

**MINUTES**  
**of the**  
**ARIZONA STATE COMMITTEE ON TRAILS**  
**of**  
**ARIZONA STATE PARKS**  
**MEETING OF MAY 4, 2007**  
**CARNEGIE CENTER**  
**PHOENIX, ARIZONA**

**A. CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL**

Chair Grandrud called the meeting to order at 1:00pm. Ruth Shulman called the roll and advised Chair Grandrud that there was a quorum.

**ASCOT Members Present:**

Reba Grandrud, Chair  
Don Applegate  
Bonnie Bariola  
Cate Bradley  
Maureen DeCindis  
Anne Ellis  
Andrew Fish  
Tom Fitzgerald  
Dan Gruber  
Jim Horton  
Carrie Miracle-Jordan  
Vince Murray  
Sonia Overholser  
Doug Potts  
Stephen Saway  
Charlie Scully  
Linda Slay  
Irene Smith  
Kent Taylor  
David Troutner  
John Vuolo  
Erik Wilson  
Bonnie Winslow

**ASCOT Members Absent:**

Russell Freeman  
Eric Smith

**Arizona State Parks Staff:**

Doris Pulsifer, Chief of Grants  
Annie McVay, State Trails Coordinator  
Danielle Silvas, Trails Heritage Fund Grant Coordinator  
Ruth Shulman, Advisory Group Coordinator

**Guests:**

Wayne Standage

Jeff Gursh

Bill Gibson

**B. INTRODUCTION OF MEMBERS AND STAFF**

Members and staff introduced themselves.

**C. ACTION ITEMS**

**1. Approval of Minutes from the January 27, 2007 Meeting.**

Sonia Overholser said that she did not feel the item E2 Approval of Changes to the ASCOT By-Laws was accurately represented, but did not ask for a specific change. Chair Grandrud added language to that item: “She also noted that the motion could be voted against.”

Andrew Fish noted that Joy Hernbrode did not attend the meeting and should be removed from the list of attendees.

Dan Gruber moved to accept the minutes as amended. Jim Horton seconded the motion, which passed with 23 ayes and 1 nay.

**2. Update on the Heritage Fund Grant Program Applications**

Danielle Silvas, Grant Coordinator for the Trails Heritage Fund Grant Program, made a spoke on the applications received for the program. Six applications were received and all were deemed to be eligible applications under the requirements. The total requested is approximately \$350,000; there is over \$500,000 available for grants this year including dollars rolled over from last year’s cycle. She gave a brief presentation on the applications:

- Prescott National Forest – Aspen Creek Trailhead and Trail Extension (move trailhead to add parking and extend trail)
- BLM Tucson Field Office – Arizona Trail, White Canyon Passage (construct new trail)
- Grand Canyon National Park – North Kaibab Bridge Repair (repair three bridges near Phantom Ranch)
- City of Flagstaff – Urban Trails System Signage (phase 2 for about 350 new signs)
- Tonto National Forest – Picketpost Mountain-Alamo Canyon Passage (complete construction on six of the remaining twelve miles from a previous project)
- City of Avondale – Agua Fria River Corridor (add amenities along the trail)

Danielle Silvas then described the rating and scoring process. The applications were received by February 28, 2007, and eligibility determined. Site visits are made by

Staff, and the applications are presented to the Arizona Outdoor Recreation Coordinating Commission (AORCC) and the ASP Board in June/July. The grant rating team, consisting of three members of ASP Staff and one ASCOT member meets to discuss the rating and scoring process. The rating team members individually read, rate and score the applications. Then the team meets again to discuss the ratings and reach a final score through consensus. The final scores and a Staff recommendation are presented to AORCC in August; AORCC makes a recommendation and forward the recommendations to the ASP Board. The rating team will meet on the following dates: July 16 at 9:00am and July 26, also at 9:00am.

Jim Horton asked if the Avondale/Agua Fria application was for the trail added to the State Trails System (STS) last year. Ms. McVay said that all three trails added to the STS this year had submitted applications for this cycle.

**3. Appoint a Liaison to the Trails Heritage Fund Grant Rating Team**

Chair Grandrud asked the three members who had expressed interest in serving on the team earlier whether or not they were still interested, and all were. Annie McVay discussed ASCOT's role in the process. The liaison meets with the rating team, reads and scores the application, and arrives at a consensus score with the team. Technically, the liaison is a non-voting member of the rating team, however the liaison's input is heard and considered. Annie McVay then asked past members to speak on their experience with the rating team.

Jim Horton said that it was terrific experience, and a great way to learn what is happening in Arizona trails as well as the criteria for awarding grants. Doug Potts also said that serving helps immerse you in what trail project exist across the state. The ASCOT representative's opinion is heard. Kent Taylor added that serving will help in clarifying the Heritage Fund system in your mind, which he found extremely beneficial.

Dan Gruber asked whether the rating meetings are open meetings, and Annie McVay replied that they are not. Bonnie Winslow asked whether this process was required. Annie McVay replied that it is required.

Annie McVay discussed the process by which the liaison will be voted on this year. Each member received a paper adhesive dot with which to cast a vote for the liaison. Annie McVay asked the member to write their initials on the dots and place the dot near the name of the person they wish to appoint.

Tom Fitzgerald asked about the time commitment needed for serving on the team. Danielle Silvas said that the July 16 meeting will take approximately 1-2 hours, and members can participate by phone. The July 26 meeting will likely be an all day meeting, ending at 3:00 or 4:00pm. Jim Horton added that in between those meetings the applications must be read.

Danielle Silvas noted that Bob Baldwin will be taking over the Trails Heritage Grant Program, and will be attending all the rating team meetings.

Dan Gruber asked about the voting; would it require a simple majority to be appointed, or some other determination of majority. Annie McVay noted that whoever had the most votes would be appointed.

Each of the “candidates” rose to speak on their motivation for serving on the rating team. John Vuolo said that he was interested because he has served on ASCOT for a long time, and has also served on various other committees associated with ASP. He is interested in the grant process, the applications themselves, and the mechanisms by which people arrange funding for trails projects. Sonia Overholser said that she was interested in serving because she too is a long time member of ASCOT, and wants to learn the process. She was involved in a “visioning process” that took place some time ago, which opened her eyes to the importance of the work ASCOT does. She feels that the liaison work is an important bridge. Doug Potts said he had been involved in the grant rating criteria process, and has served as liaison in the past, so he has experience in the process.

Bonnie Winslow moved that the person with the highest number of votes be appointed as liaison to the grant rating team. Maureen DeCindis seconded the motion, which carried with no further discussion.

Voting by placement of adhesive dots on a list of candidate name followed, and Sonia Overholser was appointed.

#### **4. Member Nominations Task Force**

Cate Bradley, Chair of the Member Nomination Task Force, said that there are up to eight ASCOT members whose terms expire this year. There will be four openings to fill, as ASCOT is reducing its size. Information on those who are interested in reapplying to ASCOT is pending. There has been discussion in ASCOT on advertising open positions and also how to invigorate the Committee. To that end, and to broaden the search, Ruth Shulman developed a targeted recruitment/marketing flyer. Cate Bradley read from the flyer while a copy was passed around to the members. (Copies are available upon request.) ASCOT members will receive a copy to pass along to user groups and interest parties. The flyer will also be available at hiking/biking shops and other venues of interest. More information on ASCOT and participation in the group will be available on the ASP website as the “second layer” in the recruitment process. There will also be information on the work of ASCOT beyond the basic mandate by the ASP Board; ASCOT’s goals and expectations. The third layer would be the application itself.

Cate Bradley then listed the criteria for screening applicants for membership, and these criteria apply to all applicants:

- Geographic diversity – ASCOT lacks members from Yuma, Greenlee, Graham, Santa Cruz, La Paz Mohave and Coconino Counties. Also, a

representative of the US Forest Service (USFS) would be invaluable, as there are many STS trails on USFS land.

- The ability to involve a broader group of people – not only representing themselves, but also user groups and other interested citizens, and providing a two-way flow of information.
- A burning desire to serve – this should be explained in the applicant's letter of intent
- A willingness to adopt leadership roles within ASCOT
- A willingness to become familiar with/hike the STS trails

Cate Bradley then went on to introduce the subcommittee members: Bonnie Winslow, Reba Grandrud, Irene Smith, Dan Gruber and Doug Potts. If others are interested in serving, please let her know.

The next task for the subcommittee is to receive and review the applications and select the new members for the "class of 2008" of ASCOT.

Ruth Shulman asked Committee members to let her know if they have any ideas for distribution channels for the flyers that would be a little "out of the box". Sonia Overholser asked whether hard copies and electronic copies would be available, and Ruth Shulman said yes. Andrew Fish asked whether copies could be distributed at any time from now. Ruth Shulman replied that recruiting season has not quite begun, but that ASCOT will be kept apprised, and copies will be available for distribution in a timely manner.

Chair Grandrud reminded ASCOT that all subcommittee meetings are open. Cate Bradley said that the Member Nominations meetings are being held via teleconference, which is available at no cost to those participating. Annie McVay said that the Member Nominations subcommittee presents the slate of officers to be elected for the Executive Subcommittee.

##### **5. Brainstorm Priority Trail Education Needs**

Annie McVay said that the brainstorming discussion today should be a very big picture to determine the priority needs. This discussion is not to develop a program for the education funds available. The goal is to look at a couple of new projects for ASP this year, and to help design the survey for the Trails 2010 process to help determine priorities for trails education in the future.

Irene Smith said trails safety in hiking, riding and preparation.

Chair Grandrud advocated increasing knowledge of endangered trails, especially historic trails.

Wayne Standage suggested education on user interactions on multiuse trails/trails etiquette, and also a message urging users to stay on trails to lessen trail damage.

Doug Potts suggested increasing knowledge and publicity of the STS.

Bonnie Winslow suggested more youth trails education.

Carrie Miracle-Jordan suggested education and publicity for the monitoring system.

Don Applegate suggested educating people on the costs and effects of forming “private” trails.

Andrew Fish suggested design and construction of trails.

Jim Horton suggested making available more maps and signs and educating user on the various information avenues.

Irene Smith suggested education on wildlife viewing and interaction; a “do not disturb” message.

Linda Slay suggested a targeted etiquette message on common courtesy and multipurpose user specific courtesies.

Doug Potts suggested trails group advocacy and interaction with the Legislators.

Charlie Scully suggested education on the benefits of trails including environment, economic and health benefits.

Vince Murray suggested education on advocacy with property developers and trails planning, and also education on the litter problems, including organic litter.

Wayne Standage suggested teaching people to be courteous to landowners around a trail, such as not cutting fences or leaving gates open.

Andrew Fish suggested education on the funding sources and funding advocacy.

Cate Bradley suggested education on stewardship of natural resource.

Annie McVay asked for effective education and communications methods. Sonia Overholser suggested that electronic channels, especially those that are interactive and easily accessible would be more effective than printed materials. Chair Grandrud mentioned that the Arizona State Archives and Records office has launched the Arizona Memory Project, which is asking for significant brochures, pictures and other documents, and she suggested adding those items pertaining to ASCOT.

Carrie Miracle-Jordan suggested that information be available at trails heads.

Bonnie Winslow volunteered to handle a poster session at the conference on either funding or education on ASCOT and OHVAG.

Eric Wilson suggested partnering with local parks and recreation groups to use STS trails as part of their recreation programs.

Wayne Standage suggested that some information be given to real estate agents for people moving into an area.

Tom Fitzgerald discussed curriculum “boxes” for teacher containing various materials, some interactive, such as those the USFS uses. Maureen DeCindis mentioned a similar training tool on helmets and bike safety.

Chair Grandrud suggested that ASCOT members make themselves available to give talks through speaker’s bureaus.

Andrew Fish mentioned the Southwest Conservation Corps program in Tucson area schools involving education and hands-on work, which could be expanded to other areas.

Dan Gruber asked whether this exercise was to help focus a statewide education effort, or the find educational priorities for funding, or both. Annie McVay said potentially both. There are funds available and priority needs must be identified.

Vince Murray mentioned lessons plans for fourth graders with an Arizona history curriculum. Teachers try to tie geography and other information, and this would be a good opportunity to teach historic trails. He also mentioned a Maricopa County flood control coloring book program, and something similar for children would be effective.

Steve Saway mentioned television shows on various stations, such as Arizona Illustrated out of Tucson as an effective channel.

Cate Bradley noted that the Arizona Game & Fish Department has a television show on the local PBS affiliate.

Andrew Fish asked whether there was enough funding for a state trails education position at ASP. Annie McVay said that there might be, though it would be difficult.

Dan Gruber suggested that ASCOT look at efficiency and effectiveness, especially when different groups develop messages on similar topics. He mentioned that developing “centers of excellence” for each topic would lead to a clearer focus on the messages. It would also service not to dilute programs, and possibly lead to partnerships and more coordination. Annie McVay said that ASP doesn’t exactly put out a call for projects and programs, but they could take a lead role in coordination. Wayne Standage said that there several different agencies and land user affected by trails education and there are more opportunities for coordination in this area.

Sonia Overholser asked whether a blogs or forums could be supported by the ASP website at this point. Annie McVay said that it did not, and reminded that the Committee that ASCOT “branded” blogs would violate the open meeting law. Individuals can develop blogs and forums, but that may be out of the purview of ASP altogether. Sonia Overholser said that ASP and ASCOT are the leaders in the state for trails, so that they should take the lead on providing the opportunity.

Annie McVay said that Staff would discuss the suggestion and make a further report to ASCOT in the future.

#### **D. REPORTS**

Chair Grandrud presented an overview of the structure of ASCOT’s subcommittees and task forces before receiving reports from those groups. There is the Executive Committee, directly under ASCOT, consisting of Reba Grandrud, Tom Fitzgerald, Maureen DeCindis and Bonnie Winslow. Those four officers also serve as vice-chairs of subcommittees, and in the case of Maureen DeCindis, as vice-chair of ASCOT. Tom Fitzgerald heads the State Trails System subcommittee, and Bonnie Winslow heads the Public Outreach subcommittee. Reba Grandrud also heads the Historic Trails subcommittee. Chair Grandrud reminded ASCOT that the “real work” of the Committee must take place in the subcommittees.

**1. Staff Reports**

**a. Arizona Parks and Recreation Association (APRA) Conference 2008**

Annie McVay will co-chair the APRA annual conference in 2008. She would like to see them serve as a natural resource association, and her involvement will help them work toward their direction. Jeff Spellman will be the APRA President, and the theme of the 2008 conference is “Reconnecting Children with Nature”. They are pursuing author Richard Louv as a keynote speaker. ASCOT members are eligible to volunteer for APRA and she encourages participation. The conference will be at the end of August in Scottsdale in 2008.

**b. Arizona Children and Nature Network**

Annie McVay mentioned that a group called the Arizona Children and Nature Network is the formative stage. Some key players are the municipalities, the BLM and the Phoenix Zoo. She invites ASCOT to participate while it forms. Jeff Williamson at the Zoo called the first meeting of the group.

**2. Historic Trails Task Force**

**a. Possible Spring 2008 Preservation Training**

Chair Grandrud mentioned that a training session on historic preservation is possible for next spring. She, Jim Horton, and Annie McVay met with Dave Welch, a preservation officer for a national historic trail has developed a preservation program. Dave Welch agreed to come next spring, and the dates of March 14-15 have been set aside. More information will be available later, and contact Chair Grandrud if you are interested.

**3. State Trails System Task Force**

**a. State Trails System Nomination** – co-chaired by Sonia Overholser and Kent Taylor. Kent Taylor said that nomination forms are due on July 2, and the committee will review those on July 11 at 10:00am at the ASP office to review the criteria and the rating process, as well advertising recruitment into the STS. Another meeting will take place on September 17 at 1:00pm to evaluate the applications.

Chair Grandrud suggested inviting Jim Horton and Vice Murray in particular to participate, especially from a Historic Trails viewpoint.

Steve Saway asked if there were a process in place to recommend removing a trail from the STS. Annie McVay said that a process is being worked out, and that the subcommittee can discuss the process as well. John Vuolo said that ASCOT and the ASP Board has the right to remove trails.

**b. Trails Monitoring Report** – headed by Eric Smith, along with Tom Fitzgerald and Vince Murray. Vince Murray said that Eric Smith is currently unavailable to chair, but that the subcommittee is looking to



divide the state into sections that could be “handled” by individuals. So far, the breakdown is: Steve Saway for Graham and Cochise Counties, Russell Freeman for Pinal County, Jim Horton for eastern Maricopa and Gila County, Eric Smith for Yavapai County, Eric Wilson for western Maricopa County, Linda Slay for Coconino County, Vince Murray for Navajo and La Paz Counties. There are still Counties available. Contacting the various trails groups to help with the monitoring will be needed as well as the “zone volunteer” from ASCOT doing some of the monitoring themselves.

Tom Fitzgerald noted that some of these plans had been made following the January ASCOT meeting, and that also the database was under discussion. He feels that the database is coming along pretty well, and it will be helpful to establish mailing lists, contact information, and evaluating the state of trails. Land managers especially need to be contacted about the trails in the STS on their agency’s land. Further discussion on the database followed.

Another meeting date has not yet been set. Please contact Tom Fitzgerald or Vince Murray if there is any interest in this task force.

Annie McVay said that Don Applegate and a BLM contractor have offered to host the online, interactive version of the trails monitoring form. The contractor who would house the form on his server would handle this, and Don Applegate suggested having him attend a monitoring subcommittee meeting.

- c. **State Trails System Decal Report** – this task force still needs a chair. Tom Fitzgerald mentioned that the most successful distribution of decals to date has been through the BLM. The database mentioned above will be a great help with the distribution process, because once contact is established with the land managers, information on the decals can be disseminated as can the decal itself. Decals should be at every STS trailhead.

Annie McVay said that some years ago ASCOT had designed a 3x5 sticker decal to be displayed. The land managers need to give their permission for a decal to be displayed, and the most successful land management agency has been the BLM in this arena. Annie McVay noted that in future, decal display may be a requirement of membership in the STS.

Bonnie Winslow said that she remembered a motion from ASCOT last year that did require new trails to display a decal. Annie McVay said that land managers are reluctant to embrace new requirements for various reasons, especially around the STS application and grant applications.

Bonnie Winslow wanted to go on record to say that funds sometimes come with inconveniences. John Vuolo said that land managers are equally restrictive in certain areas, and sometimes make it difficult to volunteer for them. John Vuolo asked whether the majority of trails are on Federal land management agencies. Annie McVay replied that the municipalities are moving to the forefront because they have matching funds and time to write grant applications. Further discussion on grant applications and funding followed.

Bonnie Winslow asked whether a Heritage Fund sign was required for display as with Historic Preservation grants. Danielle Silvas suggested that the decal image be added to the currently required Heritage Fund grant sign. Steve Saway said that the OHV Recreation Fund moved to a partnership agreement system rather than competitive grants. Discussion of the Heritage Fund needs to be agendaized.

Annie McVay said that once all the parts of the STS “machine” begin to move together, the Arizona system will be cohesive and unique; something that people want to join.

#### **4. Public Outreach Task Force**

##### **a. State Trails Conference Update**

Bonnie Winslow noted that the conference update was covered at the joint ASCOT-OHVAG meeting earlier in the day. The next meeting of the conference committee will be May 22 at 10:00am. Dial 602-542-9002 to participate by telephone.

Bonnie Winslow also mentioned National Trails Day, which is also a Public Outreach Task Force duty. Chair Grandrud said that any National Trails Day events should be brought to Bonnie Winslow’s attention so that she can help publicize those events. Bonnie Winslow also said that she sees trails education as part of the Public Outreach mission.

#### **E. CALL TO THE PUBLIC**

Bill Gibson from the BLM spoke briefly about a multiyear project across Federal land management agencies to standardize the lexicon used for trails data. The project is called the InterAgency Trails Data Standard. Participants include the BLM, the USFS, National Park Service, and the US Fish and Wildlife Service. Bill Gibson provided a handout (copies available on request). The standards will go before the Federal Geographic Data Committee, and the public has an opportunity to comment. Once fully approved, these standards will be a requirement. For more information please contact either Bill Gibson or Don Applegate at the BLM state office.

Tammy Pike introduced Jeff Gursh, who will speak on the OHV Legislation and some background on contacting Legislators. Jeff Gursh gave a brief “backgrounder” on the current OHV Legislation, which is HB2443, introduced by Representative Weiers. The Bill passed unanimously out of committees and caucuses, but failed. The Bill will be presented shortly for a third reading again through Legislative motion. There are currently 12 Senators who support the Bill, and 16 are needed to pass the Bill. Most opposition seems to be because the Senators consider it a new tax. The structure of the Bill is that any revenue is generated through user fees, so there are no new taxes involved. He urged individual members to contact their representatives in support of the OHV Bill, which is needed in Arizona.

Dan Gruber asked what the Governor would do if the Bill would pass. Jeff Gursh said that the current sense is that the Governor is speaking to Democrats who are “on the fence” and urging their support. Jim Horton asked about the stand of his particular Representatives, Allen and Waring. Jeff Gursh said that they are both supporting the Bill. Tammy Pike suggested contacting even those who support the Bill to continue their support. Jeff Gursh noted that ASP will continue to run the programs for OHV along with AGFD.

Wayne Standage is a new Commissioner with the Apache Junction Parks and Recreation Department and is at the meeting to get to know trails and trails issues.

**F. SUMMARY OF CURRENT EVENTS, MATTERS OF BOARD  
PROCEDURE, REQUESTS AND ITEMS FOR FUTURE AGENDAS**

Future agenda items: follow up on the online monitoring form once the contractor has attended a monitoring task force meeting; the Heritage Fund Grant application process and procedures, especially with respect to STS decals; Irene Smith’s health program and the success metrics she has developed; follow-up on the trails education funds available.

Kent Taylor noted that US Senate introduced a Bill to name the Arizona Trail as National Scenic Trail. Senators Kyl and McCain introduced the Bill, and Representative Giffords from the Tucson area will introduce a companion Bill in the House of Representatives. Pinal County held its first National Trails Day event on March 31. Fifty people attended.

Tom Fitzgerald said that ADOT is widening I-17 in North Phoenix, and they are crossing the CAP canal. A multi-modal bridge has been suggested for pedestrians and bikers over the I-17. Tom Fitzgerald asked for support on all fronts, and the City of Phoenix offered to maintain the bridge, and others have already submitted letters of support. Please contact Tom Fitzgerald before May 9, when he meets with the state engineer and ADOT.

Sonia Overholser reviewed several national and state level accomplishments of the International Mountain Biking Association (IMBA). The trail care crew visited in Tucson, and will be in Show Low shortly. IMBA also has three or four different programs oriented toward education, and they emphasize education for non-motorized trails use. She also mentioned that IMBA advocates for land protection outside of the

Wilderness Area designation. If anyone is interested in further information, please contact Sonia Overholser.

Linda Slay noted that the Black Canyon Trail is nearly connected from Black Canyon City. There have been approximately 800 volunteers hours worked since March, and there remains about less than mile of trail connection to build.

Danielle Silvas said that there will be joint workshops for the Trails Heritage Grant Program and the LRSP/LWCF Grant Program, and she has completed the Grant manual for Trails for the next cycle. This manual will be more user-friendly.

Jim Horton said that he had attended an ASP 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary event at Yuma Crossing, and he enjoyed it thoroughly. Don Applegate seconded that, as he attended the Douglas Historic event.

Don Applegate noted that the Utah-Arizona border trail, Coyote Buttes North, is now available for visitors' permits through an online lottery process.

#### **G. TIME AND PLACE OF NEXT MEETING**

Annie McVay noted the next meeting is scheduled for Friday, July 20, however the Tonto Natural Bridge is not going to be available. John Vuolo suggested Pinetop-Lakeside, possibly at the new AGFD meeting room. Annie McVay will communicate the new meeting place to the Committee when it's determined.

#### **H. ADJOURNMENT**

Chair Grandrud declared the meeting adjourned at 3:20pm.