

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE EAGLE RANCH WILDLIFE COMMITTEE

A Meeting of the Eagle Ranch Wildlife Protection Committee (ERWPC) was held on September 9, 2026, at the Eagle Ranch Office, 1143 Capitol Street, Eagle, CO 81631.

Committee members present:

Courtney Harris, CPW
Devin Duval, CPW
Steve Hoffman, Co-Chair
Kate Sheldon, Chairperson
Kim Hubble (virtually)

Absent: Geoff Grimmer, Town of Eagle

Also present:

Jill Simonson, Colorado Parks & Wildlife
Jennifer Jones, Contractor
Scott Jones, Contractor
Debbie Murphy, Resident
Tom Murphy, Resident
Maddie Hutchinson, Eagle River Coalition
Sue Throckmorton, Resolution Graphics

The order of business was as follows:

1. Call to Order. Sheldon called the meeting to order at 1:02 pm MST. A quorum was established.
2. Minutes Approval. Upon a motion by Hoffman, seconded by Harris, the Committee approved the minutes unanimously as presented.
3. Adoption of Agenda: Hoffman inquired as to why Future Business was identified on the agenda; Sheldon replied because it was standard Robert's Rules of Order. Upon a motion made by Hoffman, seconded by Hubble, the Committee unanimously approved the Agenda.
4. Financial Report: Presented; fund balance \$1,146,756.80 as of July 31, 2026.
 - Sheldon pointed out the \$1,512 legal fees charged to ERWPC, which appeared to be the HOA attorney's revisions/redlines to ERWPC Roles & Responsibilities document
 - Hoffman said ERWPC has numerous investments and we need to be mindful of early withdrawal fees; to be aware in our financial planning of where funds are and when they're available
 - Sheldon will add to each Financial Report where the funds are and when they would be available
5. Unfinished Business
 - a. Update on Town of Eagle Fencing Project Funding Agreement
 - ToE had recently applied to HPP for partial funding of the ToE Fence project; it was denied because of circumstances involving the grazing allotment manager utilizing Vence virtual collars and the question came up of whether it should just be a tear-down and not a wildlife-friendly wire replacement project.
 - Harris and Alex Smiley/ToE OS Mgr are meeting next week.
 - Scott Jones described how not all collars work; calves don't have collars, and sometimes the collars fall off.
 - Duval noted that if we know HPP would not be interested then we could look elsewhere or adjust the Ask to ERWPC. Sept 30 is the next HPP meeting.
 - Alex Smiley had voiced a concern that hunters would not see a fence border if it were gone and therefore not know boundaries if the fence was just removed but it was pointed out that hunters use

their phone/GPS to determine boundaries these days. Leaving fence posts up would also provide a visual, and be beneficial to birds.

b. Update on Eagle County OS Agreement

- Hoffman will have the PFA reflect Scott as the awardee to move the project forward and Eagle County will be responsible for project management.
- The agreement is in Phil Kirkman's hands.
- Scott Jones said a tear out happens quickly depending on terrain, and he would probably start with the property on Brush Creek Rd.
- Jennifer Jones noted the window of opportunity is closing as December 1 approaches, and that the goal is still to have the jobs completed by end of 2027 but it may run over into Spring 2028 weather permitting.
- The purpose of the Western Border proposed project is to keep cattle *out*- as it is wildlife forage growing in the enclosed area; so that fence would stay intact and could not be laydown; but could be converted to wildlife-friendly fencing.

c. Update on BLM Funding Agreement

- Hoffman will have the PFA reflect the contractor as payee to advance the project forward.
- Sheldon presented the two printed habitat enhancement signs to be utilized at the GroundUp's October habitat enhancement projects; the committee preferred to utilize these two signs to gather feedback before printing additional signs, and will revisit this winter for 2027.

d. Update on Pollinator habitat enhancement effort

-CPW said anywhere there's lack of foot traffic would good for locations, and that mounting to trees is preferred for shade aspects. Alex Smiley/ToE OS suggested a small test area near Capitol Street and Community Garden

-Sheldon will email the CPW website recommended BlueBird Box style to Courtney, then circulate via email

-Sheldon reached out to Betty Ford Alpine Gardens Education Manager for guidance on locations where in the target area to install the Bluebird Boxes

e. Update on the Variable Messaging Sign

- Issues have been identified by the HOA which appear to prohibit the VMS continued use with wildlife messaging within Eagle Ranch, so the Committee discussed selling it or reaching out to the new Town manager and/or Mayor to see if Right Of Way permits would be allowed to continuing use
- Hoffman asked if there was documentation of the "success" of signs; Sheldon reported numerous videos from residents showing cars stopped and letting wildlife cross in minutes instead of struggling for nearly an hour to cross in three specific areas within Eagle Ranch, at predictable dawn and dusk on a daily basis last winter
- Duval said to explore the opportunity to use it since the initial investment was made
- Duval asked about using Game Cams to document efficacy
- Hubble said to continue to work with the Town on ROW permits
- Duval pointed out it is a community resource
- Management of the VMS challenges were brought up (moving it and programming the messaging), and whether ERWPC could take over the movement and messaging
- Upon a motion by Hoffman, seconded by Hubble, the Committee unanimously approved for Sheldon to contact the Town to explore ROW permits for the VMS for this upcoming winter

f. ERWPC Roles and Responsibilities revision

- Hoffman updated he's working on explanations as to why the revisions were made for the HOA attorney

6. New Business

- a. Maddie Hutchinson of Eagle River Coalition presented Phase 2 of a riparian restoration habitat enhancement project in Third Gulch for autumn 2027; of which Phase 1 was completed in August 2-26 with a partnership of Town of Eagle, VVMTA, ERC and 18 volunteers. This project idea was originally identified by Bill Heicher in the early 2000s in Eagle Ranch Wildlife Protection Board Meeting Minutes.

-The issues are at-risk wildlife community that utilizes the gulch's resources, with limited water availability for existing trees and important food for wildlife. There is continuing incision which causes disconnect of the channel to the floodplain. An increase in recreational activity and urban development has put pressure on the 23.6 acres gulch. During winter this gulch is a historic sanctuary for wintering big game.

- Hoffman asked if permits would be required; Hutchinson said not because it is ephemeral (not year-round)

-Duval inquired if ERC had done an inventory of plant species, including noxious weeds, and if reseeding would be needed if the seed bank of native plants is sufficient. Hutchinson replied the only weed she'd seen is Curly Rod and that the plant diversity is quite native; and that a comprehensive inventory had not been done.

-Hutchinson noted materials were not included, and Town of Eagle would be responsible for these.

-Questions were asked including if a spreadsheet of costs was included in the presentation, if the contractor estimate was good for a year from now (yes) and confirmation that Town of Eagle was onboard (yes).

-Upon a motion by Hubble, seconded by Hoffman, the Committee unanimously approved for CPW to dig deeper on the project and push the consideration to the October agenda.

b. Discussion of ERWPC Roles & Responsibilities with regard to Education Efforts

-Hoffman and Sheldon related the Exec Board recent sentiments on ERWPC's movie theater PSAs, and Exec Board Member Lindley's suggestions for messaging that people would not find offensive.

-Hubble pointed out that safety of people is also a concern, not just wildlife.

-A *Wildlife Welcome Guide to Eagle Ranch* concept that Steve Hoffman created was discussed, along with a draft *Mitigation Plan Magazine* Sheldon had created. Distribution options were discussed, as was format, content and potentially launching at the Eagle Ranch movie theater in a premiere style with a community wildlife photograph/artwork contest, where winners would be announced along with their photos on the movie screen. Sponsors could be acquired to help defray the cost of production, potentially with real estate agents, builders, property managers and Eagle Ranch businesses.

-Designer Sue Throckmorton presented several magazines for Look & Feel, and provided cost estimates of approx \$5 per Magazine plus her designwork of approx 60 hours (one hour per page) at \$100 per hour. It would also be available digitally as well.

-Hubble said to get the message out make it easy to access and read, and positive to educate and cautioned to not print too many in case an update or revision is needed

-A draft Timeline for rolling out a Wildlife Welcome Guide to Eagle Ranch/Mitigation Plan Magazine was presented by Sheldon

-Hoffman said we should take the next month to review and comment on a plan

-During this discussion the topic of contractors dumpster management came up- Hoffman recalled during his build that not even a candy wrapper was allowed in the dumpster; but that policy seems to not be enforced lately. Who's responsibility is it was discussed, and Hoffman will contact the HOA to determine who's responsible for enforcement if there is a policy.

9. **Future Business**

a. Discussion of consistent trail poaching access points in Eagle Ranch

- Upon a motion by Hoffman, seconded by Harris, the Committee approved placing this topic on the October ERWPC Agenda.

10. The meeting was adjourned at 3:15pm MST.

Next meeting: October 9, 2026

Respectfully submitted,

FINAL