

**Red Hill Council
Meeting Minutes
Meeting of Thursday, March 20, 2003.**

Chairman Scott Harris called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

Members Present: Dave Johnson, Scott Harris, Claire Bastable, Jim Neu, Davis Farrar, Dorothy Morgan (BLM).

Davis moved to except the minutes as presented. Dave Johnson seconded the motion. The motion passed upon a unanimous vote.

New business - Scott mentioned that he was up one Red Hill and noticed a number of trail reroutes. He expressed concern about the ongoing process of individuals rebounding trails around obstacles etc.

Davis mentioned that the recent trails summit held in Carbondale Town Hall was well attended by over 80 people and the summit was a great success.

BLM update - Dorothy noted that BLM did not like Davis showing the Red Hill map with the unapproved routes at the trails summit meeting.

A discussion took place about trail master planning and the process by which such an exercise could be completed. Dorothy made it very clear that BLM was not going to entertain any discussions about trail master planning on Red Hill this year. She said options may be available for future planning but not at this time. She said that the existing trail system was identified as part of the previous planning process and that the system constitutes the plan that the public agreed to.

Davis said this representation was not completely accurate. The discussions about Red Hill trail alignments focused first on the Mushroom Rock area and then extended to the North Side route. The Red Hill Committee discussed the possibility of trails on the easterly portion of Red Hill. The committee decided at that time to address the easterly portion of Red Hill at a future date because they had their hands full with discussions about the Mushroom Rock and the North Side Loop. He noted that BLM has lost some of its institutional memory about Red Hill with the transition of Red Hill representatives from Francisco Mendoza to Brian Hopkins to Dorothy Morgan. The detail of the discussions by the Red Hill Committee has not been carried forward with all of the details.

Discussion took place about completing the existing implementation plan and other projects that were identified by the council and BLM. Davis noted that he had reviewed the implementation plan and over 90 percent of the tasks have been completed. The majority of the items remaining are classified as "ongoing" and included things such as developing an annual budget and similar items. Discussion took place about amending the implementation plan. Council members decided to review the plan document and review the items that have been completed and discuss amending the implementation plan in the future.

Discussion took place about items to deal with on Red Hill. Dorothy mentioned that Land and Water Conservation funding dollars may be available for possible access the easement purchase. She will provide information to the Council members.

Dorothy told the Council that she had made an executive decision to take the Red Hill trail maintenance project off of the RFOV list for 2003 because she had a New Castle project that had a greater need. The members of the Red Hill Council expressed displeasure at this decision. Council members said that they would have preferred to have been consulted before the decision was made. Particular disappointment was expressed because the Council had been previously told that they were on the RFOV project list for 2003.

The Council went through the list of 2003 projects presented by Davis and Chris Beebe. The classification of the items is as follows.

1. Complete public process for purposes of considering a Red Hill Trail Master Plan addressing additional access points, a Twin Knobs route, opening Buffy, legitimizing Big Top and other trail loops.
2. Completing cultural, biological, botanical assessments on Buffy, Big Top and Twin Knobs alignment.

Items 1 and 2 are to be topics of future discussion.

3. Completing a 2003 user survey following up on the previous survey and asking additional questions.

Develop the survey for the next meeting with a May/June completion date.

4. Completing trail maintenance & realignments in conjunction with Roaring Fork Outdoor Volunteers and separately.

The Red Hill maintenance project has been taken off the RFOV project list for 2003. The Red Hill Council will establish a project day during April/May. David Hamilton will be asked if he could provide trail construction training for Red Hill Council members.

5. Embarking on a membership program with a goal of enlisting 150 new members.

Nobody has stepped forward to take on this project. Resources are not currently available to develop membership. This topic will be addressed later.

6. Considering developing a "bike patrol" with an IMBA affiliation.

This will be a future topic.

7. Expanding the Red Hill Council to a full 11-member board.

This will be a future topic.

8. Hold an annual public input meeting for general community comments.

It was decided that a survey would be completed before a public meeting is held.

9. Solicit additional grant funding.

This is to be an ongoing priority.

10. Stay aware of and participate in a Red Hill connection under Highway 82 to Carbondale and all Carbondale/CDOT planning associated with the 82/133 intersection.

This is to be a priority for the Council.

11. Complete our 2003 budget.

This topic is to be addressed at the April meeting.

Chris Beebe's List.

Finish projects started in 2002 - North Side signage, parking lot walkway, and Bogus reroute.

This is a high priority for the Council.

Developing and administering a new user survey to be completed by Midsummer.

Addressed in the previous section but this is a high priority.

Maintenance schedule for trails, especially the revegetated area we created last fall.

See comments above regarding trail maintenance.

Address the dog/dirt issue on the County Road.

This project should be completed soon.

The discussion of the budget was tabled until the April meeting and until the Council has a list of projects to address with the budget.

Discussion took place about the trail maintenance project absent participation by RFOV. The Council members decided to this work during April and May when there was enough moisture to allow for good soil compaction in the work areas.

Date and items for the next agenda.

The next meeting will be the regular meeting date of Thursday, April 17, 2003 (the third Thursday of the month as usual). Agenda items are to be: dog pots, the survey, planning the maintenance day(s) in April/May, discussion about the Land and Water Conservation Trust Fund dollars, 2003 budget and a report from David Hamilton about training.