



THE STATE BOARD OF THE GREAT OUTDOORS COLORADO TRUST FUND
BOARD MEETING
December 8, 2023

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A meeting of The State Board of the Great Outdoors Colorado Trust Fund convened at 9:00 AM on Friday, December 8, 2023

<u>Board Present</u>	<p>In-person: Brenda May, Carrie Curtiss, Charley Garcia, Craig Hughes, Tim Brass for Dan Gibbs, Jahi Simbai, Jay Tutchton, Leticia Martinez, Mina Liebert, Pam Denahy, Patty Imhoff, Ray Tschillard, Tom Lee</p> <p>Virtual: Krithika Prashant, Mara Brosy-Wiwchar, Marie Haskett, Mo Siegel, Turk Montepare</p>
<u>Board Absent</u>	
<u>Staff Present</u>	<p>In-Person: Alex Castino, Chris Aaby, Chris Yuan-Farrell, Christy Reeves, Crystal Medrano, Dan Zimmerer, Diane Metzger, Josh Tenneson, Keli Cavaleri, Leah Kahler, Liz Bowen, Matt Brady, Tilah Larson, Sammie Trotter</p> <p>Virtual: Dan Omasta, Emily Robinson, Katie Smith, Madison Brannigan, Mike Wight, Rosemary Dempsey</p>
<u>Staff Absent</u>	Erika Meyer, Jackie Miller
<u>Public Present</u>	<p>In-person: Adrian Varney (Lottery), Martha Beavers (CPW), Heather Disney Dugan (CPW), David Porter (CPW), Travis Long (DNR/CPW), Kodi Johnson (Conservation Trust Fund), Leslie Jones (Conservation Trust Fund), Andy Stine (Department of Education, DOLA), Justin Spring (The Conservation Fund), Tara Castaneda (Mile High Youth Corps), Tom Dillow (Associate Director, Colorado Youth Corps), Audrey Smith (Colorado Youth Corps), Caley Ford (Colorado Youth Corps), Amy Beatie (Keep It Colorado), Linda Lidov (Keep It Colorado), MaKenna Schmitz (Mile High Youth Corps), Beck Alvarez (Mile High Youth Corps), Soph Gorioso (Mile High Youth Corps), Amber Palmeri (Mile High Youth Corps); 3 partners from the Town of Otis</p> <p>Virtual: Elise Martinez (VOC), Mike Suple (Suple Advertising), Leigh Ann Bauer (Suple Advertising), Christine Quinlan (The Conservation Fund), Rebecca Schild (RFOV), Stephanie Surch (City of Colorado Springs)</p>
<u>Welcome & Introductions</u>	Ms. Denahy invited board members, staff, and guests to introduce themselves to the group.
<u>Regional Spotlight/Update</u>	Mr. Brady presented on the three counties that make up his region – Adams, Arapahoe, and Denver – an area that is known for its many state and neighborhood parks, regional trails, and green spaces. He described the unique challenges this area faces with prioritizing projects, working with limited space, maintenance backlog, and expansions. He shared that we have invested over \$97 million dollars in the Denver metro area, with 80% of it going to local government purpose funds; there are 13 active projects in the region, and four Generation Wild communities, one resilient community project, and eight projects from the new slate of base programs – fellowships, CYCA, and Centennial projects. Project highlights include Commons Park, Johnson-Habitat Park, Mary Carter Greenway East Side, Historic



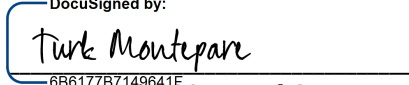
	Splendid Valley, Westminster Station, Marris Farm, and the Metro Denver Nature Alliance Partnership.
<u>Board Member Updates</u>	Ms. Denahy invited the board to share any updates. Ms. Denahy shared about her role on the state trails committee and the number of applications for non-motorized grants requesting up to \$18 million dollars through CPW; Mr. Lee asked how we can share the Legends video out to the public – Communications team said there will be a plan to release it and will provide a toolkit for the board to help share our announcements.
<u>Director Updates</u>	Mr. Tenneson highlighted from the memo, Keep It Colorado is proposing legislation to increase the tax-credit cap and extend the oversight commission, which is set to expire; GOCO is meeting with the Governor’s office on Monday to help inform what our role will be with the tax-credit legislation as we have yet to take a formal position. GOCO’s end of year Staff Retreat was an opportunity to bring staff together in person, where we looked at our EDI strategy, staff roles with the Strategic Plan update, and GOCO benefits. He also highlighted the upcoming big dollar, competitive project recommendations which the board will hear more about at the upcoming committee meeting in February and board meeting in March, along with two additional Centennial Projects – Heaven’s Door and Colorado’s Natural Heritage Program, encouraging board members to reach out to staff to learn more about the latter.
<u>Finance Update</u>	Ms. Reeves updated the board on the FY23 audit, that we had no findings or recommendations. She updated the board on our balance sheet as of September 2023. GOCO has already received the first quarter payment and projections of lottery proceeds, and will likely meet cap early. She reported on our operating budget, cash versus outstanding grants, and months ahead of lottery, and she gave an update on substantially equal and expenditures.
<u>Investing Colorado Lottery Proceeds – a panel presentation & discussion by proceeds beneficiaries</u>	Ms. Reeves introduced the Lottery proceeds beneficiaries, explaining where net lottery proceeds go: GOCO receives 50% up to cap; 40% goes to the Conservation Trust Fund; and 10% goes to Colorado Parks and Wildlife for state parks. GOCO beneficiaries present: Adrian Varney with Colorado Lottery, Kodi Johnson & Leslie Jones with Conservation Trust Fund, CPW’s Deputy Director Heather Disney Dugan, and Andy Stine from Colorado Department of Education. Each partner presented how they are connected to lottery funds and GOCO, and what they provide to the state with their funds.
<u>September Minutes</u>	Ms. Denahy introduced the September board meeting minutes for a vote: <i>Ms. May made a motion to approve the September board minutes; Ms. Liebert seconded.</i> <i>Motion Carried Unanimously (18-0)</i>
<u>Boardspot</u>	Ms. Bowen gave an overview, refresher on how to utilize Boardspot to the board members’ benefit.
<u>CPW Centennial Program Update</u>	Ms. Disney Dugan shared with the board CPW’s timeline and their ideas for Centennial projects. She provided a high-level overview of some of the potential projects, but she refrained from giving specifics due to the preliminary and confidential nature of the projects at this time.



	<p>Formal project recommendations will be presented to the board at the February 2024 programs committee meeting.</p> <p>Additional context: It is important that GOCO authorize at least \$20 million dollars in combined parks and wildlife funds for the Centennial program in FY24. Otherwise, GOCO runs the risk of being out of compliance with substantially equal constitutional and policy requirements, so GOCO staff is staying in close contact so we can present real projects. Some may need to happen in Executive Session if they are real estate acquisition related.</p> <p>CPW is confident in meeting these dollar goals.</p>
<u>GOCO Strategic Plan Update Discussion</u>	<p>Mr. Tenneson gave an overview of GOCO's strategic plan, up-to-date accomplishments investments, and impacts across the state. He reminded the board of the key values and programs and accomplishments and impacts. He presented a proposal for 2026-2030 plan, which will be an update to the current plan, rather than a new plan. The flexible nature of the current plan, impacts of the pandemic, relevancy of the key values, and move to the regional officer model all support doing an update versus a full-blown new plan.</p>
<u>GOCO Programs Grant Project Recommendations</u>	<p>Ms. Larson and Mr. Yuan-Farrell presented the program grants up for a vote, and also showed how the breakdown of funding is being distributed: Centennial Land Acquisition Projects – Wild Horse Ranch in Colorado Springs and Lost Canyon Ranch in Castle Rock; Base Program Projects – Reynolds Landing Park in City of Littleton, Town of Eads, Otis Park Improvements in the Town of Otis, City of Louisville (Marshall Fire & Recovery), Roaring Fork Outdoor Volunteers: Advancing community powered stewardship in western Colorado, Lower Escalante Ranch Loan to The Conservation Fund; Conservation Service Corps Projects – advancing 26 proposals for funding in riparian corridor, multi-use trail work, forest health and watershed health issues, invasive species removal, and keeping an eye on trends in high recreation impact areas, Transaction Cost Assistant Program Projects – 6 projects conserving of 2600 acres in critical wetlands, wildlife habitat, family farms and ranches, water rights in rivers and streams, and rare species, advancing landscape activities across 6 counties and 3 national forests.</p>
<u>Consent Agenda</u>	<p>Mr. Garcia asked for a vote on the Consent Agenda:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Policy 2.10 Amendment • FY24 Spending Plan • Base & Centennial Program Grants • Lower Escalante Ranch Loan • CSC • TCAP • Grant Extensions <p><i>Mr. Lee made a motion to approve the consent agenda as presented; Ms. Martinez seconded.</i> Motion Carried Unanimously (18-0)</p>
<u>Colorado Youth Corps Update</u>	<p>Tom Dillow & Audrey Smith from Colorado Youth Corps, along with Tara Castaneda from Mile High Youth Corps spoke to the board about how GOCO's grant funding approvals allowed them to hire and work with youth across Colorado, teaching youth hard and soft</p>



	<p>skills to be successful professionally and personally. Ms. Smith spoke about her experience as an AmeriCorps member and program mentor with CYCA; Ms. Castaneda shared her experience leading the feasibility study out of La Junta, meeting with partners, elected/non-elected officials, and community members to discuss potential projects and the benefits of having a youth conservation corps in those areas.</p>
<p><u>Generation Wild Summer Results & Future Strategy</u></p>	<p>Ms. Dempsey and Suple Advertising team presented the results of the summer 2023 campaign and re-introduced the snowman campaign for 2024. The summer 2024 campaign will focus on tactics to give us insight on whether kids are getting outside, introducing Club Generation Wild, a direct-to-family Communication Program, Seasonal Communications Campaign and brand awareness, and Enhance Partnership Programs.</p>
<p><i>The State Board of the Great Outdoors Colorado Trust Fund meeting adjourned at 2:50 PM on Friday, December 8, 2023</i></p>	

DocuSigned by:

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Turk Montepare, GOCO Board Secretary