

Cow Pasture Stewardship Committee

Minutes

Thursday May 21, 2026

Call to Order – Time: 5:35

- Committee Members Present: Chris Russo, Jim Deshler, Emily Hoffman, Ryan Horvath, Susan McDowell
- Committee Members Absent: Greg Rouleau, Janette Shaffer
- Others Present: Amanda Gustin (council liaison)

Adjustments to Agenda: None.

Agenda Items:

Approval of Minutes: March 19, 2026

- Motion by Jim D: approve March 19, 2026 minutes as written. Seconded by Emily H. Vote: All in favor.

ERSA Grant Subcommittee Updates: 2026 Trail Project.

- Zac has the CP project on the calendar for late July/early August. The project has a completion deadline of October 1, 2026. Jim & Zac will be meeting on site in the next couple weeks to review bridge crossing and trail locations. Chris would like to join the site visit. The bridge will need to meet ERS Grant trail building guidelines.

Upcoming Trail Workday: May 30th @ 9am – Jim.

- Trail work day to improve waterbars, trim low-hanging branches, and block unnecessary trails. Emily will post on local channels/social media.
- There's a tree down across the trail on the ridge trail. - Jim will work on getting this moved.

Contact/Distribution List with Audience: Ryan & Emily

- Working to compile an updated list of Cow Pasture 'friends'. Will include peoples' association with the CP and contact info. Could get into using Constant Contact, but for now starting with a Google sheet and form. Suggestion to add a QR code to the kiosk that would send people to the Google Form where they can sign up to receive updates from the CP committee.
 - Important to include on spreadsheet: local CP users/supporters, current City Council, SnoBees/VAST contacts, local volunteer caretakers of the CP, relevant City staff, etc.

Updates and Discussion:

Conservation & Access Advisory Group: currently inactive.

Invasive Plant Control: Susan & Emily

- Postponed CP Invasive Species education day to 10/24/2026.
- Susan and Emily will re-visit this in near future.
- New name: Invasive Species Awareness Subcommittee.
- Chris is interested in forming a sub-group to work on invasive removal projects.

Social Media: Emily

- Upcoming posts on trail work day, spring ephemerals, tech center efforts, bluebird houses.
- The porcupine sighting post was popular!
- Much thanks to Emily for all her work to create an online presence for the CP!

SnoBees

- Should make a plan to revise the SnoBees agreement.
 - Update trails to their new names.
 - Minimum amount of snow before grooming to prevent issues at stream crossing.
 - Amanda suggestion: add conditions under which the clause can be edited/updated.

City Support: Follow-up

- Move forward ASAP: Request additional Semperbon Funds, Nicolas supports this, total grants administered by CP Committee ~\$60k

Stream Crossing on the Wolf Tree Trail: Bumped to future meeting.

4. Adjourn

- Motion by Jim to adjourn at 6:40pm. Seconded by Chris.

Meeting Minutes Submitted by: Jim Deshler

2026 Meeting Dates:

July 16, 2026

November 19, 2026

Dates of Interest:

National Trails Day: June 6, 2026