



THE STATE BOARD OF THE GREAT OUTDOORS COLORADO TRUST FUND
BOARD MEETING
March 14, 2025

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*A meeting of The State Board of the Great Outdoors Colorado Trust Fund convened at **9:05 AM on Friday, March 14, 2025***

<u>Board Present</u>	<p>In-person: Tim Brass (for Dan Gibbs), Mara Brosy-Wiwchar, Tom Lee, Mina Liebert, Leticia Martinez, Brenda May, Mo Siegel, Jahi Simbai, Ray Tschillard</p> <p>Virtual: Pam Denahy, Charley Garcia, Marie Haskett, Patty Imhoff, Bobby Massie, Turk Montepare</p>
<u>Board Absent</u>	Carrie Curtiss, Craig Hughes, Krithika Prashant, Jay Tutchton
<u>Staff Present</u>	<p>In-Person: Liz Bowen, Rosemary Dempsey, Alex Castino, Tilah Larson, Payton Lockhart, Diane Metzger, Jackie Miller, Christy Reeves, Katie Smith, Josh Tenneson, Sammie Trotter, Kylie Yang, Chris Yuan-Farrell, Dan Zimmerer</p> <p>Virtual: Chris Aaby, Matt Brady, Leah Kahler-Read, Crystal Medrano, Dan Omasta, Emily Robinson, Katie Smith, Mike Wight</p>
<u>Staff Absent</u>	
<u>Public Present</u>	<p>In-person: Adrian Varney (Colorado Lottery), Patricia Nord (CPW), Martha Beavers (CPW), Mike Suple (Suple Advertising), Jody Kennedy (CPW), Chris Kirk and Carman Fisher (Town of Berthoud), Cory Vanderveen (Evergreen), Dallas May (CPW), CNHP: David Anderson, Michael Menefee, Jeremy Siemers, Jessica Smith, Joanne Lingley, Julie Hollenberger, Amy Greenwell, and Lee Grunau.</p> <p>Virtual: Fletcher Jacobs (CPW), Jennifer Anderson (CO Lottery), Doug Vilsack (BLM), Michele Frishman (Arapahoe County Open Space), Emily Olsen (Trout Unlimited), Stephanie Weber (San Juan Mountains Association), Mick Daniel (San Luis Valley Great Outdoors), Molly Mazel (Montezuma Land Conservancy), Cara Doyle (Mosquito Range Heritage Initiative), Tomer Hasson (Foundation for America's Public Lands), Gigi Dennis (City of Monte Vista), Wade Shelton (TPL), Doug Cook (City of Fort Lupton), Longmont and the Kensington Community, Michael Brack (Town of Fraser), Shaina Gans (La Plata County), Darin Delay (City of Arvada), Matt Barnard (City of Steamboat Springs), Mike Suple (Suple Advertising), Leigh Ann Bauer (Suple Advertising),</p>
<u>Welcome & Introductions</u>	Ms. Liebert invited board members, staff, and guests to introduce themselves to the group.
<u>Regional Update</u>	Ms. Castino welcomed the board, staff, and guests with a land acknowledgement recognizing the tribes in the northeast. She presented on conservation work and priorities, investments in



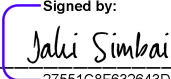
	land acquisitions, stewardship and community impacts, Centennial projects, and one fellowship that have happened in counties located in the northern Front Range region of the state.
<u>Executive Director Update</u>	<p>Ms. Miller updated the board on recent developments and upcoming initiatives. She highlighted the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The 2025 Strategic and Spending Plans, which GOCO staff have been developing over the past two years, including new guidance materials, a website upgrade, and new applications. • Federal-level issues affecting our partners, efforts to stay connected with individual service corps members and Generation Wild coalitions, and tracking LWCF funding matches. • The Colorado Lottery will not hit its cap this year; we are monitoring how this and the spillover impact our partners. • With Aponte-Busam’s support, we are tracking legislation and exploring how to work with the spillover/waterfall next year. • Jackie will schedule meetings with specific legislators to introduce Colorado’s Outdoors Strategy and the annual report, which was published online for the first time this year. • In January, Chris Aaby hosted the Generation Wild Coalitions for a productive shared learning session. • She previewed the June board meeting and September retreat, including expected agenda items. • Staffing updates include hiring a new land acquisition and CPW officer assistant in April. We plan to keep an FTE in the budget for next year while monitoring future needs.
<u>Finance Update</u>	Ms. Reeves briefly updated the board on the FY 2024 audit. GOCO received a clean opinion with one finding, but we feel confident our one finding will not be an issue in the future. She updated the board on GOCO’s budget as of December 2024, the current revenue and grant expenditures and outstanding grants by purpose, and the cash vs outstanding grants ratio (sitting just under 50% and the forecast for the rest of year). She expects GOCO will end the year with the grants and expenditures staying within substantial equal.
<u>Colorado Lottery</u>	Ms. Anderson, Deputy Director, of Colorado Lottery reminded the board about the partnership between the Lottery and GOCO through the constitutional amendment and Lottery’s three primary pillars: Revenue, Responsibility, and Conservation, putting an equal emphasis on each of them, and where the revenue goes. She gave an overview of how the lottery proceeds go to GOCO, Conservation Trust Fund, CPW, and the “spillover” funds to Outdoor Equity Grant Program, BEST, and CPW.



<p><u>Colorado Natural Heritage Program</u></p>	<p>Ms. Castino introduced Mr. Anderson of CNHP to present on the statewide survey of our natural heritage. She informed the board that it is the largest investment in data in GOCO's history.</p> <p>Mr. Anderson gave a brief history of the Colorado Natural Heritage Program, which is a program of CSU. Within one year of getting a grant, they have been able to map an additional 7,887 new locations and update 4,182 existing records; track and enhance species, macrofungi, and invertebrate lists; and clean up current databases. He gave an overview of their upcoming plans in 2025 and priority survey counties, as well as their expenses since January from the GOCO grant.</p>
<p><u>CPW Annual Report</u></p>	<p>Mr. Zimmerer and Ms. Kennedy welcomed GOCO's CPW partners and directed the board to find the CPW annual report in BoardSpot. He spoke about the GOCO-CPW partnership investments through the regional partnership initiative, capacity investments, and Colorado's Outdoors Strategy. Ms. Kennedy shared CPW's Regional Partnerships Initiative highlights, what is happening currently, and future plans and events. She highlighted two longstanding partnerships: San Luis Valley Great Outdoors, Montelores in Deloros County, and a new initiative Spanish Peaks, connecting Huerfano & Las Animas counties.</p>
<p><u>October & December Minutes</u></p>	<p>Ms. Liebert introduced the October and December board meeting minutes for a vote:</p> <p>Mr. Siegel made a motion to approve the October and December board meeting minutes; Mr. Lee seconded.</p> <p>Motion Carried (Votes: 15-0; 4 members absent).</p>
<p><u>Base & Partner Recommendations</u></p>	<p>Ms. Larson introduced the 17 base grant projects for \$17.9 million dollars – six Community Impact: Gold Strike Redevelopment with the City of Arvada, Fraser Bike Park in the Town of Fraser, Resilient Together Project in the City of Longmont, Buchanan Park Improvements at Evergreen Park & Recreation District, Greenhorn Meadows Park Renovation in Colorado City, Grand Junction's Community Recreation Center; two Land Acquisitions: Slate Creek Property Acquisition in the City of Steamboat Springs, Little Thompson River Corridor Conservation in the Town of Berthoud; six Planning and Capacity: Lowry Ranch – Conserve & Access Colorado's History through Trust for Public Land, CO Eastern Plains Youth Corps: Phase II with the Mile High Youth Corps, The Colorado Rivermap: Recreation Stewardship and Safety across Colorado Rivers through Trout Unlimited & BLM, City of Fort Lupton's Parks & Trails Master Plan, Advancing Recreational Infrastructure in the SLV through the City of Monte Vista, Creating Resilience Through Land Access in Southwest Colorado with Montezuma Land Conservancy. Three Stewardship Impact: Collaborative Mountain Stewardship in the Mosquito Range in the Town of Alma, Sustaining Stewardship in the San Juan Mountains in La Plata County, Grand Valley Stewardship Crew Expansion in Mesa County.</p>



	Mr. Yuan-Farrell introduced the RESTORE Colorado's key outcomes and benefits of this program, and the four grant recommendations: Elkhorn Creek Wildfire Recovery, Vinelands Diversion Upgrade, High Creek Fen Restoration, SLV Wetland Restoration.
<u>Consent Agenda</u>	<p>Ms. Liebert introduced the consent agenda:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Base Programs Recommendations • RESTORE Colorado Program • Grant Extensions • CPW Grant Extensions • CPW Investment Proposal <p>Mr. Garcia abstained from the project with the Colorado Rivermap; Ms. Brosy-Wiwchar made a motion to approve the consent agenda as presented; Mr. Tschillard seconded.</p> <p>Motion Carried (Votes: 15-0, 4 members absent)</p>
<u>Generation Wild Summer Campaign Update</u>	<p>Ms. Dempsey introduced Sukle Advertising team members, Mike Sukle and Leigh Ann Bauer, who presented to the board a preview of the upcoming summer campaign, Wilderflowers 2.0. Ms. Dempsey made the board aware of a future amendment to the current operating budget to be able to pay for the summer campaign before the end of fiscal year 2025. This will be voted on at the May committee meetings and June board meeting in 2025.</p>
<u>2025 Strategic Plan & 5-year Spending Plan</u>	<p>Mr. Tenneson presented to the board the current progress of the 2025 Strategic Plan and what the process has been over the past eighteen months. He shared some feedback from the public comments that GOCO received from partners. He shared the draft of the strategic plan and highlights including Colorado's Outdoors Strategy, New Generation Wild Coalitions, Base Programs going to two cycles, and doubling down on investments with partner programs. He introduced a flexible 5-year spending plan, highlighting an additional \$400 million over five years with mission aligned outcomes.</p> <p>Mr. Siegel made a motion to approve the 2025 Strategic Plan and 5-year Spending Plan as presented; Ms. Martinez seconded.</p> <p>Motion Carried (Votes: 11-0, 8 members absent)</p>
The State Board of the Great Outdoors Colorado Trust Fund meeting adjourned at PM on Friday, March 14, 2025	

Signed by:

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 Jahi Simbai, GOCO Board Secretary