



**Rocky Mountain Conservancy  
Board of Directors' Meeting Minutes  
June 9, 2023**

In-Person at Sun Outdoors in Granby, CO

**Board Members:** Brian Ross, Christina Kraft, Walt Borneman, Tim Davis, Zac Wiebe, Rich Fedorchak, Charles Cofas, Claudine Perrault, Katherine Dines

**Staff:** Estee Rivera Murdock, Jess Willuweit, Carlie Bangs, Ian Stafford, Nathan Morrow, Kaci Yoh, Carolyn Carlson, Lisa Oakley

**National Park Service Guests:** Darla Sidles, Superintendent & Kim Swift, Program Lead for Interpretation and Education & Koren Nydick, Program Lead for Resource Management

**Absent:** Howdy Fry, Kim Skyelander, Jim Pickering, Laurie Mathews

Call to Order – 10:30 AM

### **Approval of the Board Meeting Minutes – February 10, 2023**

- Motion – To approve prior meeting minutes
  - **Motion:** Claudine Perrault, Second – Katherine Dines
    - No objections, no abstentions, unanimously approved

### **Board Term Elections**

- Motion – To elect Charles Cofas, Tim Davis and Jim Pickering to the final 3-year term on the Board of Directors effective February 10, 2023
  - **Motion:** Walt Borneman, Second – Rich Fedorchak
    - No objections, 1 abstention – Tim Davis, unanimously approved

### **Review of Q1 2023 Financials:**

- Operations & Finance Committee – **Jess Willuweit** presented on:
  - Q1 2023 Highlights
    - Q1 financials trending positively – exceeding projected numbers
    - Product Revenue \$403K over projection of \$277K
    - Operational net loss of \$252K well above budgeted loss of \$403K
    - Overall consolidated gain of \$573K over projected \$1M loss
    - Total Operations Revenue for Q1 2023 at \$186K over projected \$136K
    - Total net assets of \$23M over \$22M in 2022
    - Sales exceeded expectations for RMNP at \$315K vs budgeted \$237K
    - Grant team doing a phenomenal job, bringing in \$8K in Q1 2023
    - Inventory is at an unprecedented high, totaling almost \$2.5M as of Q1 2023
    - COGS higher than budget due to increased freight in Q1. Will even out throughout the year
    - Looking to move funds around to take advantage of increased interest rates
    - Investments are trending well and continuing to rise - \$13M in Q1 2023, over \$12M in 2022

## Philanthropy Committee Report:

- Philanthropy Committee – **Walt Borneman** presented on:
  - Q1 2023 Highlights
    - 2023 Philanthropy Plan Initiatives on target as projected
    - Total donations for Q1 2023 at \$1M (driven by \$660K KVERC grant) in comparison to a total of \$2.5M in YTD 2022
    - YTD 2023 Philanthropy goal of \$3M – on target to meet this goal
    - Notable gifts to date include National Park Foundation (\$123K and 124K) and Town of Estes Park (\$31K), all to Conservation Corps
    - Philanthropy Director hire process continuing; first round interviews complete. Hired Jenny Eckhardt as Member and Donor Services Associate in March 2023
    - 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Conservation Corps, 85 gifts through May 2023 for \$27K
  - 2023 Upcoming
    - “One and Done” Appeal coming in Q2 2023
    - Follow up with major proposals to foundations from April 27 event
    - Wildlife Conservation Appeal coming in Q3 2023
    - Holiday Gathering, Saturday November 4, 2023
    - Year-end Appeal and Colorado Gives Day

## Investment Committee Report:

- Investment Committee – **Brian Ross** presented on:
  - Concern raised of how much exposure RMC has in investments, with 90% Indexed vs. Actively Managed Funds; should RMC lessen concentration of large investments to lower exposure?
  - Ask vanguard to assist in researching recommendations

## Audit Committee Report:

- Audit Committee – **Tim Davis** presented on:
  - Clean audit – no adjustments or concerns
  - One recommendation offered: Research and implement a better system of tracking inventory warehouse sub-inventories, either within RPRO existing fields or Excel spreadsheet. Scanners and RPro additional location licenses are not a viable option due to cost.

## RMC Staff & Executive Director Reports:

- Administration – **Estee Rivera Murdock** presented on:
  - Hired Connor Brewer, Finance Assistant – he’s a great asset to the team!
- Communications – **Kaci Yoh** presented on:
  - Strong Communications team in place with Anne Morris and Kaci Yoh
  - Implementing Style Guides, Brand Guides and Social Media Templates
  - On target with publishing 2-4 press releases per month
  - Actively booking Speaker Bureaus to spread the word of RMC
  - Updates to RMC website – remodel, formatting, site plan flow, etc.
- Education – **Carlie Bangs and Rick Fedorchak** presented on:
  - Entering the busy season; Instructor onboarding, program marketing and facility equipment logistics
  - Active with Outreach opportunities; tabling events, science to the public, professional networking, book launch and an overall community presence
  - Focus of reimplementation of bus tours, programs, classes and events surrounding Outdoor Education
  - Connecting women to Conservation with Betty courses
  - Engaging kids with Outdoor Explorer Club
  - Beginning to explore a virtual classroom by identifying an online learning platform that supports current programs provided by RMNP
  - Hired a Sessel Family Educational Fellow, Connor Durow, on June 5<sup>th</sup>. Confirmation of a Brown Family Educational Fellow, Amelia Gross to start June 30<sup>th</sup>

- **Rocky Mountain National Park Reports:**

- National Park Superintendent – **Darla Sidles** presented on:
  - Shadow Mountain Fire Lookout Tower
    - ❖ Replacement of non-historic railing system
    - ❖ Structural stabilization of observation deck and exterior stairs
    - ❖ Roofing replacement
    - ❖ Masonry stabilization
    - ❖ Rehabilitation of historic architectural elements – woodwork, framing, plaster and windows
    - ❖ Project anticipated to be 22 weeks
    - ❖ Secure funding in upcoming months/years
    - ❖ Complete MRA
    - ❖ Present project to Bureau Institutional Review Board (BIRB)
  - Parkwide Orientation
    - ❖ June 7<sup>th</sup> park-wide orientation day was a huge success. Over 275 participants. 16 different table/booth set up for participants to visit each and learn about the different areas within RMNP and RMC
  - Fall River Entrance remains open with 2 lanes. Sales remain up at Fall River Visitor Center even with ongoing construction
  - Gary Ingram announced as new RMNP superintendent with Darla's retirement on June 30, 2023
- RMNP Program Lead for Interpretation and Education – **Kim Swift** presented on:
  - Projects with Interns
    - ❖ 2023 Artist In Residence, Mikayla Moors – program extremely successful and looking forward to 2024 season
    - ❖ 2023 Community Science Intern, Jackson Maldonado – primarily working with Cynthia Langguth in AVC
  - Denver Pride Parade – Sunday June 25, 2023
  - 2023 Priority Project: RMNP Accessibility Project Plan/Visitor Guide
    - ❖ Working with Denver Service Center
    - ❖ Switching from park wide assessment and transition plan to an Accessible Visitor Guide
- Program Lead for Resource Management – **Koren Nydick** presented on:
  - Kawuneeche Valley Ecosystem Restoration Collaboration (KVERC project)
    - ❖ Willows dying, vegetation shifting to dry land
    - ❖ Without willows, no beaver. Water table drops, banks erode. Loss of Riparian Ecosystem
    - ❖ Herbivory is the main factor for reducing willow
    - ❖ Beaver are the ecosystem engineers and are slowly coming back to enclosures. Their return buffers drought, floods, and wildfire.
    - ❖ Desired future conditions are improved watershed health by restoring Willow-Beaver Riparian Wetlands

- **Facilities Committee Report:**

- Facilities Committee – **Charles Cofas** presented on:
  - Rocky Terraces Property construction in full swing
    - ❖ As of June 2023, foundations have been poured and framing is up. Estimated that in July, August and September 2023, that all plumbing will be complete, heating, electrical roofing, siding exterior painting, decks, drywall, asphalt paving and stonework will also be completed
    - ❖ On target for a September 2023 initial inspection date and then a final inspection in April 2024
    - ❖ Decision made to hold off on retention pond and culvert across Hwy 66, due to current construction and accessibility needs. Once the phases of construction are complete in October 2023, at the time the asphalt paving is scheduled to be completed, the retention pond and culvert will be added as well
    - ❖ As of May 1, 2023, 16% of total funds have been drawn for Kinley Built construction progress, with an estimated completion projection of 20% at the current time

**End meeting and move into Executive Session**

- Motion – To dismiss all staff and enter into Executive Session
  - **Motion:** Tim Davis, Second – Walt Borneman
    - No objections, no abstentions, unanimously approved

**Meeting Adjourned: 3:42pm**

**Upcoming 2023 Board Meetings:**

October 20, 2023 – Location TBD