

ECIA Conservation Committee Zoom Meeting Minutes, August 2, 2022  
7 - 9 pm

1. Call to Order by Chair, Paul Butt at 7:01 p.m.
2. Attendees
  - Roll call of members and determination of quorum:  
Carol Beidleman          Thom Bredenberg          Tom Brimacombe  
Paul Butt                  John Parker  
  
Quorum status: Quorum established  
Note: Susan Will tendered her resignation from the Conservation Committee; we thank her for her contributions. Carol B. requested and was granted an excused absence for September.
  - Liaisons:  
Jonathan Turkle (Board Liaison)  
Mike Rogers (HOAMCO Liaison)
  - Meeting Assistance:  
Jocelyn Rizo (HOAMCO Staff)
  - Guests: Eduardo Krasilovsky. Eduardo has lived in Eldorado since 2005 and has walked almost every trail in the Preserve and Greenbelts. He feels we have maintained the Preserve very well, but we need to pay more attention to and invest in assessing the status of the Greenbelts which have deteriorated ecologically and that there should be a restoration plan. He expressed concern over residents mowing their lots close to the ground and weeds on lots. Paul said this Committee has published on mowing and made recommendations to the Board, but we don't have authority over what owners do on their lots.
3. Appointment of recording secretary: Carol Beidleman  
For September meeting: John Parker
4. Approval of Agenda: Motion by: Thom Bredenberg; 2<sup>nd</sup> by: John Parker  
Vote: Motion passed unanimously
5. Announcements:  
Meeting is live and streamed on ZOOM with the following rules:
  - Guests are muted until recognized.
  - Guests should type in name and full address. If you wish to speak during the OPEN FORUM, please state your topic. Residents will be recognized on a first come, first served basis. Guests are limited to three minutes of discussion. For longer discussions, guests must notify the Committee Chair no later than seven days in advance of the Committee meeting, and the item will be placed on the agenda.
  - Private messaging during the meeting is disabled.

An audio recording of the Zoom meeting will be made, and will be available after the meeting upon request to [conservationchair@gmail.com](mailto:conservationchair@gmail.com)

6. Approval of July Minutes: Motion as amended by: Carol Beidleman; 2nd by: John Parker  
Vote: Motion passed unanimously
7. Board Liaison Report by Jonathan Turkle:
  - Coexisting With Wildlife presentations, Saturday 8/27: Thom shared PowerPoint he will have a table for Conservation Committee, along with volunteer sign-up sheets. Carol B. provided ecological information to Joe Newman to supplement his presentation.
  - Working with Amelia Adair to create a volunteer retention/recruitment plan.
  - In contact with community re GIS taskforce, more members are welcome.
  - Meeting with GIS provider and survey consultant re action plan.
  - Continuing dialog with County re sharing data.
  - Will map and catalog trees.
8. HOAMCO Report by Mike Rogers:
  - Regarding cleanup of properties, a roll-off is available for residents to leave tumbleweeds only through August; they can bring in bags or however. Long-sleeved shirt, hoe, gloves are recommended for gathering.
    - Paul noticed a heavy infestation of tumbleweeds at TH4, so boots are likely bringing in seeds. He asked HOAMCO maintenance to go there on 8/9/22 and spend a couple hours to pull these near the trailhead. He'll send an email with the particulars. He and Mike will meet at the barn at 8, then at the trailhead at 8:30. It will be an experiment to determine how effecting pulling is. Carol B. mentioned lots of kochia and Russian thistle along 201/203; there's been a monsoonal flush, so we need to monitor weeds on all trails.
9. Project status updates:
  - Status of Greenbelt boundary marker survey (Paul Butt): HOAMCO did their part, and Paul will try to have bid package ready by 8/15 (needs to talk to surveyors). He sent them a list of other areas of concern including Greenbelt access points, but no feedback; these include Pueblo Canyon Park, Herrada, Camerada, and near Los Alamos Park.
  - Update, Tr 301-302 meadow erosion control/habitat restoration project: On 7/22/22 three Committee members and 4 volunteers went to the 302 meadow and gathered down trees/branches, staged them along the margins of meadow, and started gathering rock. Need to do one more rock-only day. It was an outstanding effort.
  - Update, Tr 201 and Tr 301 "1<sup>st</sup> mile" maintenance projects: Paul met with HOAMCO there on 7/19/22 and moved rock from the 401 dam site up to TH2 (201/202). We're taking another look at the 201 first-mile maintenance to determine how we can use mechanized support for that erosion area Carol B. reported. We will get crushed rock and armor this tread, to drain to the side and stabilize. There's another area we need to armor and get rock into; it's in the shade and is a mud bog. At TH3, an area used for rancher access, we can drive up the arroyo to get to an area that needs work. We went to Tr 301 with a crew of Committee members and volunteers and

worked on first third of a mile; we smoothed out the tread where the water bars are and rebuilt erosion control structure. Carol B. congratulated Paul on the first-mile maintenance approach.

- Update, Tr 201 graffiti removal project (Thom Bredenberg): Thom reported that on 7/12/22 the graffiti removal was done on the “cupcakes/pastry shop” rocks off 201 ¼ mile east of the 201/203 junction. The Committee became aware of vandalism there last November, with graffiti sprayed on four panels including a frog, an obscenity, and a yin-yang heart that was visible from the trail. We went in with the mule, with the objective to use a gas-driven pressure washer (3,400 psi), pump, rain barrels, and removal chemicals including Taginator (this worked better, but should not spray in confined spaces as needs good air circulation) and Elephant Snot (on ghost boulder; smeared on as paste). The effort did not destroy the patina on the rock. The green blob was the worst one and will require more attention; will monitor first, no equestrian assist needed, just two backpack sprayers and Taginator. Thom said the mule worked great, and they dug a drain for the dissolved paint and water. There was less evidence of the mule going through there than from horses. We need e-blast any time the mule is going out, though, to explain what is being done (received resident complaint, but response was good and resident changed mind). We don’t want to advertise it to avoid copycats. Carol B. checked the area this morning and congratulated all on the good effort, and John gave kudos to HOAMCO too. Paul will organize photos for Google drive as repository.
- Fuels Reduction in Greenbelts (Susan Will): Tabled for Open Forum.
- Update, new and replacement signage for Trail 200 series trails: Tom Brimacombe has the signs ready, the trail junction signs 2A-2E and wayfinder direction signs; he held off on the big trailhead signs for TH2&3 pending changing regulations. Paul asked him to wait until later in the month to see what action the Board takes re the regulations. Tom will send Paul a drop-box link.

10. New Business:

- Workday dates for August & September:
  - Mechanized maintenance, Tr 201, scouting/feasibility (1<sup>st</sup> mile project): Set for 8/26/22, Committee members only; John will help.
  - Tr 301-302 meadow project: For gathering materials. Paul will contact Jan-Willem to pick a Friday and will help with material staging, then set a couple more dates in September. Tentatively set for 9/9/22 (to 302), continue gathering materials and staging; Paul will do eBlast and call for volunteers.
  - Tr 301 1<sup>st</sup> mile project: Community volunteers preferred Fridays (John concurred).
  - Educational hike/presentation, possibly TR 401 to the 401S damsite or Tr 404 meadow (volunteer recruitment): John wouldn’t make this a priority.
  - Fuels Reduction in Greenbelts: Tabled given Susan’s resignation.
  - Tr 201 graffiti removal, stubborn spots follow-up: Wait until spring to see if snow/rain/frost/wind assists in removing remaining paint.

11. Old Business:

- Formalization and update of Preserve Regulations policy (community input process completed)
  - Paul shared Carol’s summarized compilation of resident comments sent to Jonathan T. and feels the draft language we submitted to the Board is sufficient. We don’t want it to

be longer than necessary. Don't think the "no enforcement" concern is valid; this is an expression of a social contract within our community, we're asking to self-regulate.

- Paul suggested we add a line to the existing rule on pets: "Dog owners are strongly encouraged to keep their dogs leashed at all times in the Preserve. The Eldorado Dog Park is a place for dogs to run off-leash with greater safety to both people and animals."
- Jonathan T shared that Carol S. said we could make a decision based on these regulations as is.
- There was discussion about the decision/criteria re closing the Preserve. John said it was not just about fire, but could be because of mud or flooding; he felt we shouldn't key our decision to the County as their situation is very different than the Preserve and Paul agreed. Jonathan T. explained that the concern he heard from fire folks was if there are people in Preserve they have to worry about getting people out, and asked us if there is any circumstance that would be a trigger. Paul explained these are use regulations (not management decisions). Thom said every year we see something different and trying to predict under what conditions we would close the Preserve would be aiming at moving target; Carol B. agreed.
- Paul proposed that we agree by consensus to consider this as a management policy for closure, to see if it's feasible to outline the parameters, but that we should consider a motion now to recommend the Board adopt the updated regs as provided to them previously, but with the addendum he proposed strongly encouraging leashing. We have read and considered community input. Jonathan T. said the most difficult issue HOAs face is dogs off leash.
- Mike was concerned about too much wording on the sign and Jonathan T. concurred we need to have an abbreviated version for sign. Paul said we need to recommend adoption of the policy, then can consider what goes on signage and brochures (and website).
- Motion by Thom Bredenberg to adopt existing regulations with Paul's addendum re leashing. Second by Carol Beidleman. Vote: Motion passed unanimously.
- Paul will take the final motion (with addendum) and send it for Board consideration tomorrow. He will also provide guidelines for closure, the main parameters for consideration include having eyes on in the Preserve and public safety.
- Committee administration (SOP, tools such as Google Platform)
  - Thom asked previously if we can get someone from HOAMCO who can help with administrative/clerical support; Mike said Paul should ask Julie for help.
  - Workload: Paul has done an analysis of his time spent preparing for and attending monthly meetings, and it's not very much; most of his time was project based. He encourages Committee members to embrace projects near and dear to their hearts and run with them. Re attendance of Board meetings by the Chair, that is voluntary, and Paul wants to leave this to the Chair's discretion; Thom feels it is part of the job duties. Paul will try to begin writing a brief SOP for the Chair's role and responsibilities.
  - Google Platform: We won't resolve issues tonight. Where we need to share, it's a great platform, but it requires an ECIA email address. He proposes that where we need to review, update and comment, we should use the same process as in the past, except if everyone needs to schedule. Thom has the ECIA email address and thinks it is a convenient way of doing things, but he wants HOAMCO takes more responsibility to

train us on this platform. John has signed up, but is using private email; Tom and Carol have not yet signed up for an ECIA email address. We all need to mask up and get together with our laptops and ECIA. Jonathan T. said the Stable Committee has volunteered to work some of these issues out.

12. Open Forum:

- Guest Eduardo Krasilovsky: He expressed that we work well together as a Committee, but we need to be open to the needs of the people on the outside. An example of what he wanted to bring up was that he felt every dog should be on a leash as they can attack someone. He's also concerned about global warming and weeds, what kind of conservation are we talking about, and who will look at the changes that are occurring and reorganize so people will want to participate. Paul reiterated the Open Forum rules read at the beginning of the meeting, and asked that if Eduardo has a specific item to discuss he request per the established process to have it added to the agenda.

13. Motion to adjourn:      Motion by: Thom Bredenberg; 2<sup>nd</sup> by: John Parker  
Vote: Motion passed unanimously.  
Adjournment time:      9:03p.m.