



Montelores Coalition – Executive Committee

Balancing Sustainable Outdoor Recreation and Conservation of Natural Resources to Serve the Unique Needs of Colorado's Southwest Corner.

Tres Rios Field Office

29211 CO-184, Dolores, CO 81323

OR

[ZOOM](#)

April 1, 2025 2-3:30 PM

Minutes

Montelores Coalition Executive Committee Meeting Summary

This meeting of the Montelores Coalition Executive Committee focused on addressing organizational infrastructure, membership, public engagement, and future planning, including potential projects and funding strategies. The meeting began with a brief recap of a discussion regarding an executive order highlighting the connection between recreation and conservation →.

Meeting Logistics and Updates

To better accommodate members' schedules, the committee agreed to extend executive committee meetings to 90 minutes and shift the start time to 1:00 PM →. Additionally, the group decided to dedicate the last 10 minutes of each meeting to member updates and news →.

Bylaws and Organizational Structure

A discussion ensued regarding the coalition's bylaws. It was clarified that the coalition operates under Onward's bylaws as a program of their non-profit. While the existing bylaws provide a framework, they require adjustments to suit the coalition's specific needs, such as defining a quorum appropriate for a 12-member organization →. Concerns about liability for board members and the need for HR policies, especially regarding financial matters, were also raised →. The committee agreed to further review and adapt the bylaws, potentially using examples from other organizations →.

Public Meetings and Transparency

The committee discussed increasing transparency by opening roundtable meetings to the public after the strategic planning process is complete →. This would involve establishing a structured public comment period, similar to a school board meeting, and providing public notice of meetings →. The optimal placement of the public comment period, whether at the beginning or end of the meeting, was debated →.

Membership and Representation

The possibility of inviting Cindy Wallace, a local rancher and former NRCS employee, to join the roundtable was discussed →. This sparked a broader conversation about representation within the coalition, particularly from the agricultural community and motorized user groups →. Concerns were raised about becoming "stacked heavy" on the farm and ranch side →. The committee agreed to assess current roundtable membership, identify gaps in representation (including motorized users and RICO representation), and reach out to potential members like Chris Hines and Casey McClellan →. Re-engaging with Stephanie Gordinaire, a current agricultural representative, was also suggested →. The importance of including diverse ideological perspectives was emphasized →.

Future Planning, Funding, and Projects

The committee discussed the coalition's future direction and funding strategies →. The need to build infrastructure and planning capacity was highlighted. →. The possibility of eventually becoming an independent fiscal agent was discussed, but the consensus was that the coalition is not yet at that point →. The current focus is on completing the strategic plan, with subsequent action planning to identify specific projects and funding sources →. A potential project involving wayfinding mapping was suggested, potentially utilizing LOR funding →. The Paths to Mesa Verde project was also mentioned as a potential funding target →.

Conclusion

The meeting concluded with a brief update on the Mancos Action Network meeting, which focused on concerns about land use code and development →. The importance of aligning the coalition's plan with the Montezuma County Comprehensive Plan was emphasized →. Finally, the need for a glossary of definitions within the plan, particularly for potentially contentious terms like "conservation," was discussed →. The meeting adjourned at 3:24 PM.

LINKS

B 2020 008 EXECUTIVE ORDER:

Creating the Colorado Outdoor Regional Partnerships Initiative and Establishing the Inter-Agency Conservation and Recreation Council

<https://www.colorado.gov/governor/sites/default/files/inline-files/B%202020%20008%20Creating%20the%20Colorado%20Outdoor%20Regional%20Partnerships%20Initiative%20and%20Establishing%20the%20Inter-Agency%20Conservation%20and%20Recreation%20Council.pdf>

ONWARD! A LEGACY FOUNDATION BYLAWS:

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1skc2Mk3i7jhCmsz2zGeQhLAYeE2MyqQT/view?usp=sharing>

Learning Center

Webinars

- **NEW!** Starting January 29th, Eco inclusive will be launching the [Pathways to Progress and Action: Community Social Justice](#) series. Virtual gatherings include *Enhancing Cultural Competence in Community Efforts*, *Assessing Community Needs and Resources*, and *Restorative Justice: Repairing Harm and Building Community*.
- The [Associate of Outdoor Recreation and Education](#) has a full calendar of learning opportunities.

Community Engagement Resources

- [Training Resources](#) for the Environmental Community
- [The Civic Canopy](#) offers several tools for facilitation and mediation.
- [Community Toolbox](#) - Select the work closest to what you are doing to see an outline of key tasks, examples, and links to more detailed instructional sections.
- [Storymap: Engaging with Traditional Ecological Knowledge](#) - North Central Climate Adaptation Science Center (NCCASC)

Funding Opportunities

- US Forest Service [Community Wildfire Defense Grants Tool](#)
- Great Outdoors Colorado [Grant Calendar 2024-2025](#).
- Colorado Watershed Assembly [Grant Opportunities List](#)
- [Thriving Children](#). W.K. Kellogg Foundation. Foundation. General operating and project-based funding. Eligible entities nonprofit organizations. The foundation supports in three primary areas: Thriving Children: We support a healthy start and quality learning experiences for all

- children. Working Families: We invest in efforts to help families obtain stable, high-quality jobs. Equitable Communities: We want all communities to be vibrant, engaged and equitable.
- [Draper Richland Kaplan](#). Foundation. Startup funding. Eligible entities are nonprofits. *This foundation will invest and help provide support to entrepreneurs for a three-year funding cycle to launch and expand their ventures.*
 - [Strategic Fund Job Growth Incentive](#). Colorado Office of Economic Development & International Trade. Business incentives. Eligible entities Businesses considering interstate competitive expansion or relocation projects in Colorado. Project-based funding. *Funds for locating or expanding in the state, signing a lease, hiring employees related to this project, making material expenditures for this project.*
 - [Rural & Community Support Grants](#). Anschutz Family Foundation. General operating and project-based funding. Eligible entities nonprofits and local government partnering with a nonprofit. *The foundation supports nonprofit organizations focused on improving quality of life for individuals and families in Colorado, particularly in rural and underserved communities. Priority is given to projects addressing basic human needs, community and economic vitality, self-sufficiency, and access to opportunities. Eligible proposals should demonstrate community engagement, strong leadership, and sustainable impact, with an emphasis on organizations serving low-income and vulnerable populations. Deadline July 15.*
 - [Equitable Community-Designed Outdoor Spaces](#). The Colorado Health Foundation. Project-based funding. Eligible entities local government, Tribes, nonprofits, for-profits. *Provides funding to support the planning, design, and creation of outdoor spaces that promote health, well-being, and equity in Colorado communities. Grants prioritize community-led projects that address the unique needs of underrepresented populations by improving access to safe, inclusive, and culturally relevant outdoor environments. Funding can be used for planning, community engagement, and construction activities. Deadline February 15 and June 15.*

Important Funding Updates