

**The Colorado Mountain Club  
Board Meeting Minutes  
April 16, 2005**

**In attendance:**

Officers: Lon Carpenter, Janice Heidel, Gavin Maurer, Jose Vallejo

Board: Colleen Back, Susan Baker, George Christman, Sandy Elliott, Jay Fell, Earl Hughes, Cheryl Katschke, Ed Seely, Wynne Whyman, Alice White and Jeff Parsons

Staff: Kristy Judd, Cathy McGuire

Committees: Steve Bonowski

Others: Nancy Biery, Ed Biery, Randy Hartman (all from the El Pueblo Group), Blake Clark (Denver)

**Study Session:**

Prior to the beginning of the meeting, a video about board responsibilities and governance was shown.

Lon Carpenter asked Executive Director Kristy Judd about current and future fundraising activities. Kristy discussed how some other organizations (like the AMC) conduct their fundraising, and that our fundraising activities roughly mirror those of many other organizations. She also discussed grant writing efforts as well as monies raised through other sources. Efforts are now being focused at the community level.

Other fund raising ideas were discussed by the board, including requiring board members to donate a base amount as part of their ongoing commitment to the CMC. The Mountain Festival was discussed as a primary activity in the fall.

Other comments were to use the web site more actively to raise funds, to work more closely with the CMC Foundation to raise the visibility of the Planned Giving program.

**Official Meeting:**

The board meeting was called to order by President Lon Carpenter at 1:18, with introductions and member comments. Lon thanked Nancy Biery for her support, and especially for hosting this meeting in Pueblo.

Nancy Biery introduced Ed Biery, and discussed ongoing activities with the El Pueblo group. This year there are 22 trips in the schedule, including a trip to Golden in the fall, possibly to coincide with the Mountain Festival.

Lon made some corrections to the board minutes of January 16<sup>th</sup>. Janice Palmer was described as filling a board vacancy, when in fact she became the Vice President. The remaining two years of Janice's term are being filled by Earl Hughes.

Lon amended the statement that the CMC is operating at a loss of \$30,000 per year over the past two years.

**Motion to approve the Minutes of January 16<sup>th</sup>: MSC: Alice/Art**

New additions to the agenda. Steve asked that we place on the agenda a discussion about support of a legal counsel for Wilson Peak lobbying activities (Senate bill 496).

Member comments:

Steve showed a map of the Wilson Peak trail issue centered on a new mining claim that closes access to the previous trail.

Lon asked for comments regarding the impact of the recent dues increase. Discussion followed, with some consensus that it is too early to tell whether the increase has negatively affected membership levels.

President's Report: Lon Carpenter

Since assuming his new position, Lon is very pleased with the commitment of the CMC staff. He also noted a long-term commitment from many members, and encouraged thoughts about how to continue to have this support.

As he's begun his term, Lon is working closely with Kristy and others to determine the right balance of authority between his role and the role of the ED and staff. His plan is to delegate some issues to Kristy, and to streamline processes so that day-to-day decisions can be made easily.

Lon also expressed his appreciation to the board for its commitment, and emphasized the importance of creating more effective communications between the president, board, and committees. He suggested that committees provide reports each month to him, and that the web be used as a communications tool. He also encouraged board participation at the State Council meeting, scheduled for May 14<sup>th</sup>. Lon also challenged the Adventure Travel Committee to provide more regular communications in light of their importance to the Club and its ongoing success.

There are several organizational/process challenges that Lon would like to address. It is important that the Nominating Committee selection process be standardized. Lon also supports more autonomy for the State Council to carry out its role.

Web Committee Report:

The Web site was launched successfully, and continues to add content as it becomes available. The broad consensus is that the new site is a considerable improvement, and the challenge now will be to use the site more extensively for communications and dissemination of information. Sherry Richardson, Committee Chair, requested that the board allocate \$5,000 for the next phase of the web design.

Treasurer's Report: Jose Vallejo

Jose asked that a bylaws change be made to accommodate how groups enter into long-term and/or high-cost agreements. It was agreed that bylaws changes are the most permanent rules that govern the board, and so Jose's request became a motion to change operating policy.

**Motion: All CMC funds must be held in accounts bearing the CMS name and using the CMC's federal identification number: MSC: Wynne Whyman, Susan Baker.**

**Motion: All debt incurred in excess of \$10,000 must be approved by the Board of Directors. This includes long-term leases of buildings or equipment. MSC: Sandy Elliott, Ed Seely.**

**Motion: All contracts signed on behalf of the CMC in excess of \$1,000 or in excess of 3 years must be filed with the CMC Controller. MSC: Ed Seely, Alice White.**

A further motion (Item 3A in the Treasurer's Report) was postponed until the July meeting in favor of improving the wording.

Jose made several observations about the state of the Club's finances. Our cash position is not as healthy as it should be to be able to maintain the Club's current level of activities. This must be addressed by the board to find ways to bring greater long-term stability to support Club activities.

Membership Value Committee: Colleen Back

The purpose of the committee is to gauge member perceptions throughout the Club, and to build value based on member needs. Importantly, long-term value will increase the membership base and will add stability. Art Hogling has reviewed past research, and going forward the committee feels it's important to conduct further research to identify issues and opportunities.

Board Governance Committee: Wynne Whyman

Wynne sent out an email to board members requesting their thoughts about a wide range of governance issues. She then grouped the responses to suggest additional directions for the board governance initiative. She suggested adding a task that asks the Board how they envision themselves.

Lon has acknowledgement from the board that Board governance will continue with their study and task plan presented by Wynne Wyman.

Unity Mission Team: Cheryl Katschke

The team presented a report about activities from January through April, along with results and recommendations. They propose that the committee stay intact for several more months, and will add general membership people to their group. The group consists of Cheryl Katschke, Alice White, Frank Drumm, and Janice Heidel.

Safety and Leadership Committee: Ed Seely

- ☐ The committee recommended that the CMC use the Appalachian Mountain Club leadership book as its guide for establishing leadership standards.
- ☐ An ongoing member complaint from an Adventure Travel trip is near closure. This complaint led to a recommendation to enhance the process to close issues in a timelier manner.
- ☐ The group suggest enhancement of Risk Management pre-assessments and involvement. A handout was presented with recommendations.
- ☐ Ed suggests the Risk Management needs to be integrated across the Club. Steve Bonowski will work with Jeff and Ed Seely as HAMS revamps their Adventure Travel Plan, including a leader evaluation form. The largest numbers of complaints are coming from higher elevation and/or multi-day trips.
- ☐ Ed Seely moved that a satellite phone be purchased by the Club to enable groups in the wilderness to address emergencies. After a discussion about the logistics and practicality of providing one phone, the motion failed.

CMC Press and Publications: Jay Fell

This is a small group (Dave Hite, Jay Fell, Kristy Judd, Alan Stark, and Walt Borneman), meeting bi-weekly. They are now working on developing the CMC Press mission based on some analysis of how this activity should move forward most effectively. Questions about expansion, profitability, resources, and process are being discussed. A report by Tom Beckwith is attached.

Kristy will provide new Board members with publishing tutorials.

Mountain Festival: Kristy Judd

The premise behind the Mountain Festival is to “get the fire back in our belly.” The festival is a great way to highlight the CMC mission, and encourage CMC members to rediscover the Club via a broad array of activities over a 10-day period. Week one will emphasize Mountain Culture, and Week two will feature a Mountain Adventure Expo and a manufacturers’ show. Also featured will be the Art Gala, which is targeted as a major fund-raising activity.

The Steering Committee for the Festival includes Sandy Elliott, David Hite, Sherry Richardson, Judith Oge and Gavin Maurer. The committee requests volunteers to help achieve a big launch on opening night--September 29<sup>th</sup>. Our goal is to have at least 250 attendees at the Art Gala that evening.

Strategic Plan: Lon Carpenter

The planning will begin in July/August, probably using a moderator to facilitate the activity.

Denver's Classification System: Steve Bonowski

This activity is not based on anything statistical, and is ongoing within the Denver group. The group was established in 1947, and since that time sub-groups were formed to address member requests and needs. Steve will continue to inform the Board about the classification system, and believes it may present potential barriers for member sign-up.

Wilson Peak Access: Steve Bonowski

The new mining claim has restricted the standard climbing routes that had been established. Steve and Clare Bastable will visit Telluride to address the Telluride Mountain Club and develop land-uses proposals to present to the owner. Currently they are at an impasse, and feel that they need more volunteer support to get critical mass underneath this initiative. They request legal pro bono support, possibly from Jeff Parsons and Western Mining Action Services.

**Motion: Accept pro bono support from Jeff Parsons and Western Mining Action Services. MSC: Earl Hughes/Baker**

It was also agreed that language will be drafted to update the bylaws/operating procedures to give Vera (Conservation Director) the authority to determine lobbying initiatives.

**Motion: Approve current lobbying efforts. MSC: Jeff Parsons, Alice White**

**Motion to adjourn at 5:30. MSC: Susan Baker/ Wynne Whyman**