



Montelores Coalition – Executive Committee

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

Colorado Welcome Center
928 E. Main St, Cortez, CO 81321 or on [ZOOM](#)
August 19, 2025, 8:30-10:00 AM

Minutes

In attendance: Cara Gildar, Brian Bartlett, Kalin Grigg, Jamin Grigg, Helen West, James Dietrich, Lanea Donahoo, Joe Manning, Eric Stiasny, Mike Wight, Skip Zeller

1. Financial update

- a. Cara presented the big picture of the budget noting that we submitted a report to the CPW and they were happy with our reporting on our budget and project progress
- b. Cara explained that we are about 35% (\$138,779.35 out of \$214,410.) expended and on track
- c. The group discussed future plans for reviewing the budget. The decision was:
 - i. Cara will send out a monthly budget recap to the group a week ahead of the meeting and leave the standing agenda item for the Executive Committee to bring any questions to the meeting if needed
 - ii. There will be a quarterly deep dive into the financials

2. VOTE on RPI Consulting contract extension (\$4620)

- a. The extension is needed to reformat the Plan structure to create a stand-alone conservation topic, and to process review comments after the new Draft is reviewed by the Roundtable.
- b. There are funds available in the Development Coordinator category.
- c. The vote was motioned. Cara will send out the vote electronically so that all members (including those who couldn't be present for this meeting), can vote.
 - i. **Motion:** *Approve the extension of the RPI Consulting contract for an additional 28 hours at a total cost of \$4620 to create a stand-alone conservation topic, and to process review comments after the new Draft is reviewed by the Roundtable, with funds allocated from the approved budget.*

3. VOTE on signing a Letter of Support for Dolores Ranger District grant application (see attachment with project description)

- a. Tom asked for a Letter of Support from the Montelores Coalition for the Forest Service's application for a CPW non-motorized trail maintenance grant. Trails work would make

them more accessible for adaptive sports mountain bikes. FS does not have internal funds to do non-motorized trail work.

- b. Two motions were made for the Montelores Coalition to submit one letter of support for the Dolores Field Office Forest Service's grant application and another Montezuma County as both can apply for a non-motorized grant. Both motions were seconded.
- c. Cara will send out the vote electronically so that all members (including those who couldn't be present for this meeting), can vote.
 - i. **Motion:** *Approve submitting a Letter of Support for the San Juan National Forest Forest's and Montezuma County's CPW grant applications to fund non-motorized trail work.*

4. Synopsis of recent meetings

- a. All meetings went well. She shared the questions that she got regarding our public meetings, project planning and others. We will or should be receiving letters of support from most of the organizations.
 - i. **Four Corners Rifle and Pistol Club Board meeting**
 - ii. **Montezuma County Board of County Commissioners workshop**
 - iii. **High Desert Conservation District Board meeting**
 - iv. **City of Cortez City Council meeting**
 - v. **Dolores Watershed Collaborative and Dolores Ranger District**

5. Vote on Montelores Coalition Mission and Vision (see attached worksheet)

- a. The coalition needs to have an established mission and vision statement as we prepare to submit the grant proposal and our public meetings. Options have been created for the committee to consider and discuss. After review and discussion:
 - i. The motion was put forward to have the mission be "Balancing sustainable outdoor recreation and conservation of natural, agricultural, and cultural resources to serve the unique needs of Colorado's southwest corner". The motion was seconded and will be put to electronic vote by Cara following the meeting.
 - 1. **Motion:** *Adopt the following mission statement for the Montelores Coalition: "Balancing sustainable outdoor recreation and conservation of natural, agricultural, and cultural resources to serve the unique needs of Colorado's southwest corner."*
 - ii. The motion was put forward to have the vision be "Ensure a future where outdoor recreation in the Montelores region is balanced with thriving communities, wildlife, natural, agricultural, and cultural resources." The motion was seconded and will be put to electronic vote by Cara following the meeting.
 - 1. **Motion:** *Adopt the following vision statement for the Montelores Coalition: "Ensure a future where outdoor recreation in the Montelores region is balanced with thriving communities, wildlife, natural, agricultural, and cultural resources."*

6. VOTE on postponing Annual Roundtable meeting with votes on new members and seats (see attached charter and resolution)

a. Annual Roundtable Meeting

- i. Cara put forth to the committee that we postpone the September 3 annual meeting and announce the next meeting to the public.
- ii. The motion was put forward to postpone the annual roundtable meeting until the first quarter of the new calendar year with a finalized date being decided at a later date. The motion was seconded and will be put to electronic vote by Cara following the meeting.
 1. **Motion:** *Postpone the Annual Roundtable Meeting, including votes on new members and seats, until the first quarter of the new calendar year, with a finalized date to be determined at a later time.*
- iii. Another motion was put forward to amend the bylaws regarding Roundtable Annual meetings to a more general timeframe to better accommodate schedules and other circumstances. The motion was seconded and will be put to electronic vote by Cara following the meeting.
 1. **Motion:** *Amend the bylaws to change the requirement for a specific date for the Annual Roundtable Meeting to a more general timeframe, allowing flexibility to accommodate schedules and circumstances.*

b. New Members & Seats

- i. A request came from the Dolores Watershed Collaborative to develop a cross-collaborative framework with Montelores Coalition, a seat on either the Executive Committee or the Roundtable, and a financial commitment either through a stipend for her work with the coalition or funding to assist in their projects. After much discussion from the Executive Committee, the decisions were:
 1. To continue crafting a cross-collaborative framework for the Dolores Watershed Collaborative and the Montelores Coalition's working partnership
 2. To edit the grant proposal to include a request for "strategic partnership building" fund category that could be utilized in the future for Executive Committee and Roundtable member stipends
 3. To ask Nina from the Dolores Watershed Collaborative to be a member of our Roundtable.

7. GOCO Grant proposal update

- a. Cara informed the Executive Committee that she has asked for an extension on the grant proposal due to the area's fires taking time away from some of our major stakeholders. She has not yet heard back but will update the committee when she does.
- b. Cara also requested that all Letters of Support be in by August 29th.

8. Communications update

- a. The Coalition's communications efforts are moving forward on several fronts, including refining the website's language, design, and voice; completing a social media audit and preparing to re-launch our platforms; re-launching a monthly or bi-monthly newsletter; and developing a comprehensive communications plan for the calendar year. Questions can be directed to Kelsey and/or Cara.

Future Business: Organizational Strategic Plan, Public Meetings for Plan Review