

**MINUTES**  
**of the**  
**ARIZONA STATE COMMITTEE ON TRAILS (ASCOT)**  
**of**  
**ARIZONA STATE PARKS (ASP)**  
**Meeting of October 3, 2008**  
**Oracle State Park**  
**Oracle, AZ**

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

Vice-Chair Horton called the meeting to order at 10:05am. Ms. Shulman called the roll and announced a quorum.

**ASCOT Members Present:** Jim Horton, Vice-Chair  
Cate Bradley  
Maureen DeCindis  
Anne Ellis  
Reba Grandrud  
Daye Halling  
Chris Hosking  
Doug Potts  
Stephen Saway  
Linda Slay  
Kent Taylor  
Paul Schilke

**ASCOT Members Absent:** Charlie Scully  
Sonia Overholser  
John Vuolo  
Don Applegate  
Erik Wilson  
Irene Smith

**Arizona State Parks (ASP) Staff:** Annie McVay, State Trails Coordinator  
Ruth Shulman, Advisory Committee Coordinator

**Guests:** Lynn Perez Hyatt, Friend of Kartchner Caverns SP  
Tom Fitzgerald, former ASCOT member

**B. INTRODUCTION OF MEMBERS AND STAFF**

Members and staff introduced themselves.

**C. ACTION ITEMS**

**1. Approve the Minutes of the July 19, 2008 ASCOT meeting.**

Mr. Taylor noted that the address of the meeting location for July was incorrect and asked that the correction be made. Mr. Taylor moved that the minutes be accepted as corrected. Mr. Halling seconded the motion, which carried with no further discussion.

## **2. Consider Recommending State Trails System (STS) Nominations**

Mr. Taylor noted that the STS Nomination subcommittee had met on September 4, 2008 and reviewed 45 nominations. In the current agenda packet, ASCOT received a list of trails recommended for nomination into the STS, as well as the one trail not recommended. He went on to commend the subcommittee for its preparation and diligence in making for a productive meeting.

Ms. Bradley asked about the motorized segments of the Stage Coach Trail and much of the trail is motorized. Mr. Taylor noted that a great deal of the trail is motorized, and the motorized segments are interspersed with non-motorized segments.

Ms. Grandrud mentioned that the trail under discussion was part of a list of important historic trails compiled by ASP in 1993. It should be considered for inclusion in the STS in some fashion if at all possible. Mr. Saway mentioned that portions of the Arizona Trail contain motorized segments and wondered if the Stage Coach Trail could be admitted under the same condition as it is an important historic trail. Mr. Taylor noted that the Stage Coach Trail did not meet the STS Trail criteria if only the nonmotorized segments are considered. Ms. McVay also noted that as a general “rule” segments of trails are not nominated to the STS. One exception is the Arizona Trail, because its 800-mile length precludes nomination as a whole. Further discussion on historic trails followed.

Ms. Grandrud said that, particularly with historic trails, there will be a number of long-distance trails that could not be completely nonmotorized. Chair Horton said that having the Historic Trails subcommittee and the STS subcommittee work together would be a way to look at the historic trail conundrum. Ms. McVay suggested that new criteria for long distance trails could be formulated by ASCOT. Because new criteria cannot be adopted during the nomination, the new criteria will have to be done by the turn of the calendar in order to make the criteria available to new applicants. Further discussion on setting criteria and timing followed.

Mr. Taylor moved to accept the trails nominated on table one and to not accept the trails on table two to be nominated into the State Trails System. Ms. Slay seconded the motion, which carried with no further discussion.

Chair Horton thanked the subcommittee members for all their work.

## **3. Elect ASCOT Executive Committee for 2009**

Ms. Grandrud noted that the subcommittee recommends nominating Maureen DeCindis as Chair and Jim Horton as Vice-Chair. Ms. Grandrud moved to elect Ms. DeCindis and Mr. Horton as Chair and Vice-Chair. Mr. Taylor seconded the motion. Ms. Bradley said that she has been working on both the Nominations subcommittee and the Executive Committee for years, and she would like to encourage interested parties to nominate themselves if they wish. Ms. McVay said that one matter for discussion that previously arose was the idea of term limits for the Executive Committee. She noted that vacancies can be difficult to fill, and interested ASCOT members should not be discouraged.

Chair Horton called for the vote, which carried with no further discussion. Chair for 2009 will be Maureen DeCindis, and Vice-Chair will be Jim Horton.

#### **4. Discuss ASCOT's Goals, Structure and Focus for Upcoming Years**

Ms. McVay opened the discussion by passing out a handout with the results of the recent ASCOT survey. The survey covered a number of areas including the ASP mandate for ASCOT, and the areas outside the mandate that ASCOT has chosen to work on over the years. She recognized Ms. DeCindis's contribution to correlating the survey results.

Ms. McVay also noted that she had recently attended a volunteer-management workshop. She had two notable 'take-aways' from the workshop. One was the idea of the "volunteer paycheck" which is why people volunteer in the first; their sense of dedication to the task they volunteered to do. The second is that the volunteer should have their tasks clearly defined for them upfront. There was some correlation between the answers to the survey and these workshop concepts.

With respect to the survey Ms. McVay highlighted questions 5 and 6. Question 5 "What do you think are the benefits to serving on ASCOT?" was the first topic of discussion. The number one benefit for serving on ASCOT, according to most respondents, was the networking aspect. ASCOT members placed high value on getting to meet and know people on the Committee and in the wider trails committee. Based on this number one answer, Ms. McVay suggested that more networking become one of the goals, including more networking with the trails community.

Question 6 "What was the best ASCOT accomplishment during your term?" came next. The policy changes and trails conferences were by far the most important according to respondents. These represent concrete, relatively small goals achieved by ASCOT. She noted that the question asking what ASCOT can do to meet goals received answers that were less concrete. There were suggestions that are outside the scope of ASCOT, or otherwise unrealistic.

Ms. McVay then pointed to the first chart, which outlines the ASP Board mandates, which will always be ASCOT accomplishments each year, or as needed. These mandates are: to nominate trails for the State Trails System, provide input to the Trails Heritage Fund grant criteria (every five years following the State Trails Plan; otherwise as needed), the Recreational Trails Program (RTP) which requires ASCOT to meet annually with the Off-Highway Vehicle Advisory Group (OHVAG), and appointing the Heritage Trails Fund grant rating team liaison, and input on the State Trails Plan, which occurs every five years. She asks that ASCOT keep in mind setting concrete, focused goals for the next five years.

Ms. McVay then moved to a chart of goals culled from the survey responses, which are outside the scope of ASCOT and its members, and are therefore unrealistic. The first item regarding providing trails maintenance. ASP currently provides RTP funds for trails maintenance, and is unable to provide any further funds or assistance. Mr. Taylor noted that the policy of using RTP funds for trails maintenance is providing more trails maintenance assistance than any other organization in the state. Ms. Bradley noted that publicizing the RTP availability is crucial.

The second item on the chart was for ASCOT to become a centralized volunteer management organization for the state. This would require resources that ASCOT likely does not have. She noted that she is a liaison between ASP and ASCOT, but she cannot take the lions' share in achieving ASCOT's goals. Another item is construction and maintenance of the Arizona Trail, which is unclear. The fourth item is education and outreach to K-12 school children, which is also not concrete and specific. Another item was for ASCOT to conduct tours of trails in the state. Ms. McVay noted that tours are given daily in local, regional and state parks. Another comment regarded the National Scenic Trails Bill, however ASCOT's role was not specified. Another item was to become a clearinghouse for volunteers and regional partnerships, which might be possible, but there was the "problem" of how to accomplish that.

She asked ASCOT again to consider what goals could be accomplished in the next 1-5 years. Ms. Bradley asked if there were categories to be considered in the exercise. Ms. McVay noted that categories are listed on another chart. Those categories are Education and Outreach, Networking and Communication, State Trails System, and Other. Ms. DeCindis noted that these categories were listed as important from the survey answers. ASCOT should use approximately two or three to focus on for the next 1-5 years. Members were asked to come up with three goals on cards, written very specifically, to post on a “sticky board”. Further discussion on how to categorize ideas followed. Ms. McVay noted that the next step in the process was for each member to use blue adhesive dots to multivote for what they would like to work on in the future.

The ideas posted and voted on were:

Education and Outreach

White paper on economic benefits of trails specific to Arizona – 3 votes

ASCOT liaison to lead the development community/coordinate with other professionals in developing trails – 1

Outreach to rural communities/counties about the reduced Trails Heritage Fund grant program match – 0

Education on trail design and maintenance standards and best practices (ie, IMBA standards) – 2

ASCOT Trails Conference – 7

Networking and Communication

Four meetings in various parts of the state with an emphasis on networking with local trails users/groups – 8

Provide mentorship on the Trails Heritage Fund grant application process/increase participation – 1

Promote trails user organizations/become a clearing house for contact info – 1

State Trails System

STS delisting process – 1

STS promotion – 4

STS criteria review – 0

More effective trails monitoring of STS trails through involving the public and utilizing the website – 0

Organize regional trails in the STS into systems – 0

Compile an STS “Best of the Best” list – 3

Other

Historic Trails as a standing subcommittee/Educational component – 5

Focus further on Historic Trails/Nominations to STS/Encourage applications – 0

Monitor access to trails by developing a statewide database of access issues – 0

More multivotes followed to narrow the field for the 2009 goal. Ms. McVay then asked ASCOT to use a single red adhesive dot to vote for their goal to accomplish for the next year. The goal with the most votes was “State Trails System Promotion”. This will be ASCOT’s major goal for the upcoming year.

(ASCOT broke for lunch at 12:00pm and reconvened at 12:30pm.)

**REPORTS**—Committee and staff reports may be written or verbal and may be followed by brief discussion.

**1. Reports**

**a. Staff Reports**

**Trails 2010 Plan Update** – Ms. McVay said that all of the surveys had been completed and the results were being compiled. She should have an update on the results in December or January. Additionally, input meetings with trails users and land managers across the state are scheduled to begin on October 29 and continue through December. A list of specific meeting dates, times and locations is available on the ASP website to help advertise to the public.

**Recreational Trails Program (RTP) Reauthorization** – Ms. McVay noted that in 2009, the Federal Legislation authorizing the RTP and its disbursement of funds will expire. The legislation may not be reauthorized, and there should be no expectation of receiving funds this Federal fiscal year. The Coalition for Recreational Trails and American Trails both have information on their websites regarding advocacy for renewing this bill. Ms. McVay said that there is no carryover money left over from the trails maintenance fund from the most recent apportionment.

**Trails Training** – ASP will be hosting various trails training sessions. One session will be a “train-the-trainer” at the end of the month. The sessions are nearly full. ASP will pay for any interested person willing to become a trainer to attend the training. Other planned sessions are surface water management, trails design and rigging.

**ASP Board November meeting** – Ms. McVay notes that the ASP Board has requested that each advisory group make a brief presentation at their November meeting. The presentation should address “who-we-are, what-

we-do” information. Chair Horton will coordinate with Ms. DeCindis about who will make the presentation.

**b. Historic Trails Task Force**

(The majority of this discussion was held during the STS Nomination agenda item.) Ms. Grandrud noted that SHPO had prepared a paper in 1993 on important historic trails. She and Ms. McVay are attempting to get copies for the subcommittee. She provided a précis of the paper to ASCOT. The Historic Trails subcommittee will meet during the subcommittee breakouts.

**c. State Trails System Task Force**

**Heritage Fund Liaison Report** – Ms. Bradley served as the liaison for this year’s grant cycle. She found the process informative and urges members to serve as a liaison if they wish. The time commitment is not “tremendous” and her understanding of the rating criteria and process grew. Other past liaisons echoed the sentiment that the experience is central to one of ASCOT’s mandated tasks.

**d. Public Outreach Task Force (including Member Recruitment subcommittee.)**

**Member Recruitment** – No report.

**E. CALL TO THE PUBLIC**

Ms. Hyatt spoke about how the Friends of Kartchner Caverns State Parks partners with the park to provide fundraising assistance and educational programs. One current program is outreach to 4<sup>th</sup> grade science students, one benefit of which will be a boost regarding conservation of the cave and its surrounding aboveground area. Another outreach effort underwritten by the Friends is cave tours for low-income students, as well as expanding the curriculum in those schools. She emphasized the role of outreach in developing new programs for parks and a new visitor base to parks. She also advocated for ASCOT to do more outreach to develop new trails users in Arizona.

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

None.

**H. TIME AND PLACE OF NEXT MEETING**

Ms. Grandrud moved that ASCOT conduct a December planning meeting. Ms. Slay seconded the motion, which carried with no further discussion. Following calendar coordination among the member, the meeting will be held Saturday, December 13 at the Horseshoe Ranch north of Phoenix. Further information will be available as it develops.

**I. ADJOURNMENT**

Mr. Horton adjourned the meeting at 1:00pm. Individual subcommittee breakout meetings followed.