

Please note that this meeting summary was partially generated using AI transcription technology and has been reviewed by the designated minute taker for accuracy and completeness.

I) CALL TO ORDER

Nikki LaRochelle called the March 16, 2026, regular meeting of BOSAC to order at 5:30 pm. Other members of BOSAC present were David Rossi, Krysten Joyce, Matt Powers, Chris Tennal, Bobbie Zanca, and Town Council liaison Jay Beckerman. Staff members present were Chris Kulick, Keely Ambrose, Alex Stach, Duke Barlow, and Tony Overlock. Katherine King from Summit County Open Space was also present. Jess Doran and Dave Sutherland from EcoWorks were present. Members of the public present: Matt Dayton, Gene Dayton, Therese Dayton, and Evan Hrevus. Members of the public that were present virtually: Alex Lindquist, Greg Ruckman, Sarah Watson, and Craig Cummins.

II) APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mr. Powers noted that his use of the term "optics" during the February meeting referred specifically to the aesthetic improvement of permanent structures over portable toilets, rather than an endorsement of the project's necessity or location.

The minutes were approved as presented.

III) PUBLIC COMMENTS

N/A

IV) STAFF SUMMARY

- A. Field Season Update**
- B. Seasonal Hiring Update**
- C. McCain Construction Designs**
- D. BreckCreate**
- E. USFS Frisco Projects**
- F. Golden Horseshoe Oversight Committee**
- G. BOSAC Vacancies**

V) OPEN SPACE DISCUSSION

2025 CGP Monitoring Summary (0:05:37)

Jessica Doran and Dave Sutherland from EcoWorks presented their annual monitoring findings, reporting that the Cucumber Gulch wetlands remain stable with no new environmental stressors identified. Vegetation monitoring continues to focus on the re-establishment of transects to track long-term conditions, including specific oversight of areas adjacent to the NutraFix pilot plots for invasive reed canary grass control in the Upper Gulch. While 2024 saw historically low beaver activity, 2025 surveys indicate a positive upward trend in Lower Cucumber Gulch, including the confirmation of an active lodge and a nursing female.

Following the annual report, Ms. Doran and Mr. Sutherland presented a Beaver Habitat Connectivity Study. This 50-year longitudinal study (1975–2024) identified high-functioning waterways in the Blue River corridor—including the Swan River and Upper Cucumber Creek—while noting the continued isolation of waterways like South Barton Creek due to historical mining impacts. Despite stable habitat availability, Ms. Doran highlighted a long-term population decline in certain areas likely tied to habitat fragmentation and the 2015 tularemia outbreak. The Commission engaged in an extensive dialogue regarding restoration and conflict management, focusing on infrastructure improvements to reconnect movement corridors, the technical challenges of beaver relocation, and the importance of inter-agency collaboration with the U.S. Forest Service and private landowners to encourage the return of beaver populations to the region.

OPDMD (0:45:33)

The Commission held an extensive discussion regarding a proposed policy update for electric and adaptive mountain bike (eMTB & aMTB) usage on non-motorized trails, focusing on the balance between preserving user experience and meeting federal ADA requirements. The proposal seeks to pre-authorize adaptive mountain bikes while maintaining a general prohibition on Class 1 and 2 e-bikes, except in cases where they serve as a necessary mobility aid for individuals with disabilities. Town Attorney Keely Ambrose was present and clarified that under the ADA, the Town must provide reasonable accommodations and perform individualized assessments, as a blanket ban on e-bikes for disabled users could be legally indefensible if the use does not fundamentally alter the nature of the trail experience.

Significant debate occurred regarding the practical implementation of these mandates, with some members expressing concerns over potential system abuse and the Town's limited capacity for active trail enforcement. Conversely, other members highlighted that requiring direct staff contact for every request could create a discriminatory burden for those seeking access. The group considered the potential for third-party studies to establish baseline data on trail degradation; however, it was noted that current research remains inconclusive, with conflicting evidence regarding the specific impacts of motorized versus non-motorized use. The dialogue also touched on the high cost and low availability of adaptive equipment, easing concerns that adaptive mountain bikes are used by those without disabilities. The Commission ultimately reached a consensus to move forward with a structured pre-authorization and registration system. This process will include a helpful flowchart and will require e-bike users to provide an attestation of disability. To support this, staff plan to develop a dedicated accessibility page on its open space website to host the registration process and provide trail-specific suitability information. This information will also be added

to the already existing “Accessible Breck” page on the Town’s website. Finally, BOSAC recommended that staff not broadcast the process for non-disabled users to gain approval for e-bike use on non-motorized trails. These instances are likely to be rare, and any member of the public is always entitled to request accommodation.

Staff will continue to coordinate with Summit County to ensure policy alignment across jointly managed properties, and the final policy will be presented to the Town Council following further feedback from the Breckenridge Social Equity Advisory Commission.

Wildlife Camera Monitoring Report (2:01:11)

Staff presented the 2025 Wildlife Camera Monitoring Report, which provided insight on species abundance and biodiversity richness across Town and jointly owned Open Space properties in the Upper Blue drainage. Findings help confirm that the Cucumber Gulch Preserve functions as a high biodiversity sanctuary, documenting 16 species—including black bears and pine martens—within a pristine environment. Strategic monitoring across 10 cameras revealed that ungulates, primarily moose and mule deer, account for 80% of detections and utilize the area for extended foraging and "nursery" activities rather than simple transit. Key findings within the preserve include confirmed beaver activity at Josie’s Cabin, and the identification of a consistent ungulate habitat for bedding and rearing young.

Beyond the preserve, monitoring at McCain Open Space, Four Mile, and Barton Gulch has provided critical baseline data for future trail planning and habitat management. At McCain, a mountain lion and black bear were documented within the same 24-hour window, highlighting its role as a predator corridor. Conversely, at Four Mile Bridge, a pattern of "deflections" was observed where animals approach but ultimately avoid the underpass, possibly due to human-induced stressors. In the Golden Horseshoe, multi-year data from Rock Island Road showed a downward trend in biodiversity, while Lincoln Park recorded illegal winter motorized use. Staff recently installed signs to discourage this trend and will use the camera for continued monitoring.

Collectively, these findings reinforce the success of seasonal closures in protecting sensitive habitats and highlight the value of multi-year datasets for trend analysis. Staff intend to build on this report, providing a similar update to a growing dataset annually, and emphasized that future expansion of the program into river restoration areas will be essential for evaluating long-term habitat connectivity.

BOSAC appreciated the report and inquired about the potential expansion of the wildlife camera monitoring network and sought staff’s input on prospective study locations. Staff indicated that several sites are currently being considered, noting that continued flexibility is needed in accounting for future trail developments and parcel acquisitions.

VI) OTHER MATTERS RELATED TO OPEN SPACE TOPICS

Mr. Barlow presented copies of a new book on the Colorado Trail by Peter Grosshuesch, which the author graciously provided for distribution to the Commission.

Mr. Barlow presented an update on the Reiling Punt preservation project, noting that Breck History has proposed a protective lean-to shelter for the approximately 15-foot vessel. The structure is intended to be low impact, with a footprint designed specifically to cover the boat, and much smaller than the Keystone Drill shelter. Ms. King discussed the logistical details of the project, including the necessity of a building permit and the minimal clearance planned for the structure to discourage unintended use. Staff emphasized that the project would remain tucked into the timber west of the dredge and would be paired with an all-persons trail and interpretive signage to improve site accessibility. The Commission expressed support for the additional structure.

Ms. Joyce sought clarification on the timeline for the Barton Connector and Aspen Alley projects. Staff confirmed that these are currently listed on the U.S. Forest Service (USFS) Work Plan for 2026 but not finalized on the Town's immediate construction schedule. Mr. Barlow explained that while the USFS hopes to review these projects this year, they are currently categorized as "Tier 2" priorities. If the federal review is completed in time, there is a possibility for construction in late summer or fall of 2026 and the Town is maintaining placeholders for these projects until formal USFS approval is granted.

VII) COUNCIL MATTERS RELATED TO OPEN SPACE TOPICS

N/A

VIII) EXECUTIVE SESSION

Ms. LaRochelle moved that BOSAC go into executive session under C.R.S. § 24-6-402(4) for the purpose of determining positions relative to matters that may be subject to negotiations, developing strategies for negotiations, and/or instructing negotiators concerning a property that the Town may be interested in acquiring for open space purposes. Mr. Powers seconded the motion. BOSAC went into an executive session at 7:59 PM.

The executive session of BOSAC concluded at 8:14 PM. The participants in the executive session were Nikki LaRochelle, Krysten Joyce, Matt Powers, David Rossi, Chris Tennial, Bobbie Zanca, and Council liaison Jay Beckerman. Staff present included Duke Barlow, Alex Stach, Tony Overlock and Chris Kulick. Katherine King from Summit County Open Space & Trails was present.

IX) ADJOURNMENT

Nikki LaRochelle, Chair