

# **COLORADO MOUNTAIN CLUB STATE BOARD MEETING MINUTES**

**APRIL 14, 2007**

## **AMERICAN MOUNTAINEERING CENTER, GOLDEN, COLORADO**

The meeting was called to order at 10:00 am by Janice Heidel, State Board President. Members of the State Board and others in attendance were: Bill Brown, Kent Crites, Jay Fell, Peter Gowen, Kent Groninger, Art Hogling, Earl Hughes, Gavin Maurer, Ann Morgan, Lee Rimel, Ed Seely, Sherry Richardson, David Tabor, Wynne Whyman, David Hite, and Jerry Caplan, CMC Foundation, Ray Shem, Denver Group Chair; Steve Bonowski, Conservation Group Chair; Tom Beckwith, Publications Director; Executive Director Kristy Judd; Claire Bastable, Conservation Director; Brenda Porter, Education Director; Kathy McGuire, Comptroller; and Julie Beckwith, Membership Services Director.

### **Approval of the February 10, 2007 Minutes**

A motion was adopted to approve the minutes.

### **Six Year Strategic Plan Discussion**

Wynne Whyman reviewed the progress to date on development of the Board's Strategic Plan. Staff has suggested some modifications to the wording of the Plan's objectives and a lengthy list of strategies to implement the objectives. In addition, five Group Councils have commented on the Strategic Plan's components, namely the vision, mission, values, goals, and objectives.

Today the Board will review the staff and Group comments and suggestions and send the revised Strategic Plan to those attending the State Council Meeting to be held Saturday, April 21. The Strategic Plan dialogue will continue at the April 21 meeting. Today, the Board divided itself into three groups with each group evaluating the wording of two of the six goals as well as the wording of the objectives that amplify the goals. After group discussions, reports were made, discussed, amended and adopted by the Board.

### **Briefing on Bradford Washburn American Mountaineering Museum**

Jerry Caplan, representing the CMC Foundation, and CMC Board and Foundation member, Sherry Richardson told of the early development of a plan for the mountaineering museum. In 1992, the American Alpine Club decided to move to Denver from New York City and the CMC began looking for a facility larger than the Club house on West Alameda Avenue. An abandoned, 36,000 square-foot public high school in Golden drew the attention of both organizations. It was purchased by the AAC and the CMC for \$100,000. From the beginning, the partnership envisioned the building

housing four focus facilities: an auditorium, library, conference center and museum. The building became occupied in 1993. Today it is an \$11 million dollar facility; and all of that money has been contributed dollars--no assessments were made or Club members' dues increases imposed. Jerry Caplan emphasized the fact that the CMC has been the primary benefactor of the building and the museum will greatly enhance our mission and profile. The museum will also serve as an effective recruitment attraction.

In conclusion, Jerry Caplan reported that members of the CMC Foundation have contributed \$200,000 to the museum capital campaign. The start of a broad-based capital campaign directed to Club members will begin in May. \$3.5 million has been raised to date with a remaining need for \$1 million.

Sherry Richardson recited the involvement of past CMC Boards in development of the Museum. Beginning in 1999-2000, the CMC took a more active role with the ACC in Museum planning. Board members Russ Hayes and Sherry Richardson became the lead participants for the CMC. A museum consultant was hired and the CMC Board began looking at issues of running a museum. In the fall of 2000, the concept of a museum was presented at CMC group annual dinners throughout the state.

Support for the museum came from the Denver Group in 2001 along with AAC support of the CMC assuming management of the facility. From January through April of 2001 museum designers were interviewed. By this point in time four past presidents of the CMC had been involved in the museum project. After a phase in negotiations with the AAC, the cooperative effort between the AAC and the CMC began again in 2005. Today the project is at the end of its planning stage and construction has begun with a early 2008 opening target date. Sherry Richardson emphasized the fact that the current State Board will have the honor of hosting the Museum's opening and that the Museum will represent notable efforts including the culmination of a significant amount of volunteer effort in researching material to be displayed, years of negotiation by Board members, and an great way of telling the Club's story. She called upon the Board to be ambassadors for the Museum if not donors.

Sherry Richardson concluded her presentation with a slide show of the museum's main features.

Jerry Caplan and Sherry Richardson responded to questions from the Board. They reported that the operation of the Museum will be from admission fees, SCFD funding, and continual grant writing in addition to volunteer help.

### **Finance Committee Report**

Art Hogling reported that the State Finance Committee has started its deliberations. Three new members have been added to the committee including two CPAs. The committee members are Todd Waylen, chair; David Cutler, John Ross, Art Hogling, Dana Miller, and David Hite. The committee has reviewed the financial audit and the

management notes contained in the audit. One note regarded the current policy requiring two signatures for checks over \$3000. The Finance Committee recommends that two signatures be required for checks of \$10,000 or more. When necessary an approval signature via e-mail will be permissible. A procedure will be initiated for the review of canceled checks by a party other than those individuals with checking-signing authority. Finally, the Finance Committee recommends that the executive director pursue with the Club's bank more efficient ways of handling the wiring of funds to foreign country locations in support of the Adventure Travel programs. A motion was made and seconded to approve the Finance committee recommendations. The motion was adopted unanimously.

### **Appointment of Personnel Task Team**

Janice Heidel announced the establishment of a Personnel Task Team to act as a liaison between paid staff of the Club and the Board. The committee will be empowered to assist the executive director in the review and recommendation of compensation strategies and benefits; assist the ED in review and updating of the employee manual ; address and resolve employee questions, concerns, grievances and/ or complaints; and address and resolve any questions, concerns, grievances and/ or complaints concerning an employee.

### **Wilson Peak Access Funding**

Steve Bonowski gave an update on access issues to Wilson Peak and the Baca Mountain Track area accessing the Crestones. In both instances portions of the trails to the peaks are being rerouted. He recommended that the Board give consideration to partnering with those developing the new trails. The partnership could involve financial support, advice, and volunteer labor. He also briefly discussed the procedure for the purchase of mining claims. This activity is impacting on access to high peaks like Lincoln, Bross, and Democrat.

### **Gift Acceptance Policy**

Kristy Judd reported that although the Club bylaws give her the authority to manage and direct the operations of the CMC, they do not specifically mention accepting gifts. Recently a bequest of money from an estate was made contingent upon the existence of a resolution or similar document identifying the properly authorized person to accept gifts on behalf of the organization. As a result Kristy Judd recommended the Board adopt the following:

The Executive Director is authorized to accept charitable gifts and contributions to the Colorado Mountain Club on behalf of the Club; provided, however, that the Executive Director (1) shall promptly report individual gifts in excess of \$1,000 to the President, and (2) must obtain approval from the Executive Committee or the Board depending on

the magnitude of the issue, to accept any gifts involving potential obligations of the Club (such as gifts of land requirement payment of taxes).

A motion was made, seconded and passed to adopt the policy.

### **Approval of 2008 Goals**

Kristy Judd noted that preparation of the FY 2008 budget requires that staff budget requests be given to her by May 15 and the '08 budget be approved at the Board's July 14 meeting. The staff has identified their priorities among the goals, objectives and strategies in the current version of the Board's strategic Plan. Staff recognizes that the Strategic Plan may change as comments are received and evaluated at the State Council meeting and in the time following. So the work plan to implement the Strategic Plan at this point in time is a maintenance of the status quo with no additions of staff.

Art Hogling commented that full implementation of the Strategic Plan will move the budget from a line item, department by department, traditional budget to a programmatic plan budget.

After Board discussion a motion was made, seconded and adopted to approve the 2008 goals for staff with the understanding that amendments may be offered in the budget adoption process to reflect changes in the Strategic Plan.

### **Expeditions Committee Proposal**

Cleve Armstrong stated his interest in reestablishing the Expeditions Committee, which had been dissolved by the Board in 2001. At that time it was thought the function was more properly placed within the CMC Foundation. Cleve stated he had spoken to Bea Slingsby, Adventure Travel Committee, as well as Jim Gehres of the CMC Foundation. Cleve believes that reestablishment of the committee will bring recognition and money to the Club.

Steve Bonowski, co-chair of the HAWS Section of the Denver Group, spoke against the proposal. He noted that HAMS was created in 1988 as a special interest section to promote high altitude mountaineering in the Club. The HAMS expeditions program began in 1990. Steve reported that HAMS was not consulted regarding the proposal. Steve questioned the degree of interest among climbers in reestablishment of the committee. He noted that several HAMS expeditions have been canceled over the last few years. He suggested that stripping an authority from HAMS when the section has performed well for 16 years could be viewed as a real disincentive to further involvement.

After Board discussion, a motion was made, seconded and adopted --with one dissenting vote--to refer the proposal to the HAMS and Adventure Travel Committees for recommendation to the Board at its summer meeting.

## **Report from the President**

Janice Heidel reported that at a recent meeting of the ExCom, the group approved the acceptance of a loan from the CMC Foundation in the amount of \$300,000 to be used for the museum capital construction costs. The vote was 4-1. The ExCom also voted to authorize the President of the CMC to execute the contract for the construction of the museum. The motion was approved unanimously. Ed Seeley reminded the Board that actions of the ExCom become adoptions of the Board.

## **Report from the Vice President**

Art Hogling gave a report on the status of the Membership Task Force. The Task Force consists of 14 members including four Board members and representatives from several Groups. The group has met five times. They have worked on three tasks: an analysis of the youth program and its relationship to membership; the concept of multiyear memberships; and a benchmarking for study of 12 recreational clubs throughout the country similar to CMC. The group will report to the Board in July. Art noted that many budgetary recommendations from the Task Force had been entered into the current Strategic Plan as strategies.

## **Recreation Forum**

Steve Bonowski reported that last November then Conservation Director Vera Smith made a commitment for participation in regional forums conducted by the American Recreational Coalition. The focus of the forum was to encourage activities that attract youth to the woods. The Club's conservation and education sections will be participating in panel discussions hosted by the Coalition. Steve emphasized that participation offers a good networking opportunity.

## **Vehicle-Supported Dispersed Camping on Forest Service Lands**

Clare Bastable reported that the Forest Service is in the process of creating recreation plans for all of the National Forests in Colorado. As part of this process, the Service is making decisions on how to manage vehicle dispersed camping on Forest lands --i.e. vehicles driving off-road to camp in non-designated sites. The Service has asked for user communities to provide recommendations on how to deal with this issue. The Southern Rockies Conservation Alliance has put together a policy on vehicle dispersed camp. Clare recommends the Board endorse the policy statement.

The policy recommendation has two elements: first, forest visitors must park a motor vehicle within one vehicle length from the edge of the road where it is safe to do so and without causing damage to the Forest Service resources; and second, motor vehicles may access signed campsites via designated camp spur routes that are signed and demarcated on a travel management map.

Of the thirty organizations that make up SRCA, the CMC is the only organization that has not acted to accept the policy recommendation. After Board discussion, a motion was made, seconded, and adopted to support the policy recommendation .

### **Board Fundraising Plan**

David Hite recalled for the Board its budget commitment to raise \$10,000 during FY 2007. He offered several approaches to raising the necessary funds. Acrimonious discussion followed with a general consensus that Board members will contribute what they wish, and a total of the contributions will be reported at the Board's July meeting.

### **Reworking of Wording of Goals and Objectives**

Several of the words and phrases within the goals and objectives of the Strategic Plan were discussed and modified and, at the suggestion of Kent Groninger, the order of the goal statements were changed. After Board discussion a motion was adopted --with one abstention--to approve the goals and objectives as altered at this point in time.

### **Adjournment**

A motion was adopted to adjourn the meeting.