



MEETING MINUTES

Colorado Scenic and Historic Byways Commission

Thursday, October 12, 2017, 1-3 p.m.

Meeting held at **Department of Local Affairs (DOLA)**

Rm. 521, Mountainside Conference Room, 1313 Sherman St, Denver, 80203

Attendance

Commissioners in person:

Amanda Barker, representing land conservation, Secretary

Jack Placchi, representing Bureau of Land Management

Nathan Boyless, representing History Colorado

Amanda Hill, member at large (with Great Outdoors Colorado), Chair

Roger Ben Wilson, representing Western Byways

*Cynthia Nieb, representing President of History Colorado

*Debra Perkins-Smith, representing Director of Department of Transportation

*Gary Thorson, representing Director of Department of Natural Resources

*Andy Hill, temporarily representing vacant seat for Director of Department of Local Affairs

Staff and others attending:

John Hoffman, representing West Elk Loop Byway

Larry Barrett, Scenic Colorado

Commissioners by phone: 1-712-432-0220 (passcode 7579786#)

Charlotte Bumgarner, representing Eastern Byways, Vice-Chair

Jill Lammers, representing Colorado Tourism Office

Daniel Cressy, representing USDA Forest Service

Absent:

Kathy Hall, representing Transportation Commission

Margaret Hunt, representing Colorado Creative Industries

Rep. Barbara McLachlan, representing the State Legislature

* *indicates EX-OFFICIO Members, designated through Dept. Executive Directors.*

Upcoming 2017 Meetings:

October 24, full day, Colorado Scenic and Historic Byways Annual Meeting

Two Rivers Convention Center, Grand Junction, CO

2018 Conferences and Events

January 31 – February 2: Saving Places conference (Colorado Preservation, Inc.),
Denver, [registration here](#)

September 20 – 22: Preserving the Historic Road (PTHR) Conference, Fort Collins

TBD: Scenic Byways Annual Meeting – Gov's Tourism Conference?

2018 Byways Commission Meetings

January 25 10:00 am – 12:00pm, Big Horn Room at Colorado Parks and Wildlife (CPW),
6060 Broadway, Denver

April 19 10:00 am – 12:00 pm location TBD

July 19 10:00 am – 12:00 pm location TBD

October 18 10:00 am – 12:00 pm location TBD

Approval of Meeting Minutes

5 minutes

Motion to approve July 2017 commission meeting minutes by Nathan Boyless, seconded by Andy Hill. All in favor, none opposed.

Presentation and Conservation with Colorado Byway – West Elk Loop

30 minutes

John Hoffman presented about the West Elk Loop Byway. He serves as chair of the West Elk Loop byways committee. The byway is 206 miles. The Kebler Pass Aspen Grove (a grove of aspen spanning miles) is along the road and is the largest living organism in Colorado and one of the largest in the world. The USFS gave the charter for the byway. The byway just got their 501(c)3 status.

Hoffman talked though challenges like gaining approval for a new interpretive site with CDOT and talked through strengths oversight of the byway. The group rotates meetings around the byway to increase participation, 15 people average but lots of rotation. Hoffman targeted outreach to Federal agencies, historic societies, and schools to get information and interested participants. Dorothy O’Fara is the co-chair and a dynamic champion for the byway and involved from the start.

West Elk Loop byway is working with Pitkin County OST to promote the new trail – pedestrian, bike, and equestrian. This is part of the Governor’s “16 in 16” initiative: \$100,000 to do the plan and \$50,000 study to define the public access and to keep the trail on public lands.

The byway is connected with chambers of commerce who want education on the byway and not be a commercial endeavor. The Crested Butte Chamber of Commerce has an offer to further support the byway. Corridor management plan is being revised now, including adding in all the URLs.

Commissioner Outreach to Individual Byways: Check-In

15 minutes

Unawep Tagawache Byway: Amanda Hill spoke with Chris Miller. The byway turned over management to Nucla-Naturita Area Chamber of Commerce. There is now new energy to reinvigorate this byway.

Lariat Loop held a summit of byways to have an expo to highlight the byways at some point during 2018. 8 byways attended. A representative from this group will share their outcomes and next steps at the upcoming annual byways meeting.

Annual Meeting: an open discussion on topics with problems/solutions will be worked into the agenda.

Funding Model for Byways Program

45 minutes

The funding and structure working committee described updates and notes and feedback on next steps were included in Google Drive shared document for commissioners. Next steps include

further committee meetings and conversations with individual department heads and decision-makers.

2018 Schedule and Elections

5 minutes

Byways commission meetings will be held the 4th Thursday in January, April, July, and October in the morning 10a-12p. Specific dates are January 25, April 19, July 19, and October 18.

Elections for commission chair, vice-chair, and secretary will be held at the January 25 commission meeting. Let Amanda Hill, Charlotte Bumgarner, or Amanda Barker know if you have interest in taking on one of these roles for 2018.

Commission Open Floor for shared updates

20 minutes

Jill Corbin is coordinating a grant proposal from the Colorado Tourism Office to the State Historical Fund to create a new website system of pages, content, and resource for the Colorado byways program. This will be corollary to Visit Maryland's byways website that can be explored here: visitmaryland.org/scenic-byways

Larry Barrett with Scenic Colorado attended the meeting as a member of the public. He's excited about roadside advertising, particularly against LED light. He has concerns for the country and what's next for the byways program, but was encouraged by the discourse during the meeting.

ADJORN:

The Colorado Scenic and Historic Byways Commission adjourned at 3:02 p.m. on October 12, 2017.