

21st Rio Grande Trail Commission Meeting – Minutes

Friday, April 11, 2025 // 9 AM – 12 PM

Truth or Consequences Civic Center - 400 W 4th St, Truth or Consequences, NM 87901

FULL MEETING TRANSCRIPT: [2025 4 14 RGTC Meeting Notes.docx](#)

Commissioners Present:

- Ben Bajema – OFS Senior Advisor, EMNRD (Chair)
- Karina Armijo – Outdoor Recreations Division Director, EDD
- Shannon Glendenning – Urban & Regional Planner, DOT
- Holly Kelley – Tourism Development Director, TD
- Dan Carter – Continental Divide Trail, Trail Mgmt.
- Toby Velasquez – SPD Division Director, SPD
- Steve Harris – Rio Grande Restoration, River Eco
- Tucker Davidson – Audubon Society, Bird Eco
- Howard Gross – HG Conservation Solutions, Public 1
- Myron Temchin – Temchin Environmental Planning, Public 2

Commissioners Absent:

- Michael Chacon – Tribal Environmental Justice Specialist, IAD

1. Call to Order

Chair Bajema called the meeting to order.

2. Roll Call

All Commissioners present introduced themselves. Carl Colonius, who is not a commission member, also introduced himself.

3. Approval of Agenda

Chair Bajema: requested a motion to approve the agenda.

Commissioner Velasquez: made a motion. Another commissioner made a second.

Chair Bajema voted to approve the agenda.

4. Approval of Open Meetings Act Resolution

Chair Bajema: requested a motion to approve the Open Meetings Act Resolution.
Commissioner Velasquez: made a motion.

Another commissioner made a second.

Chair Bajema voted to approve the agenda.

Commissioner Glendenning noted the need for all commissioners to vote in order to approve something.

Chair Bajema requested all in favor to approve.

Commissioner Carter requested discussion.

Chair Bajema approved.

Commissioner Carter noted that the 10-day notice for meetings, as required in the Open Meetings Act, is not sufficient.

Chair Bajema noted that 10 days is a requirement but agreed that more notice could be given.

Other commissioners supported the encouragement of providing notice sooner than 10 days ahead of the meeting but also did not want to be prescriptive. 30-day notice was discussed.

Chair Bajema returned to the motion to approve the Open Meetings Act Resolution as written.

He received a second

The Open Meetings Act Resolution passed with unanimous support.

5. Approval of Minutes from the May 17, 2022, Rio Grande Trail Commission Meeting

Chair Bajema introduced the minutes from the last commission meeting almost three years ago. He noted that there was interest in discussion.

Commissioner Temchin noted that the minutes are old and much has changed since the meeting was held. He asks about the actions recommended to be taken by the commission at that last meeting.

Chair Bajema clarifies that approving these minutes only means that the minutes accurately capture the spirit of the meeting. It does not hold the commission to any decisions made at that meeting.

Multiple commissioners note that there is still no trail alignment on tribal land while agreeing that conversations with tribes should continue.

Commissioner Carter wanted to highlight that the conversation about amending the minutes occurred at this meeting due to ambiguity in the minutes.

Chair Bajema notes that there is no known recording of the May 17, 2022 meeting.

Commissioner Temchin also asked about the funding for the Rio Grande Trail. Carl Colonius noted that Pland Collaborative was hired with those funds.

Commissioner Velasquez made a motion to approve the minutes as drafted.

Commissioner Glendenning: second.

Chair Bajema called for a vote. The majority voted yes.

Commissioner Temchin: nay.

Commissioner Gross: abstained due to not being up to speed.

Chair Bajema noted that the motion passed, and the minutes were approved.

6. Public Comment

Chair Bajema requests that comments be kept to 1-2 minutes per person.

June Russett: Tree New Mexico, Regional Planting Coordinator: They want to plant more trees in the area.

Kimberly Calkins: Executive Director, Insights Science Discovery: Introduced themselves and said they were excited about the partnership.

Rolf Hechler: Mayor, Truth or Consequences: Welcomed everyone. Noted the 75th anniversary celebration on May 2-4. Shared that the City recently approved three miles of proposed Rio Grande Trail and hoped that Sierra County would do the same.

Marcia de Chadenedes: happy to see the commission meeting again. I strongly support the idea of engaging with the tribes up front.

Kim Skinner: Mayor of Elephant Butte: have a small section of trail that runs through the community.

7. New Business

b. Keynote Speaker: Teresa Martinez – Executive Director, Continental Divide Trail Coalition

i. Topic: The Role of Non-Profits in Interstate Trail Management: A Perspective from the Continental Divide Trail

Teresa Martinez shares insights from the Continental Divide Trail Coalition, emphasizing the importance of public-private partnerships in trail stewardship.

She highlights the historical context of trail stewardship in the U.S. and the significance of the National Trail System Act of 1968.

Teresa discusses the cooperative stewardship model, which involves federal agencies, trail communities, and partners working together to manage long trails.

She shares the success of the Continental Divide Trail Coalition in raising significant private funding to complement federal support.

Teresa encourages the Rio Grande Trail Commission to adopt a similar cooperative stewardship approach and emphasizes the importance of community engagement and relationships.

Chair Bajema thanked Teresa.

c. Updates from the Chair

i. W-9's

Chair Bajema: Fill them out and send them back to me

ii. Tribal Engagement

Chair Bajema: We sent letters to all 24 tribes, nations and Pueblos in the state of New Mexico. We received messages back from Sandia, San Ildefonso, and San Felipe. We will continue to reengage tribes on the topic of the trail.

iii. 2026 Legislative Proposal Development

1. Amending the Rio Grande Trail Commission Act to release liability for special districts for public usage of trail hosted on their land.

Chair Bajema: Ambitions for the 2026, New Mexico legislative session: There are some challenging segments of the trail where we cannot designate it because the Conservancy District who owns and manages those segments, e.g. the Middle Rio Grande Conservancy District. There's an issue with liability. What does limiting liability for these special conservancy districts look like for the trail?

2. Recreational Use Statute

d. Presentations

i. Carl Colonius, Program Manager, ORD

1. Roles and Responsibilities of the Commission, ORD, Pland and other partners

2. Regional Outdoor Recreation Council

Carl Colonius discusses the role of the Outdoor Recreation Division and the work done by Plan Collaborative in refining the trail alignment and engaging with communities.

The importance of creating a nonprofit to support the Rio Grande Trail is emphasized to ensure sustainability and consistency.

Chair Bajema thanked Carl.

ii. Pland Collaborative (Contractor, ORD)

1. Introduction of Rio Grande Trail (RGT)

Katrina from Pland Collaborative presents the vision and planning principles for the Rio Grande Trail.

The trail is described as a recreational trail for hiking, biking, and equestrian use, connecting diverse natural habitats, rich history, and vibrant communities.

The trail passes through various significant areas, including national forests, national parks, and state parks.

The planning process involves working with local communities and agencies to refine the trail alignment and ensure public support.

The presentation includes a timeline of the trail planning and designation process, highlighting the progress made so far and the future steps.

e. Developing Sub-Committees / Work Groups

Katrina Arndt: The last commission had various work groups and subcommittees that dealt with alignment, public engagement, infrastructure, etc. These are all groups or subcommittees that could be revived again.

Commissioner Glendenning: Remove red to green as a continuum because of color blindness for folks. 8% of people are red-green color blind. List roadways as interim designations or alignments, because they're high-speed.

Katrina Arndt: Thank You.

Commissioner Carter: Add **sovereign nations to list of partners; make sure federal public land agency representatives attend our meetings; explore the interagency MOUs; consider Blue Trails, using the actual river as our public access.**

What's the plan to accommodate the other primary uses?

Katrina Arndt: We are working with Dona Ana County and the IBWC on a potential MOU to streamline any development or any trail in Dona Ana County.

Chair Bajema: At our next commission meeting, we will be talking about subcommittees and developing new ones or revitalizing old ones. Thank you for bringing up our federal counterparts. We did reach out to them, but it was too late. For our next commission meeting, we will be sure to reach out.

Commissioner Temchin: Question on your trail designation application process: is the RGTC involved in this before we get the application? It looks like ORD and Pland go all the way through, select the routes, talk to partners, fill out the application, and we get these papers.

Chair Bajema: What the commission is doing is designating trail, that is our expressed legislative mandate. There is nothing precluded us from being involved, but it's not our official duty to be involved in the pre-application process. Pland is going to work with subcommittees, and if we have an alignment subcommittee, that would be a great place to get involved in pre-designation planning.

Commissioner Temchin: So, the letter then that you wrote to all the governors was sort of opening the door for ORD and Pland?

Chair Bajema: And the Commission too. It is not our official capacity, but it is certainly something I would like commissioners to be a part of.

8. Action Items

i. Approval of Designation of the Following Trail Segments:

1. City of Albuquerque & Bernalillo County: Paseo del Bosque Trail, Riverside Trail, Chris Chavez Trail, Valle de Oro Trail.

Trail Segments: BN-02 to 07, some of 08

Total Mileage: 22.4 miles

Dan Majewski, Pland Collaborative: Presented the first trail segment for approval, the Paseo Del Bosque trail in Albuquerque.

The segment is described as a multi-use trail with abundant existing infrastructure.

Discussion ensues about the uses allowed on the trail. It was asked if equestrians were allowed on this trail. Carl Colonius confirmed that equestrians, hikers, and bikers are all allowed to use this trail.

Commissioner Gross requested **better summaries of the public support for the applications.**

Katrina Arndt noted that this trail was from the approved Master Plan, which went through a public process. Additionally, when this was approved by the City of Albuquerque and Bernalillo County, there was no opposition voiced.

Commissioner Glendenning requested **mapping existing infrastructure, like bike racks, water, etc. for future applications.**

A couple of members of the public commented. The Chair reminded them that this was a commission conversation and that time for public comment is included at the end of the meeting.

Chair Bajema requested a motion to designate City of Albuquerque & Bernalillo County: Paseo del Bosque Trail, Riverside Trail, Chris Chavez Trail, Valle de Oro Trail as Rio Grande Trail.

Commissioner Carter seconded the motion.

Roll Call Vote:

Commissioner Carter – YES

Steve Harris – Asked if equestrians were permitted on this section of trail.

Carl: Yes, according to the trail website.

Commissioner Harris – YES

Commissioner Temchin – YES

Commissioner Glendenning – YES

Commissioner Velasquez – YES

Commissioner Kelley – YES

Commissioner Davidson – YES

Commissioner Armijo – YES

Commissioner Gross – YES

Chair Bajema – YES

With unanimous consent, this motion is approved.

Multiple commissioners requested that future applications note which uses are permitted on that particular section.

2. Taos County: Cebolla Mesa

Trail Segment: TS-01-D

Total Mileage: 1.26

Dan Majewski, Pland Collaborative: presented the second trail segment for approval, the Cebolla Mesa trail in Carson National Forest.

The segment is described as an existing trail with a recently completed bridge connecting it to another segment of Rio Grande Trail that has already been designated.

Discussion included:

- ADA accessibility/general accessibility criteria: much of the trail will not be ADA accessible, including this section.
- Importance of clear communication about allowed uses: e-bikes and bikes in general were specifically mentioned.
- Community conversations: there have been conversations about this existing in-use trail segment and no significant opposition was voiced.
- La Junta Trail rehab: an engineering grant has been provided through Trails+ and hopefully it will be back open by 2027.
- Conversations with Carson National Forest: Pland noted that there had been conversations with them and that they are generally supportive of approving this particular trail segment.
- The process of approving trail segments: multiple commissioners noted that would prefer approving trail for designation if the land manager of that area approved it first by providing something in writing, e.g. a letter of support. An MOU was mentioned as another method for partnership and approval.

- Wayfinding/signage: Pland will present their signage plan at the next commission meeting.

Commissioner Glendenning: Mr. Chair. I move that we table action item number two to a future meeting where we include letters of support from the planning agency, as well as environmental documentation.

Chair Bajema: Second?

Second from another commissioner.

Roll Call Vote:

Commissioner Carter – YES, for the motion to table.

Commissioner Harris – YES

Commissioner Temchin – NO

Commissioner Glendenning – YES

Commissioner Velasquez – YES

Commissioner Kelley – YES

Commissioner Davidson – YES

Commissioner Armijo – YES

Commissioner Gross – YES

Chair Bajema – NO

So this motion is taken. The motion to table action item number two regarding the Cebolla Mesa Trail is approved.

Chair Bajema: I agree that we need to do a better job at providing commissioners with background documents. However, this trail is already established, and people are using it.

3. Turtleback Ave (A005), Truth or Consequences, Sierra County

Trail Segment: SR-05-B

Total Mileage: 3.79

Dan Majewski, Pland Collaborative: presented the third segment of trail approval: Turtleback Avenue, or Country Road A005. It is a part of the Turtleback Trails

Network, a group working to get more trail access in Sierra County and in the city of Truth or Consequences. This particular segment is currently an unpaved road.

Discussion:

- Jurisdiction of the road/trail segment: it falls under the jurisdiction of the county because it's an existing County Road.
- Easement for road use: as this road passes through some sections of private land, the county has an easement for use of this road through private land. There was a request to see a copy of the easement itself. There were questions about the terms of the easement approval (is it perpetual or time bound).
- Level/type of current use on this road: runners, hikers and cyclists are known to currently use it. The observed traffic volume is low.
- Reason for this alignment/use of a road for the trail: this section was recommended because it is part of the existing Turtleback Trail Plan. This was not the original alignment from the master plan so a realignment application for this section should be completed.
- User groups: make sure we know who the trail can and should be used by before approving it.

Commissioner Carter: **I would motion to table this** and revisit it at the next meeting with more information.

Commissioner Carter: **I'll motion again to table this until this next meeting.** Get some more information on the easement and the other questions, maybe the interim versus final alignment.

Commissioner Harris (most likely): Second.

Roll call vote:

Commissioner Carter – YES

Commissioner Harris – YES

Commissioner Temchin – YES

Commissioner Glendenning – YES

Commissioner Velasquez – YES

Commissioner Kelley – YES

Commissioner Davidson – YES

Commissioner Armijo – YES

Commissioner Gross – YES

Chair Bajema – YES

This motion is approved unanimously. This item is tabled until the next meeting.

a. Develop the Rio Grande Trail commission office

Chair Bajema: We have one more action item on our agenda today: development of the Rio Grande Trail Commission Office.

Two years ago, the Rio Grande Trail Commission was funded through a budget appropriation to EMNRD for \$75,000, recurring annually. Last year, it was changed to a one-time appropriation of \$225,000 for the development of the Rio Grande Trail Commission office. There are no specifics as to what that money is to be used for.

This past legislative session, the team at EMNRD attempted to get that language changed back to the \$75,000 annual appropriation to support the commission. It didn't make it into the budget. However, **we were successful in getting the \$225,000 reauthorized for the development of the Rio Grande Trail Commission office.** So essentially, we as a commission, if we are to vote yes to developing this Rio Grande Trail Commission office, it will live in EMNRD, in my office, and it allows us access to that \$225,000 to pay for the travel of the commissioners, to pay for signage, swag and for a contractor to help us put these meetings together, because I'm not able to do that. But we are unable to establish that money until we have an office to do that.

Discussion:

- How the funds can be used: the language is vague so the funds can be used for whatever the commission requires, e.g. travel, professional contractual services, other operational needs, signage or other on the ground type improvements, etc.
- Q: How long will the \$225,000 be available? A: It is a one-time, one-year appropriation. However, if the money gets encumbered under a potential three-year contract for professional services to support Rio Grande Trail Commission, there's a very good possibility those monies could be reauthorized by the legislature. But we would have to ask for reauthorization.

- Funding is often performance based: If the legislature sees action from the commission, they are more likely to continue funding it.
- Commissioner Temchin volunteered to develop a 12-month action plan with goals and milestones to guide the use of the funds.
- Funds become available on July 1, at the beginning of the State of New Mexico fiscal year.

Commissioner Velasquez: Mr. Chair, I make a motion to approve the development and creation of the Rio Grande Trail Commission Office.

Commissioner Carter: Second.

Roll Call Vote:

Commissioner Gross: I'm supportive in concept, but not a lot of guidelines or explanation. What does this office look like? Does it cover your salary?

Chair Bajema: My salary is not covered by this funding.

Commissioner Gross: If we're setting up an office we should have a purpose statement. I'm just thinking something more than six words.

Commissioner Temchin: I think all that could be in the plan.

Commissioner Velasquez: Mr. Chair, I believe that the office of the Rio Grande Trail Commission is to support the Commission's authority under the Rio Grande Trail Act, to define and recommend viable back routes of the Rio Grande Trail, recommend features, facilities and enhancements needed on the trail, making recommendations to the legislature and handing reports to the governor and the appropriate interim committees. Thank you.

Chair Bajema: We can formalize this language through the creation of this office. Would that work for you Howard?

Commissioner Gross: Yes

Commissioner Glendenning: Process wise, amend your motion to what you just said.

Commissioner Velasquez: I'll amend my initial motion, Commissioner, per the rules of the procedure. As I stated, it is on the record and to provide in written format to plan to commit to the meeting minutes.

Amended Motion: Commissioner Velasquez: Mr. Chair, I make a motion to approve the development and creation of the Rio Grande Trail Commission Office. I believe that the office of the Rio Grande Trail Commission is to support the Commission's authority under the Rio Grande Trail Act, to define and recommend viable back routes of the Rio Grande Trail, recommend features, facilities and enhancements needed on the trail, making recommendations to the legislature and handing reports to the governor and the appropriate interim committees.

Chair Bajema: Perfect. Do we have a second?

Commissioner Temchin: Second

Commissioner Carter – YES, as amended

Commissioner Harris – YES

Commissioner Temchin – YES

Commissioner Glendenning – YES

Commissioner Velasquez – YES

Commissioner Kelley – YES

Commissioner Davidson – YES

Commissioner Armijo – YES

Commissioner Gross – YES

Commissioner Bajema – YES

The motion is approved.

Commissioner Temchin: We could develop a planning subcommittee and at the next meeting present a draft plan. Get input from the public, get input from the commissioners, revise the plans on July 1, all the subcommittees are running, understanding what their individual goals and objectives are. I'd like to suggest we form a planning subcommittee, before July 1. Let's get a draft plan done.

9. Discussion

a. Gateway community designation

Carl Colonius introduces the concept of gateway communities and their symbiotic relationship with the trail. Example: Waterworks facility, Silver City. It is an access point to the Continental Divide Trail.

Myron Temchin provides an example of the Buffalo Tract Recreation Area and its value as a destination point for Sandoval County/ Bernalillo.

Commissioner Armijo: Some of the things that we've talked about today, like process, clarification, additions to applications, NEPA or community engagement; when do we decide on what the appropriate response to some of the things that came up to today?

Chair Bajema: I believe that that will be covered in subsequent meetings, is my understanding.

Commissioner Carter: With the CDT and gateway communities, that the communities come to us, very much a community-based process.

Commissioner Harris: I think that there needs to be some set of criteria for gateway community designation.

Commissioner Glendenning: I think it'd be most appropriate to create a gateway community subcommittee.

10. Announcement of the Next Meeting

The next Rio Grande Trail Commission meeting will be held on Friday, June 13, 9 AM – 12 PM in Santa Fe. We will be in touch more than 10 days in advance. We will decide on the location soon.

Commissioner Carter: How and who will be putting the agenda together?

Chair Bajema: So, I will be working closely with Pland Collaborative, the contractor working on the section alignments. I will also reach out to members of the commission to get input on the on the agenda.

And then, just as an announcement for everyone, after this meeting we will be getting lunch at El Faro. We'll take a quick break and come back to public comment.

BREAK

11. Public Comment

Becca Eza: good morning. My name is Becca Eza. I'm a resident of TorC. I am also on the board of the Southern New Mexico Trail Alliance, and I'm the Executive

Director of Main Street Truth or Consequences. So kind of with those things converging, I would like a quick plug for TorC as consideration for a gateway community, when we get to that point. We have an amazing small downtown full of amenities for trail users, great outfitter, a little grocery store, restaurants, a brewery, lodging, Hot Springs to soak in. Working with a trail system here, and as director of main street, I would love to help facilitate that.

Chair Bajema: Thank you so much, Becca. How could we better collaborate with Main Street to get that designation in place?

Becca Eza: I would need to talk with my board first. You know, specifically focused on the downtown area, a small town with the trail so close, economic development to the downtown. So, I think that Main Street would be more than willing to be the point of contact for that. I think when you guys get the application system in place, we will fill out the form for that.

Kim Skinner: Mayor of Elephant Butte: Thank you again for coming again. I'm also the chairperson for the Sierra County Recreation and Tourism Board. That's the entire Sierra County. So, thank you for coming. I've been involved with the Rio Grande Trail Commission for years, and I was sad that kind of went away post COVID. But thank you, Becca, for bringing that up. She's on the trail committee with me. Yes, Truth or Consequences would love to become a gateway community. I'm also the president of the Geronimo Trails National Scenic Byway. So that comes from Emory Pass, down through Caballo, along the river, back up to Winston and then back over to Beaverhead. We cross the continental divide twice. We have a volunteer from our visitor center here today too. But obviously, we want to be partners. So, thank you, and reach out to Becca and all of us if you need anything.

John Masterson: Hello again. Quick story, my wife and I, working in Seattle, almost 10 years ago, we came through Truth or Consequences and fell in love with the town. And part of it was we just looked across the river. We saw those trails and said, look how close this is. We've been to other towns like Salida, Colorado and Boise, Idaho, that had a great trail system that was right on the edge of town. So it was with that experience that I helped form a steering committee that became the Turtle Back Trails Network concept plan. This is a plan that was organized by the National Park Service, and it's endorsed and approved by both the city of TorC and the Village of Williamsburg. On the first page somewhere, it says we believe that a great trail system can make our community both healthier and wealthier. And TorC actually has a history of being a city of health. This is prior to the name change the health capital of the southwest. So we are, of course, super excited that the RGT is

coming through, but reconstituted and thank you for doing your thing in Truth or Consequences and look forward, thank you.

Senator Jeff Steinborn: Hey everybody, good to see you. I'm the state senator from Las Cruces and I'm the author of Rio Grande Trail app. This has been a really intelligent discussion. First of all, I've seen every iteration of the Rio Grande Trail Commission. I will say this is the most informed, experienced, the best commission I've seen given the entire iteration just to people who are well informed and passionate about this work, and your questions demonstrated it, so you go.

Number two, I just want to be honest, we have been slow on progress and it's really kind of unacceptable. The law mandates three commission meetings a year. The state set a project, a 500 mile trail. We have two years left in this administration here, an incredible group of people you've got, I have been you Ben and Karina and tell me, the leadership that you have in Carl is also exceptional. But you gotta understand, this is a proactive exercise. This is not an exercise, in my opinion, Mister Chair, I would just say, they gotta come to us and put everything in the bow. And the mission of this is for you to go up to them in a way. I think you'll see in every community, go to this level of enthusiasm. They want to be active. They want the opportunity. It's our job to kind of put it all together. And so I would just urge you, as commissioners, it's kind of the board of directors, really be aggressive, drive the bus. Myron, I love all your questions, all your suggestions. It just goes to show you how much work is ultimately needed to bring this full vision. But right now, we've got to designate trail. We got a work out solution, so then we have a lot of work to do. along those lines. Mr. Chair, I haven't just I love the frontier community concept, because I see that as a very powerful inducement to communities that have a real investment and wanting to be a part of it. I did have a question on the elephant butte alignment. We have some constituents here who opened up more business, and I think they had a lot. They had a similar question I had, which is, you know, why was that particular segment recommended on road? Was it the only segment available, as opposed to a more natural segment, not on the road. I think part of the goal is to develop a very scenic trail, right? Not just a trail for trail purposes, but something that's scenic experience, and ultimately can receive National Trail designation, so that I've been touching. Well, this definitely the option there's up there for natural options. The best option. Thank you all.

Chair Bajema: Thank you, Senator. We're going to be looking at that segment and making sure that you know to our questions about easement, to make sure that that

really is the best way. So, thank you for your comments, questions, and we hope to make you proud. We're having three meetings this year without a doubt. Thank you.

Kimberly Calkins: Executive Director, Insights Science Discovery: Hello again. I'm here in two capacities now that I've listened to all of the comments and questions, which is great, I'm taking copious notes so that when we become a gateway community, I'll be ready. Recently, I completed the Camino de Santiago Trail, which is 500 miles. So, I look forward to doing this one as well. About that is the trail was, it had horses, it had bicycles was on it. Occasionally it was passed by someone on a motorcycle, which was not authorized, but they're out there, and copious amounts of people walking the either on the 100 kilometers or the whole 800 kilometers. So using apps, people figured out what part they can complete. You know, sometimes, I mean, I didn't think I was going to be able to get over some of those big, giant hills or the terrain. Some of it was on roads. Some of it was highway roads. Some of it was little, skinny trails going through trees. Don't underestimate the people who want to come to this trail, because if they want it, they'll make it happen. And you're providing this great opportunity, and your questions on accessibility is great. It's something I definitely want to think about. We merged with Dino Track, and because I think that's going to happen, it's on my agenda now, and so thinking about these things is very important. But again, people are going to come so don't give up. And I look forward to working with you all. Thank you.

Marcia de Chadenedes: Recently, just last week, retired Federal employee and I've worked in the last 30 years with similar projects, and I can say you guys are the vision of this trail. Commissioners are carrying the vision of this trail. It's a great responsibility and the fact that you're expecting to have all these administrative understandings as well as quite a challenge for you. I totally recognize your efforts. We strongly recommend that you recognize the value of a nonprofit organization to support your interests, whether you have one as a hub, maybe coming out of state recreation and trails, and perhaps there's an organization there that could be the overarching umbrella, or it's just that the spirit of the trail is the people who walk it, and those people will volunteer, and do your work for you. You build a trail that is designed with them, not for them. With them, they'll support you all the way, and as Teresa shared seven times the money. So I suggest you consider that this have an organization Pland that is doing this work for you, that you tap into their outreach to identify team members of communities on the trail, maybe people who would be interested in pulling together an organization to support the trail, and also they consider investing a small amount of your moneys into an organization that already is in that Trail Association, like the CDTC to mentor the organization, give them the

gateway communities. There's a handout description for all these kinds of things, all the kinds of considerations that go into designing trails. They've got it, you don't have to reinvent the wheel. So, your office, your office is virtual because you want to share your documents, you want to share your Zooms and all those things. Think about the investment that they saved and not having to house anything, not having to send anybody. And then congratulations, thank you.

Patrick Bower: I moved here about a decade ago because of trails. I attempted CDT in 2018. I've had multiple session hikes on the Appalachian Trail. First of all, I applaud you all. I think it's great. I think it's necessary. And what I would encourage you to do, having spoken about the AT, is find your Earl Shaffer. Find your Trailblazer. Find the guy that's not to worry about the alphabet soup of governmental agencies he's going to put a spot on the back of his backpack. He's going to start up north. He's going to take the sections that you guys have in place now, and he's going to tread over the rest of it. Will it cause some problems? Probably. But you find that individual who really wants to hit this hard, save the map. Work with you guys, you'll hit that plan, absolutely. I think it's how you decide the organize it, and I think it's how you decide to bring it in. Who you going to bring? Find your Earl Shaffer. Thank you

Chair Bajema: And with that, we're running up on time. So right now, we're going to go to lunch at El Faro, and then after that. And after that at 1 PM, we are going to walk the section, maybe not the entire section, but a portion of the section.

OJ: So we're going to meet at Rotary Park, that is going to be on the west side of the river County Road, A005. The segment that we were talking about earlier, about designing that part of the River trail is on the east side. So, but we kind of wanted to show you guys the vision of the turtle back Trails Network plan that we've got, why there's a need for a pedestrian bridge, and how we can tie all that in together. So for those of you that do want to go visit County Road A005, Third Street, right here, stop light, go all the way straight. Second bridge, take a right, and then you'll hit dirt road and you'll follow it around the river, and that will be County Road A005.

Chair Bajema: Thank you for your hospitality. Thank you for all the questions too. Thank you, commissioners, for your time today. We really appreciate it.

12. Adjournment

Commissioner Velasquez: Mr. Chair, motion to adjourn at 12 noon.

Second.

All those in favor: all said aye.

Opposed: none

The motion passes. We are adjourned.