1. Call to Order – The Rio Grande Trail Commission meeting was called to order by Chair McQueen at 1:06.

2. Introductions–
Chair McQueen welcomed the attendees who then introduced themselves.

3. Roll Call – Commission Coordinator Busemeyer called the role as reflected above.
4. **Approval of Agenda** – Chair McQueen asked the commissioners if there were any changes to the agenda. Seeing none, Chair McQueen asked for a motion to approve the agenda. A motion was made by Commissioner Griscom and seconded by Commissioner Shije. The motion passed unanimously.

5. **Approval of Minutes** – Chair McQueen noted that the meeting minutes from the meeting on July 20th did not list Commissioner Martinez as absent and asked for a motion to change the minutes as amended. A motion was made by Commissioner Griscom and seconded by Vice-Chair Tafoya. The motion passed unanimously.

6. **Update from the Chair** – Chair McQueen stated that Commissioner Shije, Vice-Chair Tafoya and Rosemary Romero of the Alta Planning and Design team attended a meeting of the Eight Northern Pueblos Intertribal Resource Advisory Committee on July 31st to present information about the Rio Grande Trail. Multiple concerns were raised concerning potential alignments. The concerns will be incorporated into the planning process. Commissioner Shije will commence formal government to government consultation concerning the trail.

The Alta Planning and Design team has had numerous conversations with the BLM concerning the possible designation of trails in the Rio Grande del Norte National Monument.

On October 11th Chair McQueen and Vice-Chair Tafoya met with the International Boundary and Water Commission in El Paso. The Commission owns property that has 80 miles of levee that has a potential to become part of the RGT and the Commissioner of IBWC is supportive of the RGT initiative and the only concern expressed was concerning liability. Alta Planning and Design is in contact with the Commission to gather GIS data concerning potential alignments.

Gina Delarossa has resigned as the Resources Work Group Chair. She was very active in helping the Commission since the beginning of the RGT.

7. **Old Business** –
   a. Rio Grande Trail planning contractor update, Alta Planning and Design
Mike Rose from Alta Planning and design stated that the Rio Grande Trail Master Plan is moving forward and the team will update the Commission on what has happened so far, what will happen in the next few months, and will ask the Commission to make some decisions concerning the master plan. Jean Crowther of Alta presented the timeline for the planning process. The team plans to explore alternative alignments in the upcoming weeks to present to the commission in January. The preferred alignments will be reviewed by the Commission in the spring, along with recommendations concerning management, oversight and promotions. Rosemary Romero stated that the team had been meeting the BLM, National Park Service, International Boundary and Water Commission, and the Middle Rio Grande Conservancy District.

Bob Oberdorfer, a member of the planning team, stated that the Middle Rio Grande Conservancy district had previously not been interested in having RGT alignments in their management area, but new management is open to the idea of helping provide opportunities for recreation.

Ms. Romero stated that communication with the Bureau of Reclamation, Forest Service, and Fish and Wildlife Service is pending. Bernalillo County staff has attended meetings and the team will consult with other counties in the future. People who attended the Eight Northern Pueblos Intertribal Resource Advisory Committee meeting expressed concerns about the RGT and Commissioner Shije will conduct government to government consultation with the Pueblos before and after leadership roles change in 2018.

Commissioner Shije stated that she could not verify if all the tribal leaders had been consulted previously, and she will be sending letters next week to each of the tribal leaders with whom consultation should occur. It is important to have a dialog regardless of whether tribal leaders are interested in participating or not. Hopefully the Commission can find out which tribes are interested at this point.

Mr. Oberdorfer then updated the Commission on the previous alignment data that were collected for studies in 2006 and 2008. Data also exists from the Mid-Region Council of Governments. Those potential trail alignments were previously evaluated using criteria including trail character, political support,
environmental concerns, ease of implementation, safety, and user accommodations. Alta proposes to use these same criteria during the current planning process, except for political support, which will be considered as a part of the ease of implementation, since political support is often ephemeral. Previously, each of these criteria were ranked as either good, moderate, or poor. The proposed ranking system for the current planning process will add three numerical values under each of those categories to further refine the scoring system and provide a numerical ranking. Mr. Oberdorfer then used an alignment from the 2008 study to illustrate the proposed evaluation process. At this point in the process, the alignments from the 2008 study seem to still be valid.

Ms. Crowther stated that the team had been coordinating with the six work groups and their members from around the state and have asked the workgroups to provide some insight. The team has asked the members to provide a list of the top five most captivating spots, adventure destinations, areas to avoid, locations to refuel, and places to rest. The team is hoping to have a newsletter that will be sent out to workgroup members and will also send the commission monthly progress reports. The Alta team would also like to collect quotes from the commission and stakeholders concerning what the Rio Grande Trail means to people in order to help create a dialog.

Today, Alta Planning will present some graphic identities for the Commission to decide upon that will be used in future planning materials and the web site, which they hope to have ready for public viewing in November. This will be part of a virtual open house that will explain the planning process and give the public opportunities to provide input. The planning materials presented for the commission to approve include the vision statement, a graphic identity, which includes fonts and color palettes. These materials will be used for the website, brochure, posters and other materials. Ms. Crowther then showed the Commission an example of what the website would look like and what would be posted on it.

**b. Approval of RGT vision statement**
Chair McQueen stated that he did not care for the term “cross-state” and preferred using “intrastate” which seems more clear. Commissioner Glendening pointed out that if the trail connected to places such as El Paso, it
would become an interstate trail. Chair McQueen noted that in previous discussions, the Commission had expressed a preference for the vision statement to be focused more on New Mexico rather than the southwestern United States.

Senator Steinborn stated that he thought the word “route” in the vision statement sounded generic and suggested using “trail” or “pathway.” He also stated that “visitors” should be added to the statement concerning the benefits of the trail so it would read “The trail contributes to cultural and environmental awareness, healthy lifestyles, spiritual growth, and economic prosperity for New Mexicans and its visitors.” Commissioner Mattox suggested striking the entire sentence. third sentence in the statement. Vice-Chair Tafoya stated that she liked the sentence, but it could be pulled out of the vision statement and used in other materials. Commissioner Griscom agreed with Senator Steinborn and made a motion to add “and its visitors” to the end of the third sentence. Commissioner Mitchel seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

The Commission considered several suggestions for changing the first sentence of the vision statement to exclude the word “route”. Commissioner Griscom made a motion to substitute the word “trail” for “route”. The motion was seconded by Vice-Chair Tafoya. After further discussion the motion passed with Commissioner Shije voting against the motion citing her belief that the vision statement should be more concise.

Nae ye vote

c. Graphic identity approval for RGT planning documents  (Action required)
d. Approval of interim process for RGT designation  (Action required)
e. Approval of criteria for RGT designation  (Action required)

Vision Statement – Sec. mcq said that cross state didn’t work that well for him but thought intrastate would work better. SHanonn if we meet up with trails in el paso we would be interstate as wwell. Sec mcq stated that the commission was more interested in NM and . Sen Steinborn.- question or suggestion in first
sentence do we want the word route. Sounds a little generic maybe use another word beside ride and trail. Pathway maybe? Route seems a little official. Sec. mcqueen read out from website some synonyms. Sen Steinborn on third sentence maybe add something that states this could be an international attraction and add visitors. Pete- Looking at graphic identity [oster and brucher that same sentence is redundant it could be stricken from vision statement since its reiterated ni brochure. Sen said that he thought maybe it should stay in there. Would it be add to add for New Mexicans and its visitors. Sec. Mc thought last sentence seemed almost like a marketing statement and though the vision statement could be more concise. CT – I think that the last sentence should stay in the materials somewhere but could be pulled out of statement. (pete thought removing next from last sentence.) Bob – refocus to state that the trail Sen stein. Maybe add for new emxiccans and its visitors at end of second to last sentence. David Grsicom- Agrees not just for new Mexicans but also from visitors. Makes motion to include. Toner 2nd. Sec. M any thing else. Pete Mattox agrees you don’t need to tell people its for econ prosperity and clarifies that he likes final sentence. Motion passes. Sen. Steinborn- still says “route” is antiseptic any other alternatives? Path trail pathway SG- opportunity avenue are suggested by audience member other attendees experience – other said it was too wordy get rid of the center. Steinborn- suggested “cross trail experience”. Audience ember said that having hiking biking horseback trail is important. Terry Heslin stated that description could include water trail and say “shared use non motorized” in statement. DG thinks its OK to have trail in sentence again could take out route and add trail. Put recreation trail at end rather than in middle. Sec. M nothing to prevent commission from changing it in future. DG makes motion to substitute route for trail 2nd CT. SS- would like to have opportunity to change later because it is lengthy and if there are publications you may want something shorter. Should keep it to the basics. Jean- could shorten it even further. Could drop recreational all together. Bob could say multimodal and drop other. Sec. Mcqueen asked if further discussion on motion. Motion carried unanimously. Sec. Mcq asked if there was any further discussion. Cross state or border to border. Sen Stein said that he preferred cross state to border to border. Asks for motion to DG 2nd toner Mitchel Sec M further discussion? Motion carries.

Tab B. Graphic identity for RGT- CT two things to decide. 1st two pages are color palette and describes pales. Also deciding on 3 different fonts. Sec. M
suggests having 2 part vote on color pallet and invites discuttion. SS- state she prefers chile because it stands out. Sec. M from the responses three commissioners favored #1 2 commissions favored #3. DG- tourism department liked red chile but appreciates having tangerine included it’s a call to action color. DG makes motion to adopt red chile 2nd CT. Steinborn- not sure he was sent that but liked all the colors. Motion is carried #3 is adopted.

Fonts. Sec. M asks for comments or a motion. CT 3rd font received the most support. SS makes motion to approve font 2, No second. Audience member asked if font three had been assessed for accessibility to make sure that people with vision issues can read. CT makes motion fro font 3 2nd by DG. Sec. M any discussion. SS nay all other yae. Motion passes.

Discussion of approval for interim process for designation. CT- as discussed at last meeting have discussed process for designation. Need to have a process in place when land owers managers want to be incuded and what criteria should there be. Should have some letter to initiate request of designation, such as a resolution should include – and CT reads the criteria on included page. Want to have designated work group or subgroup to work with entities to work on process. PM- does the matrix fit into process? CT yes. DG- final result is the commission voting on segments? Sec. M. Yes. CT chair is designating authority in conference with Gov. Bob. What what would be required for NEPA proof. Sec. M only applicable to federal lands and would have to be reviewed in last five years. Bob- if federal funding is involved it would also . Sec. M asks for Motion. DG motion to approve as presented 2nd by SG. Sec. M further discussion? Motion carries unanimously.

Unfinished business- Criteria for matrix – CT alta did really good job in looking at past matrices and comping them into current matrix CT reads the criteria. Sen. Matrix is excellent- on safety issue some trails take you by mountains with great vistas but for safety it says to avoid the steep drop offs? Bob- valid point and it’s a balancing act and that’s why we have numeric ranking. So it could score low for safety but make up for other in other categories. Steinbor- maybe don’t put that as a criteria that you avoid the steep places. Some trails may be along the rim hroguht the gorge but still be incuded. SG add “unmitigated” drop-offs so that people would be notified. SG moves to add that. 2nd CT. Sec. M – bob- unmitigated might skew it because these are only
proposed algiments that have not had a chance tp mitigate. Ammendment passess. Sen Steinborn- on safety issue what does it mean by separation from open water. Bob. There is a range of distance so that a good setback would be 5-10’ to keep people from falling in water. Karl colonious suggests that could fall under unmitigated as well. Sec. M motion CT moves to accept. DG- under connectivity “other points of interest” to “tourism assets and points of interest” CT with draws previous motion. DG- makes motion to reflect above” 2nd CT. Mtion passes. Toner- Asks FWS guy there is a reference to critical habitat in matrix, if that has an official designation/definition refers to T&E species- maybe change it to something more like “important habitat” to avoid conflicts with trail. TE shouldn’t be the only consideration there are also issues to consider connectivity for example. Suggests changing to important habitat and makes motion. Jean- in terms of process the team will review all algiments it will not only be based on score and there will be opportunity for discussion and ammendment. DG 2nds Motion caries unanimously. CT approve matrix as ammemded 2nd by SS. Cheryl statue says “significant habitat. Motion carries.

New business- John Bailey- Karl colonisu- with enchanged circle trails- they have been helping with identifying algiments. They hope to be included for designation. John B talks about acreage and what is included. Trail condiseration will be from south to north. 6 trails that total 30 miles. West rim trail, good parking, water restrooms, good facilities. It is close to the rim don’t want hikers with dogs mountain bikers to get too close to the rim. Great tourist assets- big horns. Great views and was an obvious trail for inclusion in RGT. Wild river trails would also be good to add. Questa is in tis area and they want more trails and visitors. Goes from la junta (in wild rivers area- very popular) and goes north to where red river joins rio grande. The trails join the riconada trail at the top of gorge. There was a bridge there that got washed away and are working towards getting a new bridge that can accomodate hikrs bikers and horseback riders. Good facilities in this area too. These trails have been around for a long time and are very popular. They will be working toward through trail to co border. Also considering battery powered bikes and the commission should consider what to do with this type of vehicle. Most of the trails we would like to add to system are already suitable for inclusion and can accommodate horse and bike. And will consider easements crossing private lands. Commission may want to consider interim trails. There are
entities in taos that have expertise in negotiating with land owners and would like to use their expertise. 2018 is the Anniversary for wild and scenic rivers and the National Recreation Trails. Most of the trials in wild river area are national recreation trails. This could heighten visibility of what commission wants to accomplish.

Karl Colonioius with enchanted circle trails assoc. work with blm carson natil forest and user groups to come up with plan that includes multiple user groups. Nov 4th master plan will come out.

Sticky spots starting in pilar at visitor center- see slide.

Taos valley overlook- horseshoe, rift valley overlook, slide trail area. Critical habitat for SWWFC prevents trail at near the bottom/river- so the trail would be hire and have good connectivity. Junction bridge area up to the west rim has been scoped – could go along the road but more interesting ascending single track. Looking for trail route from high bridge north and have found an accessible route that goes through an arroyo and down to John Dunn Bridge and use that to cross east.

Horse thief mesa trail system is very popular and takes you north 6 miles along the rim and there is a route that takes you through cebolla mesa and to red river bridge site. There are a couple of issues but it is relatively accessible. In the area of ute mountain you need to create non motorized route. Currently there is vehicular access but not much. Form Ute Mtn there are several routes to that could lead to Colorado. The nat heritage area in CO is interested in having a connection but the area is on the opposite side of the river. There could be an option to end on the top of ute mtn. There are a lot of connections that would be possible in this area too.

Nothing to add further concerning tribal consult. SS said that they had covered it previously.

Alignemnt – David- work groups have had active role in the past few weeks have provided consultation and input in last several weeks which have been incorporated into process. Meeting with alta tomorrow

User work group- nothing to report

Resource work group- CT gina has gone. Jean- they provided input concerning points of interest ad coordination with the env cult resources.
Pete- everyone is happy to the job altas been doing and CT and Sec and JB. Also been an idea about province specific trail designs. North and south are very different environs and that is great idea

DG- mainly input and feedback into graphic identity and branding.

Interagency- Sen Steinorn- also addd that there has been great work by staff.

Rosemary- have a good pathway forward and will continue to reach out to agency and workgroups.

Sen. Steinborn- on agenda did approve map for brochure – there is text feedback and other recommendations. Sec. M said that those were early drafts still open for input

John baile- stated really liked vision statements end parts.

Audience member asked for summary of user group role – CT gave

Comments on poster- more wildlife and different wildlife should be shown. Questa person asked for more for branding for wildlife to

Terry from BLM- Oct 2nd 2018 is the 50th anniversary. And listed the trails in M under the trails act. Also national recreation trails designated by secs of interior and agriculture. Thinks the RGT could be included in National Scenic Trail but also in NRT process. Other events happening this year to mark the anniversary. Invited parks and tourism to take part.

GOv of ?? Isleta- Never heard from people regarding RGT. There will be impacts and decisions to be made not necessarily in opposition but need to know more details. We are not against it at this point but need more information. Suggest addressing letters to the governors not the departments with in. There will be new administrations in Jan so that would be a good time to reach out.

Aud member- looks like your on the way to deciding segments. The website would be a good palce for people to suggest segments and provide feedback.
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Next meeting- Sec. M. in Jan in Santa Fe April meeting down south maybe in las cruces. Jan 9th 2018 in porter hall

Adjourn 3:41

Public comments-
Stein

Alta Planning and Design Team
  c. Approval of RGT vision statement  (Action required)
  d. Graphic identity approval for RGT planning documents  (Action required)
  e. Approval of interim process for RGT designation  (Action required)
  f. Approval of criteria for RGT designation  (Action required)

8. New Business –

b)Report from Work Groups

Chair McQueen introduced Dr. David Certain to report on the progress of the Alignment Work Group. Groups have the chance to finally jump in people have a lot to share and since the visit with alta alignment has been able to provide info gis data existing trails, etc. more to come some doesn’t exist digitally. Looking forward to communicating with planning team and now know how to move forward.

User work group- Pete has been deputized to speak for dan – members of the group were present for alta meeting and at will generate more info concerning users, etc. to provide to alta.
Resources Gina—there’s overlap with other work groups, we were tasked with looking over env cult issues. Parks events, etc. etc. (see gina’s handout) reading from this... support services food water etc. gis shapefiles points, coord. Had conf call with members, split up in terms of counties have almost all counties represented each has a lead that will do limited outreach to county interest have met with some people in s part of state. Timeline is that all info from counties sent by sept 1st and by sept 10th send back out and send to alta by sept 15th. Assumptions are that wont get 100% of resources but will do the best. Also want to be in close proximity but accessible in side trip. Will all work together with contractor. Facilities will be listed but not inclusive. Thanks work group members. Sen Steinborn—good job—opportunities for river recreation along trail? Act says identify appropriate opps for river recreation.

Design and management Pete—trails should be designed with end users in mind without that it is difficult and expensive. Have been concerned that rgt hasn’t explicitly stated that this should be a multiuse trail. Multiuse inserted into draft statement would make us feel better. Mgmt are waiting for alignment study and will look at how it works with the Anasazi report. Sen Stein also been envisioned as multiuse. Alta should look at other trails are all things appropriate in the same place at same time... is trail wide enough to accommodate. Some don’t allow everything – speak of multiuse but look at landscape, parallel trails for different users. Interested in alta opinion. Jean yes don’t want to pigeon hole and be too specific but want to have it open need language to state that some specifics. Approach is to have preferred alignment bu will likely have parallel alignments. Pete agrees. Judy—all of the work group meeting that issue came up and general agreement that parallel alignments are good idea. Sen Steinborn good goal to have all user groups, if doable.

Communications work group david—thanks dept for leadership and bringing alta on. Four people on work group only met once but intent is to be sounding board for content displayed to public , branding. Wants to brand trail appropriately. Please join group. At meting had great feedback from alta and made decision to not jump into logo immediately but start with color pallet and look and feel to it to get better sense of what logo will look like. Don’t have a next meeting scheduled. Probably before October.

Interagency Steinborn—just me since sec Zunie has resigned. We work with governance of the state in regards to trail. Good work with alta on outreach and am ready to support as alta needs.
CT worked with Zunie on support just met yesterday with shije to discuss next steps. Will be meeting with 8 northern pueblos group and will work with rosemary on next steps. Have heard concerns from pueblos and tribes and understand that but important to interface even concerning boundaries outside tribal lands. Want to make sure pueblos have a voice at the table. Formal gov to gov converstations but still need to have more concerninnig alignment. Asked Shije. July 31st only have half hour to present but encourages pueblos to attend and to make sure we consult and get information. Not a requirement is voluntary – we are here and we are listening.

New Business- discussion work group consolidation- in talking with alta have discussed intersection with work groups wanted to bring it up to get feedback for example resources, and interagency, also alignment and design and management, not proposing anything but wanted to mention it. For the time being will move forward but open for further discussion. Rosemary- for resources there is distinction a lot of what they are getting concerns alignment. Interagency ii is a higher level of operation concerning money, etc. there’s overlap but its occurring at different levels. Different levels of outreach or data gathering. Sen. Steinborn look at it as diplomacy serving a liaison to different jurisdictions to be helpful that way. Just want to be a resource to be able to help. Could be considered interjurisdictional effort. CT- agrees with rosemary. Jean- regarding alignment and design and management work group we have it figured out. Pete- work groups were established prior to outside contractor being involved. Support rethinking structure rather than move forward in workgroup oriented way. Its more to pass on info from public to alta. A lot of the information gathered overlaps. Maybe organize it geographically.

Sec. public comments-
Eric SFMPO- will be gearing up for metro plan update in 2020 all the MPOs want to be involved. Guy from pueblos any gis data concerning tribal .. Jean- once we have something that’s draft form can work with rosemary. Sen Steinborn good idea to throw files up there so everyone can provide feedback. Yasmine planner with conservancy district. Any discussion about how to accomplish env cult surveys. How would the state like to accomplish. Jean- cant do final env cult survey for the final alignment. Have env and cutl resource experts on the tream who can give us the idea of the issues which will guid alternative and preferred alignments. Are collecting info on sureys that
have already been completed. Yasmine- any guidance from the state as to what is needed. Jean- intent is to have scoring process and will couple with guidance as for what the next steps are. CT- from state perspective don’t have jurisdiction, but where we do manage we will. But other entities will abide by their own rules and regulations. Laws and regs that govern those pieces of property would be applicable.

Michelle from udalls office. To extent appropriate offering help in outreach and assistance with communities. Terry Heslin rec trails blm- suggest from amy luger cooperating status with blm when opportunity arises there is a formality a letter…? Follow up with me to facilitate. Ruben Lucero from Isleta pueblo- alternative routes pending pueblos participation. huge area that is tribal land multiple pueblos. Talking to other tribal members- feel that trail could go around pueblo land. Jean – we haven’t looked at alternative yet, we are not rushing it. Not proposing alignment where not invited. Will look at previously proposed alignments in south and then will look to north. Rosemary- important for all of the tribes to b informed. There are cultural resources that go beyond resources fo tribal but will be letting the tribes know what is going on not making any assumptions that tribes will say yes. Ruben – appreciate being informed and believes reaching out to pueblos has been weak from the group. Rosemary- appreciate that and we will do our best to inform. Pete- how did you find out. Ruben- first meeting in taos not sure how office was informed but came through the office and asked me to go. Kelly Zunie held presentation in private meeting with pueblos that work together. All pueblos from isleta to taos will send representaties to meeting on July 31st. Pete- law requires public notice to these meetings. 10 days in advance and on internet. CT- glad that you are able to make these meetings trying a variety of ways to reach out gov to gov etc. open to other forms of communication. Rosemary- regional and state water planning- some have tribal liaisons but some have other forms of outreach. Tesuque etc. but need to find out more about the southern parts. Let me know if there are other ways to have outreach. Shije- Sec Zunie met with tribal members at beginning of year to meet with leaders and I’ll follow up to see if there are other leaders. Tom Romero- vision statement American southwest is broader than just NM. Jean- send comments to John.

Next meeting date- Taos kit carson electric boardroom oct. 17th. Any objection? David Griscom no objection but for meeting after that at northern rio grande natural heritage area for future meeting.
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Mtion CT Wearn 2nd. passed.
Adjourn Feldman 2nd ct approve

Chair McQueen asked for an update from the Resources Work Group. Gina Dello Russo

Commissioner Mattox, who is chair of the Design and Management Work Group, stated that the group

Chair McQueen asked for an update from the Communications Work Group. Commissioner Griscom stated that

Interagency Work Group

9. Public Comments

9. Future Meeting Date -

10. Adjournment – A motion to adjourn was made by and seconded by . The motion was approved unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at