MINUTES OF A MEETING OF
THE WILDLIFE COMMITTEE OF
EAGLE RANCH ASSOCIATION

A Meeting of the Wildlife Committee of the Eagle Ranch Association (the "Association") was held on April 22, 2025, at the Eagle Ranch Office, 1143 Capitol Street, Eagle, CO 81631.

Committee Members Present:

Hugh Fairfield-Smith, Eagle Valley Wildland
Kate Sheldon, Committee Member
Tom Gosiorowski, Town of Eagle

Others Present:

Stacey Todd, Eagle County Wildfire Collaborative, Acting Wildlife Coordinator
Shawn Bruckman, Ground Up
Jamie Harrison, resident and former ERWC Coordinator
Nick Richards
Tracy Feldman

The order of business was as follows:

1. Call to Order. The meeting was called to order at 2:04 p.m. MDT. A quorum of Committee members was present.

2. Approval of Minutes. Upon motion made and seconded, the Board unanimously approved the minutes of the meeting held April 22, 2025 as presented with the updated spelling of Bill Hiecher's name.

3. Financial Report. No Update. Jamie Harrison shared his financial report experiences from his time as Coordinator of the Wildlife Committee
    - Jamie explained that the Wildlife Committee's funds are managed by the HOA, which has a separate fund for this purpose. He emphasized the importance of quarterly reviews to ensure accurate allocation and prevent inadvertent expenditure by the HOA.
    - Jamie recommended that someone be responsible for quarterly reviews of the total receipts to ensure the correct percentage of funds is allocated to the Wildlife Fund. He noted that while the process is usually accurate, it has not always been perfect.
    - **Stacey to reach out to Dave Crawford to get contact information**

4. New Business
    a. Lot Line Abandonment Proposal (Not on Agenda) Jamie Harrison proposed a program to preserve open space by funding the costs of lot line abandonment. He explained that this would involve survey costs and the removal of utility connections, with an estimated total cost of $25,000.

- The committee discussed the potential benefits of preserving open space and the challenges of funding such a program. Concerns were raised about the financial impact on homeowners and the need for criteria to determine eligibility.
- The committee discussed that easements or conservation agreements could be used to ensure that the abandoned lots remain undeveloped. The committee considered the involvement of the HOA or Eagle Valley Land Trust in managing these easements. **Kate to reach out to EVLT.**
- Kate proposed seeking input from the community at the open house to gauge support for the lot line abandonment program.

b. Potential projects identification/prioritization and accountability: The committee discussed priority projects from the work session.
The committee supports large-scale habitat enhancement and restoration projects in the Hardscrabble and East Brush Creek areas. These projects aim to improve ecosystem health and restore native habitats
   - The committee discussed supporting these projects, dedicating resources and efforts towards their development. Financial obligations will be considered in future meetings.
   - Committee discussed the importance of collaborating with the town of Eagle and other partners to leverage additional funding and support for the projects.
   - The other top priority from the planning session is to have enforcement officers/rangers to protect wildlife by enforcing leash laws and education. The committee discussed working with the TOE Police Chief on overtime pay for acting rangers for winter patrol

     - **Upon motion made and seconded, the Committee approved supporting resources and efforts on large scale projects in Hardscrabble and East Brush Creek area in between Cordillera and the Brush Creek open space.** (Derek Rose vote by proxy)

     - **Upon motion made and seconded, the Committee approved pursuing a partnership with the Town of Eagle Police Department for winter patrols utilizing eligible off-duty officers in coordination with Eagle PD.**

c. Variable Message Board Sign (not on agenda): Kate and Nick discussed the vandalism and hacking of the variable messaging sign and potential solutions for its placement and protection.
   - Committee discussion on filing a police report on vandalized VMS and discussion on placement of signs in and around Eagle Ranch.

5. Other Business
    a. Recreation Trails opening dates discussion Tracy Feldman shared her concerns about early trail openings and their impact on wildlife, advocating for later opening dates to protect elk calves.

    b. Update on ToE's response to our request to be involved in the proposed 11 miles new rec trails, and EBikes in OS: *Pushed to next meeting*

    c. Open House update: survey language, info panels, stations, swag, food and committee member participation: Kate has put a lot of time into planning the upcoming open house, Kate discussed the content, volunteer involvement, and strategies to attract attendees.

    d. GroundUp Update: With Shawn in attendance, this item was moved to the start of the meeting. Shawn provided an update on the seeding and compost tea project, mentioning that they are currently seeking approval to access the land for implementation. She noted they are behind schedule and hope to proceed in the spring, with fall as a backup option.
        - Shawn mentioned that she would email Tom to get approval for land access, including the MOU from the previous project. She emphasized the importance of timely approval to avoid missing the spring window.
        - The Committee discussed the impact of timing on the project's success, considering the pros and cons of spring versus fall implementation. Concerns were raised about missing the window for native grass growth and the risks associated with both seasons.
        - Shawn suggested selecting one area to reseed in spring and one for fall and compare the results. She mentioned that Hernage Creek might be easier to access and could be used for test plots, including seed-only, tea-only, and control plots.
        - Hugh stated that Eagle River Fire currently have an existing IGA with the TOE. Hugh to share with TOE Council the long term ecosystem health project plot studies in these areas.
        - GroundUp has sample seed packs of the custom mix for ERWC to hand out at the Open House.
            - **Upon motion made and seconded, the Committee unanimously approved $300 towards the purchase of seed mix packets from GroundUp**

There being no further business to come before the Committee, the meeting was adjourned at 3:52 p.m. MDT.

Respectfully submitted,

Stacey j todd

Stacey Todd, Coordinator