

# Conservation Committee Minutes—March 2, 2016 – DRAFT 1

**Attendees:** Jim Daniel, Mark Young, Tom Bredenberg, Jerry Gulseth, Tom Brimacombe, Tom Bredenberg, John Parker, Greg Colello (Board liaison), Bob Sandlin (prospective Committee member). It was determined that a quorum was established.

1. **Guests:** Jan Willem Jansens (Ecotone).
2. **February minutes:** The minutes were reviewed. Tom Bredenberg moved to accept, Jerry Gulseth seconded. All approved the minutes.
3. **Ecotone Work Schedule:** The Committee discussed the proposed work schedule with Jan Willem Jansens to both prioritize the project that were budgeted out for 2016 and to start to come up with some specific dates for both field visits and actual work days. The results were as follows:
  - The 1<sup>st</sup> field visit was planned for Wed. April 20<sup>th</sup> at 9 AM and we will meet at Trailhead 3. On this date we will look at the work required on the 203 reroute and 201 head cut.
  - The next schedule field visit was scheduled for April 27<sup>th</sup> at 9AM at Trailhead 1 to review the feasibility of the 101 to 105 connector and the head cut on the trail 105
  - It was also determined that the 401 trail would be the 3<sup>rd</sup> priority for 2016 and the 301 trail projects would be the 4<sup>th</sup> priority for 2016.

Also discussed were some initial dates for actual work days and what has been set aside are the following dates so far:

-May 21<sup>st</sup>, Saturday  
-June 18<sup>th</sup>, Saturday

These dates will be finalized at the next meeting or upcoming field visits.

3. **Update of Ad Hoc Committee—Best Landscaping Practices:** Jerry reported that he had met with the Architecture Committee on this project and while they want to be kept in the loop on its progress, they did not have any particular need to have a member of their Committee be involved with this project. The Committee felt that if Jan Willem's expertise was needed in this publication that it would be ok for him to get involved, but likely there was enough expertise on the Ad Hoc Committee to put together a professional publication. Jerry pointed out that it would be advantageous to make this document more of a web based document so that it was immediately available to residents and could be more easily updated. Mark asked that it be done in a word of pdf doc so that it could be easily be printed off for residents and put into welcome packets. Jerry will report back to the committee at the next meeting.

4. **Status of Greenbelt work between the Library and the Rail trail:** Jim reported that there is still no work being done on the Library trail and that the County had recently put out the next and last section of the Rail trail to bid.

5. **Update on PNM Easement:** the agreement was finished and sent to Brenda. Mark reported that she is working with PNM to get their approval.

6. **Discussion of Greenbelt trail standards drafted by John:** John pointed out that he is still a strong advocate for the finalization of the trail standards as well as a separate SOP. He feels that we should articulate how the trails should be, the process that we go through to achieve that, and to seek to get the Board's approval. There was again a lively discussion about what the initial "maintenance" should consist of and Greg is still an advocate for at least the

mowing of certain Greenbelt areas to make them at least “passable”. After extensive discussion on the proper approach to take, Jim volunteered to walk the greenbelts and produce a report that shows the condition of various greenbelts so that we know which ones need the most attention. John Parker pointed out that former Committee member, Cliff Chetwin, had done a Greenbelt field study and report and Mark is going to look for this document and copy all on his findings. Hopefully at the next meeting we can use Cliff’s report and Jims’ findings to come up with a Greenbelt status report that we can use in planning future maintenance or improvements and supply to the Board. John will also work to complete his Trail Standards and SOP documents for the next meeting.

**7. Proposed projects in addition to those we will do with Jan-Willem:** Due to the fact that we had discussed a lot of these projects with Jan Willem Jansens earlier in the meeting, it was agreed that these various projects will be addressed during our field visits and work days.

- Trail 203: reroute the upper half. Trail 105: install a connector trail from 105 to 1D; Tom has marked a proposed trail with Cairns that would break up the long run of the trail 105 and create a shorter loop.
- Trail 201: there is a large head cut that is creeping toward the trail; a relatively easy fix would be to put deadfall in
- Trail 201: picnic tables—move them to shady spots
- Trail 401: the long descent on the northern side is over 30% and has erosion issues. Perhaps a work party could begin to put in some switchbacks to alleviate the problem.
- Closure of the social trail between 101 and 301 because it would be dangerous if the current erosion progresses.

**8. Survey Greenbelt Access Trailheads:** The committee discussed the proposed trail head experiment at Monte Alto Way. The experiment would be how to best create a trail head in an ECIA trail head easement, when it doesn't already exist and substitute social trails have developed crossing over into private lots or an ECIA trail head has deteriorated. The result of the discussion was that the committee reiterated that they had previously officially deferred the Monte Alto Way trail head experiment over to the GM, the staff, and Greg Colello and his neighbors. This was due to the fact that they were just waiting for us to set a date and inform them, so they could oversee construction. Greg further pointed out that what was “probably” needed for this experiment was the use of the ECIA Kubota to do some scrapping and adding some gravel, as well as the placement of already donated stair steps-timbers. He further pointed out that all his neighbors were enthusiastically on-board, and ready to donate volunteer labor to the project.

**9 . Update on COLTPAC Meetings:** John Parker reported that at a recent COLPAC meeting there was discussion about the G.U.S. (Grand Unified Trail System) around the Santa Fe area and that he has been asked to represent Eldorado and the 285 area in this project. John will report back more once he has more information. He also reported that he has now been appointed to a 3year term with this committee.

**10. Status of YTD budget expenditures:** Mark did not have this information but will request this from Brenda.

**11. Other Business:** Tom Bredenberg moved to have the committee recommend prospective Committee member, Bob Sandlin to the Board for their approval. This was seconded by John Parker and passed unanimously.

**12. Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 9:20 PM.**

Next Meeting: April 5<sup>th</sup> 7:00 pm