

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 March 26, 2025, at the Eagle Ranch Office, 1143 Capitol Street, Eagle, CO 81631.

Committee Members Present:

Hugh Fairfield-Smith, Eagle Valley Wildland  
Derek Rose, Eagle Ranch Golf Course  
Kate Sheldon, Committee Member  
Tom Gosiorowski, Town of Eagle

Others Present:

Stacey Todd, Eagle County Wildfire Collaborative, Acting Wildlife Coordinator  
Nick Richards  
Tom Olden  
Alan Czepinski  
Bill Heicher

The order of business was as follows:

1. Call to Order. The meeting was called to order at 9:01 a.m. MDT. A quorum of Committee members was present.
2. Approval of Minutes. Upon motion made and seconded, the Committee approved the minutes of the meeting held on February 12, 2025. No approval was needed for the February 27, information session.
3. New Business
  - a. Bill Pay Process and Parliamentarian (not on agenda)
    - i. Nick emphasized that all expenses related to the Wildlife Committee should be approved by the committee before being sent to the office for payment. The committee discussed the importance of having a clear approval process for expenses to ensure proper management and accountability.
      1. Large expenses should go through the executive board
    - ii. Discussion on the necessity for the committee to use a parliamentarian.
  - b. Long-term Strategic Plan; consider establishing procedures to evaluate projects & funding limits
    - i. Hugh introduced the topic of long-term strategic planning for the Wildlife Committee. The goal is to create sustainable and healthy wildlife management through large-scale projects with long-term benefits. Hugh suggested having a work session to discuss strategic goals and partner with CPW on habitat

restoration projects. The committee discussed the importance of having a clear plan and long-term goals to ensure meaningful impact on wildlife management.

- ii. Kate presented a Project Evaluation Rubric for evaluating potential projects based on the mitigation plan. The rubric includes criteria such as protecting wildlife, financial stewardship, and confirmed funding partners. The committee discussed the importance of weighting the criteria and considering the value of opportunities that may arise. The rubric is intended to provide a structured approach to evaluating potential projects and ensuring they align with the committee's goals.

#### Discussion

- The committee discussed the importance of financial stewardship in evaluating potential projects
- The committee discussed the importance of partnering with CPW

#### c. Long-term project list identification & prioritization

- i. Kate presented a preview of potential projects for the strategic plan, including soil and shrub manipulation, riparian wetland restoration, and public outreach. The committee discussed the importance of large-scale projects and engaging the community through volunteer programs.
- ii. Special Work Session to be held in April
- iii. Kate has been consulting with Bill Hiker

#### Public Comment

- Bill Heicher emphasized the importance of having CPW representation on the committee to ensure that projects align with the mitigation plan. The committee discussed the need to engage Layton from CPW to fill the vacant seat and provide expertise on wildlife management. Bill reminded the committee of the mitigation plan and encouraged the committee to read the document.

#### d. Consideration of increasing the frequency of meetings

Hugh proposed, that for the time being, that the committee move to monthly meetings to address the growing number of agenda items and ensure progress on strategic goals. The meetings will be held on the third Wednesday of each month at 9:00 AM. (since has been changed to the 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday of each month)

Upon motion made and seconded, the Board unanimously approved to hold meetings monthly while the committee has enough business for monthly meetings.

#### 4. Other Business

##### a. BLM E-Bike Update – Alan Czepinski (9:30am)

- i. Alan shared that the BLM is gearing up for public outreach on traditional mountain bike trails. Sharing a survey with trial users. Survey wasn't originally geared towards E-Bikes
- ii. Alan explained that the survey will be administered by Colorado Mesa University students and professors at various trailheads, Pool and Ice, Haymaker, and Arroyo. The survey will include questions about trail use and E-bike impacts, and participants will have the option to complete the survey online via QR code. The survey results will be used in the environmental assessment for analyzing E-bike use on BLM lands.

#### Committee Discussion

- Nick questioned having the QR codes/surveys posted at other gates with more distribution points. Town of Eagle happy to help get the survey out.
- Kate stated that the BLM is missing a large stakeholder group – the Eagle Ranch residents. She questioned why the survey doesn't include other impacts of e-bikes.
- Kate and Tom O. raised concerns about the potential impacts of E-bikes on wildlife, trail erosion, and community. Alan explained that these
- Tom O. has concerns about impacts on the neighborhood and the Eagle Ranch HOA would like a seat at the table. He feels the survey doesn't address the significant impacts the e-bikes would have.
- Kate shared surveys she created and Alan responded that those questions are addressed in the EAs and this is the same survey they have been using since 2015 with the added ebike question. Hugh reiterated the opportunity during the EA process – Public comment, and that the survey is not a decision document. Alan shared that the potential timeline for the EA public comment is November/December
- Tom Gosiorowski shared that there would be two separate EA projects – one for the proposed e-bike usage, and one for the 11 miles of trails. Resource surveys years before things can get to EA. They are working to identify routes this year. Tom G. shared that no new trails approved at this point and interested to see where the BLM goes with trails and ebikes. Eagle Town Council has made no decisions.
- Hugh sent letters and has not received a response. No input on feedback until we have the information needed to make informed input. Watch and react.

#### b. Open Space Ranger Position Update

Tom G. shared that the Town of Eagle has paused the recruitment for the Open Space Ranger Position. Top priority is hiring for the Open Space Manager position (Brian Lieberman's position)

#### c. May 7 ERWC Open House

Kate discussed the May 7th open house event to engage the community and gather input on wildlife projects. The event will include stations for project ideas, information about the Eagle Ranch Wildlife Committee, volunteer sign-ups, and a survey. Kate passed out flyers and discussed getting the information in the April Eagle Ranch HOA newsletter.

Upon motion made and seconded, the Committee unanimously approved a \$500 budget from the wildlife fund for the May 7<sup>th</sup> open house.

d. Movie Theater PSAs, Brush Creek Pilot Program

Kate shared that the expenses for the movie theater PSAs were more expensive than the committee had anticipated, and the bill ended up being \$1200.

Upon motion made and seconded, the Committee unanimously approved \$1200 to pay for the Movie Theater PSAs

There being no further business to come before the Committee, the meeting was adjourned at 10:53 p.m. MDT.

Respectfully submitted,

*Stacey J Todd*

Stacey Todd, Coordinator