

Denver Group Council Minutes
Sept 10, 2014

In Attendance: Jeff Flax, Dave Hutchison, Sandy McRae, Alex Petre, Roger Wendell, Kevin Schaal,
Absent: Valerie Walker, Neil Schliemann. **Guests:** Scott Robson, Ray Shem, Claude Neumann,
Grover Cleveland.

1. **Call to Order:** Jeff called the meeting to order at 6:35 pm.
2. **Introduction of Scott Robson, new CEO of the Colorado Mountain Club:** Scott Robson, new CEO of CMC was introduced. Scott greeted each councilor, handed us his business card and offered we should contact him any time we needed.
3. **Resignation of CMC bookkeeper:** It was communicated to council that State's bookkeeper had recently resigned. We thank her for her excellent work. A search is under way to find her replacement.
4. **Denver Group Conservation Report:** Claude Neumann, Chair of Denver Group Conservation Committee gave a very comprehensive report on the group's activity regarding the Rampart Range Roadless Area. His complete report is attached to the meeting minutes.
5. **Approval of the August Meeting Minutes:** Council unanimously approved of the August meeting minutes.
6. **Financial Report:** No finance report was given. Jeff reported there had been no final decision reached regarding DGC's proposal to reduce State Fees For Service as was described in earlier meeting minutes. However, it was confirmed that DG would not be charged for expenses associated with holding Trip Leader Meeting Nights, WFA School, or Leadership School as they are significant contributors to the overall wellbeing of the Denver Group.
7. **Hiker Classification Changes:** Dave moved, "Effective 1/1/15, any CMC Denver Group member may sign up for any open hike listed in the CMC Trip Calendar". The motion was seconded and passed unanimously. Discussion followed:
 - Following passage of the motion, council decided that an explanatory comment should be added to the motion and that the content of the explanatory comment would be drafted by Dave.
 - The motion was amended to include the addition of the explanatory comment. The amended motion was seconded and passed unanimously. It was agreed that DGC would vote to approve or reject the motion by e-mail after the final draft was prepared.
 - Council was reminded that all stakeholders with any voice in changing this policy, i.e., trip leaders, DS&L, DG Schools, had been polled for input and none of them voiced major concerns or gave negative feedback regarding this change in policy.

- It was reiterated that it is the trip leader's responsibility to screen members signing up for trips to insure that each participant has the necessary skill set and is competent to safely complete the trip.
- This policy change will be communicated via Leader Newsletters, e-mails to all DG members, presented and discussed in New Member Orientation meetings, and published in an upcoming issue of the Mile High Mountaineer.
- DS&L will be given the responsibility to conduct the necessary training.
- It was reiterated that at present, members must have a C hiker classification to sign up for a C hike, or a D hiker classification to sign up for a D hike without first contacting the hike leader. The proposal policy change would do away with this restriction, however the hiker classification system would continue to exist and function without change, and other policies related to the hiker classification system would continue as well.

8. **Long Difficult C Hike Classification:** The issue is as follows; C-hike leader may want to lead D trips but aren't allowed, due to not having D hiker ratings. Having a Long Difficult C hike classification (LDC) would solve this problem. A hike greater than 15 miles in length and having an elevation gain of greater than 3500 feet would be described as an LDC. LDC hikes would be limited to Class 1, 2, or 3 hikes. No Class 4 or 5 hikes would be allowed to fall into this category. The Yosemite Decimal System for classifying hikes gives the following description of each hike class:

- Class 1: Walking with a low chance of injury.
- Class 2: Simple scrambling with the possibility of occasional use of the hands. Little potential danger is encountered.
- Class 3: Scrambling with increased exposure. Handholds are necessary. A rope can be carried but is usually not required. Falls are not always fatal.
- Class 4: Simple climbing, with exposure. A rope is often used. Natural protection can be easily found. Falls may well be fatal.
- Class 5: Technical free climbing involving rope, belaying, and other protection hardware for safety. Un-rope falls can result in severe injury or death

Additional discussion followed.

- Would WFA be a requirement for LDC hike participants?
- Council decided that any first aid certification issued must have a wilderness component to it. The DGC Classification form was changed to show this requirement.
- Since this is a Leader issue, not a member issue, should council get input from Trip Leader School?
- Should certain specific BMS class modules be required as qualifications to participate in an LDC trip? Should the question be referred to DS&L for their input?

Following the above discussion, it was moved and unanimously passed that DGC implement a new hike classification called Long Difficult C.

9. **Denver Group Mission Statement:** A mission statement was written and a proposal was made to adopt the following Mission Statement for the Denver Group: *"To promote safe recreational access to the mountains and natural areas of Colorado and elsewhere through outdoor-oriented schools and member-organized activities"*.

- Council unanimously approved the mission statement as written above.
10. **Complimentary Leader Memberships:** DGC bylaws allow Council to award up to five complimentary membership for deserving leaders. DS&L wants to award 3 such memberships for individuals (names not mentioned at Council meeting).
 - Council unanimously approved.
 - Subsequent to the September meeting, Linda Lawson e-mailed council members with a note of thanks.
 11. **Annual Dinner:** The Annual Dinner is once again scheduled to be held at the Green Center on the campus of the Colorado School of Mines in Golden. It is scheduled for Sunday November 9th with the Social Hour beginning at 5:00 PM. The Annual Dinner Committee feels we have an excellent speaker lined up for the program and all councilors were encouraged to attend. Following customary practice, the Volunteer of Year has been selected but cannot be announced at this time.
 12. **Nominating committee Report:** Since the August meeting, no other candidates were identified to run for election. Thus the ballot is complete with the three candidates previously named, Brian LeBlanc, Linda DuPuis, and Maddie Philley. However since there are four vacancies to be filled, council will be one member short of a full council. Voting will run from Oct 1 to Oct 31, either electronically on line or by paper ballots that would be mailed in to the office.
 - Following the above discussion, Grover Cleveland expressed his interest in running for council, and council gave its approval. Grover could be appointed for a one-year term to serve on the 2015 council. He could then run for election in November, 2015 for a three year term beginning in 2016.
 - Appointing Grover to serve on the 2105 council would have to be done in the November council meeting with the newly elected councilors members in attendance.
 13. **October Snacks:** Kevin to bring snacks for the Oct 8th meeting.
 14. **Adjournment:** Meeting was adjourned at 8:40 PM

Respectfully submitted,
Kevin Schaal
10/06/14

Attachments: Denver Group Conservation Report presented by Claude Neumann

Denver Group Conservation Report – For Council Meeting Sept. 10, 2014

Claude Neumann, chair

Summary – I will talk briefly Wednesday night about the Denver Group Conservation Committee's main focus the past year - the joint Denver Conservation – Pikes Peak Conservation Task Force on the Rampart Range Roadless Area. That project was started by myself and Phil Kummer (currently co-chair of the Task Force along with Tom Mowle of Pikes Peak Conservation). The project is on-going with the primary goal of securing permanent protection for a special and scenic 35,000 acre Federally designated Roadless Area southwest of Denver area threatened by motorized travel, and other threats.

Also, as chair of Denver Conservation, I am a member of CMC's Advisory Committee on Conservation (Heather MacSarrow, Conservation Director) to help me stay up to date on what CMC Conservation is doing and to represent the Denver group. We have had several meetings of the Council in the past year regarding conservation issues and projects of the club. I also represent Denver Conservation at several other functions and when on outings including field restoration work in areas of conservation concern. I also represent CMC Conservation as a board member of the group "Wild Connections" which focuses on the Pike San Isabel Nat. Forest – a primary activity area of the Denver group. In that capacity, I was an organizer of a restoration project with the Forest Service last fall at Geneva Creek on Guanella Pass.

RERA Project (Rampart East Roadless Area) – Approximately \$700 of Denver Conservation Budget in the past year went towards this project as we are increasingly looking at raising funds. This year was our most active yet thanks to Phil and Tom and a very dedicated group of volunteers.

Public Meeting - In May we held our first public presentation of the project in the Palmer Lake Town Hall attended by about 100 people. Though the meeting was heavily populated by anti-conservation motorized users, we were able to present our proposal for protection and glean some valuable knowledge for future meetings.

The Bio-Blitz - On a weekend in June, we held a very successful and inspiring "BioBlitz" of the area organized by Karl Ford, a CMC member and biologist. The weekend consisted of a campout with about 15 biological hikes into the area each led by a CMC leader and a scientist. Each hike specialized in an area such as wildlife, spotted owls, forestry, botany, etc. It was an impressive collection of knowledgeable people and science-minded CMC hikers with great fireside de-briefings. The weekend also engaged numerous Forest Service Employees.

Public Relations – CMC's name and goal of protection of the area has become rather public recently. Over the period we have gotten involved in responding to or monitoring various social media and the

press to help provide facts about the project and correct falsehoods, as we are dealing with a controversial area.

New Access Trail – Tom Mowle organized and implemented for the project a new five- eighth's mile access trail into the south end of the area from Palmer Lake. This will significantly improve proper entry into the current informal trail system. The project is being completed this summer and involved over 75 volunteers over multiple work days.

Meetings With the Forest Service & Stakeholders – We have met Forest Service personnel from the Pikes Peak and South Platte Ranger Districts – the two districts that cover this area. This is critical to communicate our project and concerns and receive their feedback. We have also met officials of the Perry Park Homeowners – a large development flanking the eastern border, as well as some user groups.

Upcoming Hike For the Board and Summit Society – On Sept 28, myself and Steve Bonowski will lead a special hike to showcase the area to Board members and the Summit Society.

Map and Display Information – A significant amount of our limited budget went to the generation of large display maps and specialized information for public meetings and presentations.

Volunteers – Though we are always seeking volunteers for conservation work, they don't come by easily. The RERA project is the most successful way to engage people because it reflects the passion people have for preservation of our increasingly stressed public lands – our "playgrounds".