

**MINUTES**  
**of the**  
**ARIZONA STATE COMMITTEE ON TRAILS (ASCOT)**  
**of**  
**ARIZONA STATE PARKS (ASP)**  
**Meeting of January 29, 2011**

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

**ASCOT Members Present:** Kent Taylor, Chair  
Nick Lund  
Tom Fitzgerald  
Lisa Marie Gerdl  
Anna Pfender  
Linda Slay  
Bruce Weidenhamer  
Bill Gibson  
Ryan Domsalla  
Phyllis Rally

**ASCOT Members Absent:** Daniel Gronseth  
Matt Kalina  
Loren Worthington

**Arizona State Parks (ASP) Staff:** None

**B. INTRODUCTION OF MEMBERS AND STAFF**

**C. ACTION ITEMS**

**1. Approval of Minutes from the December 03, 2010 Meeting.**

Mr. Fitzgerald moved to table the minutes from December 03, 2010. Mr. Lund seconded, the motion passed. The group at large verbally discussed topics from the December 03, 2010 Meeting for those new members in attendance by briefly outlining the mandated duties of ASCOT, advising of the loss of a State Trails Coordinator for State Parks, and the lose of Heritage Fund monies. The current subcommittees for ASCOT are State Trails and Outreach. Daye Halling has resigned from ASCOT since the December 03, 2010 Meeting.

**2. Introduction of new members.**

Kent Taylor, Chair orientated the new ASCOT members on the history of ASCOT, its mandates and activities. Mr. Taylor advised that ASCOT meetings are guided under Open Meeting Law and use Robert's Rules of Order for decorum. Mr. Taylor advised that while most Arizona Parks Advisory Boards were taking the next year off that ASCOT was keeping meetings and moving forward with mandated responsibilities and outreach.

### **3. Review of ASCOT Workshop held December 04, 2010.**

All positive reviews and feedback from the December Workshop: Strategic Planning for Trails: From Concept to Reality. The group enjoyed the high brain power present in attendance and the networking opportunities.

### **4. State Parks Update.**

No State Parks update at this time. Parks Foundation is doing a study on privatization versus State operation at this time. Mr. Taylor advised he has made an inquiry into getting a trails-oriented person on the Foundation but has not received any response at this time. As ASCOT does not address advocacy in its mission such advocacy could be addressed by ASCOT through association with the Foundation and could attempt to create a collective voice with all trail groups and organizations before the State legislature. Public Demand = Protection.

Recreation Trails grant deadline is March 30, 2011. Trail maintenance dollars available amount to about \$1M.

*Action Item:* Linda Slay to contact Bob Baldwin to find out progress on applications and if State Parks is in need of any assistance.

### **5. Discussion of various operation assignments for ASCOT.**

As there is no representation of State Parks to ASCOT at this time many of the previous duties held by the State Parks Coordinator will fall onto ASCOT members to fill. Lisa Gerdl has volunteered to take minutes and prepare agendas.

*Action Item:* Linda Slay to check with Bob Baldwin on teleconference availability for meetings.

*Action Item:* Kent Taylor to check on getting voice recording equipment from State Parks for the meeting.

*Action Item:* Lisa Gerdl to check with Bob Baldwin on getting the flip chart pages from the December 03, 2010 Meeting.

This is a reminder to all members of ASCOT to ensure that they do no 'reply all' in email correspondence for ASCOT as it violates the Open Meeting law. \*If you need something to be sent to every member of ASCOT then please send the information to Kent Taylor so it can be properly routed through State Parks. Subcommittees are to have agendas and meeting minutes and are subject to Open Meeting law and Public Notice requirements.

### **6. Discussion of new Subcommittee Chair for the Outreach Committee.**

The prior chair, Daye Halling, has resigned to take work out-of-state. The purpose of the Outreach Committee is to focus on the educational aspect of ASCOT and the promotion of State Trails. No action was taken on the Outreach Committee Chair as it was not provided for in the agenda.

### **7. Subcommittee break-out exercises.**

Through discussion it was proposed that the two subcommittee groups could be joined to maximize current ASCOT resources. The single, join subcommittee would have two co-chairs; one from each of the separate subcommittees.

Through discussion it was proposed that the promotion of State Trails should have specific goals to help guide the progress of getting the word out about State Trails.

**Subcommittee break-out exercises Cont.**

*Action Item:* The group at large is tasked with brainstorming ideas at the next meeting on raising awareness with available resources to the promotion of State Trails. One idea proposed is utilizing community efforts in progress to generate funds/awareness to trail access and connections between communities which are State Trails.

It was proposed to consolidate and update the inventory of State Trails.

*Action Item:* Bill Gibson to ask Bob Baldwin if there is a current database on an inventory of all State Trails.

Through discussion it was proposed that ASCOT should have a 2011 work-plan with two projects: a workshop and a photo contest. Both have achievable results to complete.

The 2011 Workshop is proposed for November 2011. The group discussed the ideas of using trails to connect communities as a topic focusing on the Arizona Trail and those communities that feed/lead off the trail i.e. the AZT would be a 'backbone' with the communities being the 'ribs'.

- Using the State Trail System to link Arizona Communities for Economic and Environmental Success.
  - Address why communities would want to be involved i.e. pooling funds and resources.
  - Promote the values of environmental stability, personal health, and community economics.
  - Address what it can do for a community i.e. bring in a representative from another successful 'backbone' system such as the Pacific Crest Trail, the Appalachian, etc.
  - State Representatives, community council members, chamber of Commerce, etc are invitees.

## **8. Meeting dates for remainder of 2011 calendar year.**

Friday May 20, 2001. Joint meeting with OHVAG in Sedona.

Saturday August 06, 2011. Meeting location TBA.

Friday November 04, 2011. Meeting location TBA. The Fall Workshop is to tentatively be held on Saturday November 05, 2011.

## **9. Member Roundtable.**

Linda Slay announced a Horse Council and AZT Centennial Event that will have every mile of the AZT covered by hoof, foot, or tire between September 15<sup>th</sup> and October 31<sup>st</sup> of 2011. Free sign-up for the event begins March 01, 2011.

Bruce Weidenhamer announced that VoAZ may host four (4) trail training sessions in the Fall of 2011 to the Spring of 2012 covering trail design, trail maintenance, trail construction, and crew leader training. The Enchantment Trail running from Apache Junction, AZ to Albuquerque, NM is in the proposal stages.

The City of Avondale will hold a Centennial event centered on Monument Hill.

Progress continues on the BCT with blasting at Bloody Basin. A dedication in the Spring is anticipated for the continuous section from SR-74 to SR-69.

## **Member Roundtable Cont.**

A crew is building a 10-mile stretch of the AZT from the FS boundary to Battleaxe Road which is the most rugged section so far. This is the last stretch of the AZT and the goal to have the AZT completed for the Centennial.

Bill Gibson announced the BLM is using National Trails Training to try and capture trail knowledge before that knowledge retires. Trail training is being regionalized.

Apache-Sitgreaves now has handicapped access to Rim Vista. The Mount Baldy trail is being re-routed to avoid the area held sacred by the Indians and to deter access onto the Reservation.

#### **D. REPORTS.**

No reports at this time.

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

No comment.

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

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

Friday, May 20, 2011 at Red Rocks Ranger District (Forest Service Office).

#### **H. ADJOURNMENT**

Kent Taylor adjourned the meeting at 12:20 pm.