



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](#)
May 19, 2026, 8:30-10:30 AM

Minutes

Present: Cara Gildar, Kelsey Girod, Eric Stiasny, Joe Manning, Brian Bartlett, Tom Rice, Jamin Grigg, James Dietrich, Skip Zeller (zoom), Helen West (zoom), Kalin Grigg (zoom)

Meeting Start: 8:33 AM

1. Public comment period 193.26
 - a. No one from the public is present
2. GOCO/CPW budget revision update
 - a. GOCO-CPW grant can be extended through April 2028 to avoid funding gaps
 - b. Electronic vote will be emailed for motion on budget reallocation within the capacity category .
3. June 4 Retreat 8:30 AM-3:00 PM. Agenda reviewed and approved.
4. Sponsorships
 - a. Decisionmaking framework
 - i. **Draft a written policy including sideboards:**
 1. increases public awareness of Montelores Coalition
 2. Fits within Goals and Strategies
 3. Discuss with Executive Committee if over \$500
 - b. Boggy Draw Beatdown
 - i. Ask organizers about a \$250 sponsorship with the opportunity to put Leave No Trace type pamphlets in race packets, and donate the 50% off registrations back to adaptive sports participants.
 - c. SWCEC Environmental Careers Institute
 - i. No sponsorship this year, geographic scope too broad
5. CO Public Lands Day May 16 at Bean Canyon
 - a. 15 attendees, most from Durango
 - b. 1,000 pounds of trash pulled out of the area
6. RPI Summit/ Partners in The Outdoors debrief
 - a. importance of storytelling for building trust
 - b. diversifying funding sources is crucial
 - c. thinking creatively outside existing systems to address community challenges
 - d. RPI Implementation grant awards were for very strong, complex projects with years of work behind them.
7. RPI Grant application update

- a. We will not be applying for the upcoming RPI grant applications because of our current funding.
 - b. Explored whether to apply for implementation funding in 2027, or apply for another year of early wins funding in 2027 and go for implementation funding in 2028 to build a stronger proposal
 - c. The EC discussed the different ramifications of doing the early wins vs. implementation grant, but how can we continue to get the funding without leaving money on the table.
 - d. Conversation was “tabled” to the retreat in June and will discuss Paths to Mesa Verde timeline and the possibility of expanding it to a larger regional initiative with other connector trails.
8. Executive Session (if needed)
- a. Not needed

Future Business: Executive Committee members terms, vacant seats, and officer positions; Executive Director Performance Review; Strike Team Proposal approval; Letters of Support decision matrix; succession planning for County Commissioners

Meeting Adjourned: 10:35 AM