an extension to April 30, 2017. Staff further recommends that if the project is not closed by its extension date deadline, funds allocated to it will be automatically deauthorized with no further action by the board being necessary.

Grantee: Colorado Cattlemen's Agricultural Land Trust (CCALT) – White River Valley Ranchland Conservation Initiative

Award Date: December 2013

Amount Funded: \$400,000

Original Completion Date: June 2015

Staff Extension: October 23, 2015

Board Extension: April 23, 2016

Comments: The project stall is due delays in negotiations with NRCS on easement language; the land trust has been waiting to hear back from NRCS since September 2015. CCALT also faced delays in finding an appraiser for the project, which has since been resolved. Lastly, the manager of the project left CCALT in February 2016, resulting in transition of work delays.

Staff Recommendation: Staff recommends the board issue an extension to April 26, 2017. Staff further recommends that if the project is not closed by its extension date deadline, funds allocated to it will be automatically deauthorized with no further action by the board being necessary.

Grantee: Gunnison Ranchland Conservation Legacy (GRCL) – Mill Creek Ranch Conservation Easement

Award Date: June 2014

Amount Funded: \$400,000

Original Completion Date: December 2015

Staff Extension: April 7, 2016

Comments: The land trust is working through changes at NRCS due to the switch from its Farm and Ranchland Protection Program to the new ACEP Agricultural Land Easement Program. It must send the easement to the NRCS headquarters for additional review. All other GOCO due diligence requirements have been completed with the exception of providing the settlement statements from closing, which GRCL anticipates will occur on or before July 31, 2016.

Staff Recommendation: Staff recommends the board issue an extension to December 31, 2016. Staff further recommends that if the project is not closed by its extension date deadline, funds allocated to it will be automatically deauthorized with no further action by the board being necessary.

Grantee: Mesa Land Trust (MLT) – Fruitlands Forever Initiative IV – Christianson Vineyards Conservations Easement

Award Date: June 2014

Amount Funded: \$393,323

Original Completion Date: December 2015

Staff Extension: April 7, 2016

Comments: The project is delayed due to significant delays in proceeding with the conservation easement; the landowners were engaged in a lengthy arbitration process before then unrelated to the easement. MLT has completed most of the due diligence items, including the appraisal. GOCO staff has reviewed and approved the easement and the appraisal. MLT has submitted those items to NRCS for review, after which it can proceed to closing, which it anticipates occurring in July 2016.

Staff Recommendation: Staff recommends the board issue an extension to September 2, 2016. Staff further recommends that if the project is not closed by its extension date deadline, funds allocated to it will be automatically deauthorized with no further action by the board being necessary.

Mr. Lewis moved to approve overdue grants. Mr. Kane seconded, motion passed unanimously.

XVIII. ADJOURN

Meeting adjourned at 2:43PM.