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Vanessa Hickman,
State Land Commissioner

**MINUTES OF THE PUBLIC MEETING
of
THE ARIZONA STATE COMMITTEE ON TRAILS (ASCOT)
of
THE ARIZONA STATE PARKS BOARD**

Held on **February 7th 2014**, at **State Parks Board Room Phoenix, Arizona**
beginning at 1pm. The Committee discussed and/or took action on the following
matters:

AGENDA

Amended

(The Chair reserves the right to set the order of the agenda.)

Beginning at 1pm the Attorney General Office will provide new members and any current members who would like to attend with an overview of State Open Meeting Law, Robert's Rules of Order, Recording Hours for Volunteer Time, and Overview of Travel Reimbursement. No ASCOT business will be discussed and no actions will be taken.

GENERAL MEETING- TIME 2:00PM

- A. CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL – 2:05 pm**
- B. INTRODUCTION OF MEMBERS, GUESTS, AND STAFF –** Members in attendance presented a brief overview of their background:

Chair called meeting to order and asked each member to share some of their background with the group.

Bob Baldwin, Recreational Trails Grants Coordinator, AZ State Parks reminded group that the meeting is being recorded and urged everyone to speak up and announce who they are. He continued saying he's been with State Parks for almost 14 years. He operates the Recreational Trails Program grants for both motorized and non-motorized trails.

Kent Ennis, Dep. Dir. AZ State Parks. He indicated he's been with AZ State Parks for five years, covering administrative affairs, budget, finance, and procurement.

Katie Valeros, Recreational Trails Planner said she is learning the grant's process and working with ASCOT as a subcommittee. She's also a staff liaison for ASCOT. Most communications come through her. She worked for Bureau of Land Mgmt since 2001 prior to joining State Parks.

Connie Lane, Coronado National Forest, one of the newer members – She worked for the Tonto National Forrest for 24 years and was on the Mesa District for 11 years and then the Globe District until she went to Pinal County as Park and Recreation Director in 2009. She worked there for two years as the Chair for SW Recreation Advisory Committee and went back to Coronado National Forest Service as their program lead for recreation land special uses, heritage and border forces.

Craig Stevens, Back Country Horsemen of Central AZ – Representing the equestrian community and volunteers for the Red Rock Ranger District, packing, conservation and riding for biology and range.

Doug Von Gausig, Mayor of Clarkdale – He indicated he's the president of League of Cities and Towns. He's also the Exec Dir of the Verde River Institute, which is the policy-oriented institute working on Verde River issues. He's also on the AZ Forward Water Committee, and AZ Open Space Parks Committee and work on State Park issues with AZ Forward. He's also on the Game and Fish Heritage Fund Advisory Committee that does a lot of similar things to what ASCOT does.

Laurel Arndt, Mountain Bike Association of AZ – She indicated this is her second stint with AZ State. She sat on the National Resource Advisory Committee for six years in early 2000. She's also an environmental planner by trade and did her thesis in Open Space State Trust Land Conservation.

Laddie Cox, Representative at Large – He indicated he's retired military, a native Arizonan with ten years experience in trail layout and development.

Claire Miller, City of Scottsdale – She started as a Ranger in the City of Phoenix in 1986 and moved to Scottsdale in 1999 and was the original manager of the McDowell Sonoran Reserve and has 28 years of experience.

Linda Slay, AZ Horse Council – She's been on the ASCOT Board since 2003 and this is her last term, she has termed out. She loves to work for trail preservation and advocating for trails. She is the chair for Black Canyon Trail Coalition and they have re-routed a lot of single-track trails.

Bernadine McCollum, Wickenburg Conservation Foundation – She's a conservation coordinator for the Hassayampa River Preserve, owned by the Nature Conservancy. She also has as an independent hiking group she organized.

Jackie Keller, Representative at Large – She is by profession a landscape architect and does a lot of trail plans and signs. She does volunteer work for Volunteers of Outdoor AZ.

Richard Kesselman, Volunteers for Outdoor AZ – He indicated he's finishing his second year. He works with Volunteers for Outdoor AZ, a nonprofit group out of Tempe that does trail building, maintenance and reroute events for various land managers. He is a crew leader, does technical advising and got involved in trail design work and is also on a committee that was formed recently called, Save Daisy Mountain Committee that used to be part of the Nature North Country Conservancy. They're now part of the Desert Foothills Land Trust and their mission is to save and preserve Daisy Mountain.

Angela Villa, Representative at Large – She indicated she’s a native Arizonian and the newest member. She’s also a business owner in Pinal County. She has been hiking her entire life and horseback riding trails across AZ, Southern AZ, Eastern and Northern AZ. She has been volunteering with ASHA, aka AZ Horse Council, for the past eight years. She also works with Pinal Partnership, Open Spaces and Trails Coalition in Pinal County. She’s also sat on some water boards in the Pinal County area.

Laurie Hachtel, AZ Attorney General’s Office – She represents AZ State Parks and works with the Advisory Committees.

Paul Katz, also with the AZ Attorney General’s Office. He’s been practicing law in AZ 38 years. Before coming to the AG’s Office – he’s been there two years – he spent six/seven years in the US Attorney’s Office doing civil representation of BLM, Park Service and Forest Service. During half that time he was a federal prosecutor, and then went into private practice doing commercial and environmental litigation. When he was in the US Attorney’s Office, one of his duties was handling civil and criminal environmental enforcement. He’s representing Parks and other state agencies at this time. He shares those duties with Laurie. He later interjected that he forgot to mention that after he left private practice he spent 22 years on the Superior Court bench

Patrick Kell (phone), Southwest Region Manager International Mountain Bicycling Assn. He indicated he works with the International Mountain Biking Assn as regional director based in Prescott, AZ. He also works with the Forest Service and BLM and all the local cities and towns. He’s working on all kinds of issues right now on urban bike trails from Flagstaff to Sierra Vista and also some projects in Sedona and Prescott. Also working on the North Rim with the Forest Service in Fredonia.

Bill Gibson (phone), Bureau of Land Management – He indicated he’s been with BLM for 34 years and just started his second term with ASCOT. He worked as an archeologist, planner, wilderness ranger and for the past 15 years he’s been working specifically on trails and travel management. He is currently the Travel Management Lead.

Chair asked if there were other callers wanting to speak.

[No verbal response.]

Lisa Gerdl, Representative at Large (not in attendance).

Chair, Nick Lund introduced himself and indicated he’s the current chair of ASCOT. He’s also vice-chair of Game and Fish Heritage Fund Public Advisory Committee and president of TRACKS, 350 members who build and maintain over 200 miles of trails in the Apache Sitgreaves National Forest in NE AZ. He indicated the reason for his request for each member to share their background is because of the wealth of information, experience and connections in the room that are valuable. Use these resources to you advantage.

C. CALL TO THE PUBLIC – No public present.

D. ASCOT ACTION ITEMS

1. ASCOT Will Review and Approve Minutes from the October 12, 2013 Meeting. ASCOT Will Discuss, Review, and Select any proposed changes.

Motion: Slay moved, Kesselman seconded.

Chair asked for additions, changes, or other items to be discussed.

Slay indicated there were three minor changes on p. 14, second paragraph it should read "to the Town of Wickenburg and not "to Wickenburg;" p. 20, second paragraph; paragraph it should read "trails plan." In the next paragraph she wanted to clarify should read, "State Parks sought the nominations."

Minutes approved unanimously, as amended.

2. ASCOT will review the nominations from the Nomination Subcommittee and elect officers for Chair, Vice Chair, State Trail Systems Vice Chair, and Public Outreach Vice Chair – Elected members will begin to serve immediately and continue serving until replaced in 2015. Other members may be appointed at this time to serve on those committees.

Miller indicated group had received info Katie provided asking for those interested in nomination to a board membership or had been nominated by others. Starting with Chair, Vice Chair, State Trail System Vice Chair and Public Outreach Vice Chair positions. Nick Lund was nominated for chair and she asked if there were other nominations. [No verbal response.]

Miller moved that Lund continue as chair of ASCOT, seconded by Kesselman. It passed unanimously.

The nominees for vice chair are Linda Slay and Rick Kesselman and she asked if there were other nominees. [No verbal response.] Motion and second to elect Linda Slay. Motion passed.

Nominees for State Trail System Vice Chair were Jackie Keller and Bill Gibson. There were no other nominations from the floor. Keller was nominated as State Trail System Vice Chair. Moved by Slay, second Von Gausig. Approved unanimously.

Keller was also nominated for Public Outreach Vice Chair.

Public Outreach Vice Chair coordinates workshops and conferences, supports National Trails Day, and disseminates important trail information. Chair Lund indicated that most of the info about trails comes through State Parks, so Public Outreach doesn't have to do mass mailings, it's centralized. Miller asked for other nominations from the floor. Connie Lane expressed interest. Claire nominated Gibson, but he declined.

Motion to elect Lane by Cox, second Von Gausig. Approved unanimously.

3. ASCOT Will Receive an Update from the Subcommittee Reviewing the AZ State Trail System (STS) and Discuss Options – At the October 12th meeting ASCOT recommended that the subcommittee come back with specific recommendations for STS and App Database. The Subcommittee will report on progress to date and future plans including Subcommittee Meeting held in January 31st, 2014.

Keller thanked the subcommittee for their service and reported that the subcommittee was asked to look at the current State Trail System, identify the purpose of it and what the face should be as they moved forward. Katie handed out the meeting notes from last week's meeting. At the last ASCOT meeting in October last year, the subcommittee was asked to come back with specific recommendations on State Trail System and the App database. There were three items that stood out in the discussion about the State Legislation. Jackie continued that there has always been confusion about the State Trail System Legislation. The terminology alone was confusing because they had been calling the State Trail System the 800 State Trail System. Item E in the legislation refers to "trail systems" means coordinated systems of trails in this state. ASCOT's 800 trail system is only one of the coordinated systems that could be considered under the legislation.

Linda indicated that the AZ State Horsemen Assn had the idea for a state trail system in the 1970's and it evolved to where they are now. There were trails in the state trail system, but when the Heritage Fund came about in 1996, they had to be in the state trail system to be eligible for the Heritage Fund. That changed the intent of the whole thing. Then Heritage Funds were gone and we had 700-800 trails that were a mesh-match. This system is not relevant in the current environment.

Jackie continued and indicated they archived the system as it is today and State Parks has all the data which will be part of ASCOT and AZ State Park Trails archives since the purpose has totally changed. Richard pointed out that through this whole database discussion over the past year and a half that every agency that had so much info on the internet, website and books about locations, the condition, what kind of activities and ratings themselves that it would become so difficult to try and manage and they should always keep it updated as a State Trails System. She also indicated they would like to make a motion to ASCOT to recommend that the State Trails System nominations be permanently frozen and the database archived and no longer maintained as a separate database. Paul asked if she meant not abolishing the system, just the database. She responded no, not even abolishing, but archiving and not adding anymore. Laddie asked whether one of the considerations that in everybody's mind is whatever it would take to hold a state trail system current there are no funds to do it. We need to focus on things we can accomplish.

Chair asked Claire to repeat her motion because she did not get a second before the discussion started. The recommended motion stated: The Subcommittee recommends to ASCOT that the STS be permanently frozen and archived, and no longer maintained as a separate database. Atty Katz recommended the motion

should be ASCOT recommend to the Parks Board that the Parks State Trails System database be frozen and archived and not updated until there's funding to do so.

The Chair indicated they still did not have a second to the motion. Kesselman seconded the motion and indicated his concern is that they've already spent a year-and-a-half discussing this and the conclusion was that it was not intended to be resurrected because there were no funds. The conclusion was that it's no longer relevant in 2014 and going forward with all the other databases out there and shouldn't be a temporary motion. Laurel said she could support it, but the reason she's having some reaction to it is that when you say that the STS be permanently frozen it needs to say STS database. She agrees that funding is not the issue it's the system – it's redundant and there are so many other people duplicating it. Chair asked a question – think about the various trail systems, a lot of people have put a lot of work into getting their trails systems into the STS. They want it. It's something a lot of people feel is of benefit. So what they're saying is there should be no future additions to the STS. Keller responded that's correct.

Linda indicated the group did struggle with that. State Parks put out the call for nominations and a lot of the agencies put a lot of time and effort into preparing their nominations. At one point there was a lot of prestige with being in the State Trail System. Now it's not what it was intended to be. Now it's a hodge-podge of 800 trails. If the funding was there it would go into the app. They're not saying these trails are not still trails managed by the agency, but they're still there and it's not taking anything away except the 800 trails. They're all still managed by their agency. Arndt indicated it's relevant to what's happening in the economy and she applauded the group for recognizing that legislation that happened X number years' ago is no longer relevant. The simple fact is that a large percent of the people who see a trail designated to the area they're particularly in, not to a state trail. They'll look at it as a county trail, a city trail, community trail or neighborhood trail. Chair added that he was one of the people involved in the beta testing of that app. When he first looked at it, the app itself appeared cumbersome. If he was new to the state and looked at that app and wanted to know about a particular trail, you couldn't find it quickly. Before they got going, another presenter and he were discussing the trail system that he represents. He suggested that in order to make it simpler for the app to just have the link to their website on the app rather than listing all the trails on the app. The recommendation would simplify the State Trail System.

Keller brought the focus back to something that the subcommittee focused on and indicated that the purpose of the state trail system was to make sure they were recognizing and promoting non-motorized trails that are of special interest. She reiterated they're not taking anything away from the 800 trails, they will be archived, and they will contain the usual info and that they are only morphing into a different form of recognizing these "unique and significant" trails. Chair added that people could still put things on the app. The app is going to move forward. In the first presentation on the app, what they were saying was that they were going to put in all the trails. One of the questions from ASCOT was, is there going to be special designation. Laddie added that when they first heard about the app it looked like the solution to everything, but they ran into some problems and the money ran out.

Unless there are funds available to develop and maintain the accuracy and currency of that app, we're just spinning their wheels. Chair said they'll get to hear that when they make their presentation in a minute.

Katz said he had one recommendation with respect to how you phrase things. There's an agreement and we could end up having the motion rephrased on the STS data. He recommended that the motion be that ASCOT recommend to the Parks Board and then follow up. Slay added one more thing, could it help to say that the STS nominations be permanently frozen and that body of info archived and no longer maintained as a separate database. Valeros indicated that in previous recommendations the nominations were already frozen. Chair said they froze the nominations until such time as they got to this point. Kesselman invoked Robert's Rules to close the debate and vote on the motion. Von Gausig indicated there was an amendment to the motion and whoever seconded and the maker would need to concur. Keller agreed she would like to amend the motion, the motion being that ASCOT recommends to the Parks Board that the State Trail System database be permanently frozen and archived and no longer maintained as a separate database. Kesselman seconded. Valeros re-reads motion: ASCOT recommends to the State Parks Board that the State Trail System database be permanently frozen and archived. Chair called for the vote. The vote passed unanimously.

4. ASCOT Will Discuss and Assign Members for "Top Trail Picks" for the State Parks Website – On the State Parks website there is the ASCOT Top Trails page. ASCOT needs to have their members submit their picks for review by the group to be posted on the State Parks website.

Keller continued with the second part of the subcommittee's report and talked about the future recognition of trails in the state. The subcommittee discussed how they would go about recognizing the special interests and significance of trails in the state. It was suggested that ASCOT had a top trails pick that would be featured on the AZ State Parks website as the state's premier trail. Item 3C in the Subcommittee minutes explained what the Subcommittee first started to identify and asked how they would go about identifying what the top picks would be. They would look at trails identified by regions, similar to the different regions in the booklets from State Parks. They would identify usage by users. They discussed whether they would go to a public nomination of the most popular trails by using the website's seasonal interests and trails that are nationally designated trails, like the historic, recreational or scenic trails. They also discussed whether they should identify whether they were top 50 or top 100. They felt uncomfortable with that. They thought the number would kind of shake out. Item 3E in the Subcommittee minutes goes to what McCullum was asking whether they would like the State Trail System Subcommittee to have a new mission. Then the Subcommittee would be able to develop descriptions and info on those featured trails and provide a link to the managing agency website for more specific info. Gibson added that it would become incumbent upon the managing agency to have data unique to that address so that when the public uses it, the app would be on the website.

Arndt applauded the intent but wanted to do a reality check. She indicated the internet is not updated each night so no matter what they do they're always going to

be struggling with a bad link, a bad website or inaccurate website. She didn't think they should hold themselves back because of the concern that somebody else may not have a website or link that is update and 100 percent accurate. She indicated that if they had to put a disclaimer on the website that's the most important thing they can do, but they shouldn't be held back by the good intent. Chair indicated the disclaimer is a very important point. Katz indicated that's the point he was going to suggest the disclaimer that State Parks does not represent that the info contained in any of the links is current or accurate. Chair said it's the responsibility of the individual to seek out its accuracy.

Keller indicated that if the Subcommittee didn't have additional info to add she would like to move that their second recommendation would be to recommend to ASCOT that the State Trail System Subcommittee's new mission be to develop and manage the selection of the ASCOT top trail picks. Slay seconded. Chair asked for discussion. Kesselman asked to modify the motion and eliminate the word "manage" because at this point until they come back with how they think it will be managed it shouldn't be there. Chair said the other part would be that the Subcommittee would be making the recommendations for the guidelines of the Subcommittee to ASCOT and they'd all participate in the approval of those guidelines, and as part of those guidelines, if they're going to be recommending top trail picks, the recommendation comes to the overall committee for approval. Von Gausig asked, aren't the State Trail System Subcommittee people the same people and shouldn't it be the same people. Keller said they would keep their same name. Von Gausig responded the bylaws could be changed to rename the committee, and that the State Trail System has a particular meaning and they just negated it. Chair said they just voted to freeze the State Trail System database and if you're going to be considering top trail picks it might be a pick that's not in the database. So a potential new name for the database seems to be in order. So they can come back with a recommended new name for the committee and subcommittee as well.

Valeros continued, for a future agenda item they will be doing guidelines and name for the subcommittee formerly known as – chair said that's what the motion will be and asked for any other suggestions for the wording of the motion. Keller asked whether they were going to add coming back with a new name. Chair responded for the subcommittee, yes. Keller moved that they recommend to ASCOT that the State Trail System Subcommittee develop a new mission, a new name, and guidelines. Cox wanted to make sure the guidelines continued the suggestions in Item 3C & 3E of the Subcommittee minutes. Slay seconded. Chair asked for further discussion. Slay said it took a long time to come to this but it's an elegant solution. Kesselman said on the AZ State Park side right now there's a picture in one of the many links that is AZ's top pick. Chair reminded everyone on ASCOT, just because you're not a member of a subcommittee, Valeros sends out the meeting notices. So if you have any ideas you can send them to the committee. Valeros asked if on the next agenda do they want to add an agenda item to add new people onto subcommittees or is that something to be considered in this meeting. Do we want more people on subcommittees since some people have cycled off? Von Gausig wants to be sure water trails are considered. Chair called for the vote. It passed unanimously.

E. REPORTS May be Verbal and Reports Provided at the Meeting-

- 1. State Parks Staff Will Provide Status of the Statewide Trails APP –** Staff will provide the latest information on the statewide trails APP being developed in partnership with ASU.

Brad McNeil, AZ State Parks IT Section reported that last January they were given the app to deploy and try to make it work. He gave a presentation of the status of the app. Chair told new members that State Parks decided to do an app and right now it's for Apple, but for those with android phones were able to participate in the beta testing. The first presentation to this committee was that they were going to put all the trails in the whole state on the app. Some said, wait a minute, we worked for years and years and years reviewing trails for the state system and wanted to know if they were going to be highlighted on the app or specially noted, etc. There was a lot of discussion on what was going to be on the app. This has been a long, arduous process. He continued that his first reaction in terms of the beta testing when he first went on the app was that if he were a person just coming in to look up a trail he would be overwhelmed, especially in the region he represents, NE AZ. It's an enormous area going from northeast all the way down to the border. He thinks it's definitely a work in progress that's going to take time and effort.

McNeil continued reported that last January they were given a trails app to deploy and put out to the public. A Beta version was available for the International Trails Symposium last spring. It was demonstrated a year ago by ASU and predated when IT took over. The first version came out in the fall of 2012, when they started seeing new versions in September/October. Since then they have been trying to develop a system that other trail system managers could download their information into. The final preparations for the app were last month for the Apple version. Last summer as they were going through the 1,500 trails they were testing, some of the apps were troublesome and things were crashing so they started looking at the code. Apple and Android put out a new operating system every year so they were looking at the code and noticed a lot of it was developed and was starting to reach the end of its life cycle. They noticed that some of the crashing they were having trouble was because of problems in the engineering. When you develop an app you have several options for technology. When they first started last spring, we thought we needed to enter data one way and that was having people submit shaped files, they'd store them, and the app would take care of it. As it turns out, that was not the case. We would have multiple trailheads, for instance, and they couldn't sink in and find out where a trail was. They had to go back in and by the summer and fall of this year they were going through every trail and putting them in by hand. We were also looking at tab data, whether they had restrooms, whether the trails had facilities and at some point last fall we thought we needed to concentrate on one platform and we left the Android version in beta and pursue the Apple IOS. Last summer they started a project to clean up the code to make sure it would no longer crash. Last September Apple released IOS-7 that meant a big change in the app. We changed 6,500 of the 21,000 lines of code inside the app. We also discovered the public API of the weather, which is the way the app talks to the weather service, weren't working. We purchased that info. We put in a trail description. The app itself has several levels of

menus so every time we changed or added something we had to go through all the subcategories. Finally, we had to find out how to verify the trail data itself. We noticed in several instances that we hadn't. So in whatever ways we could we started going through each trail and verifying the data. As a network it all behaves differently. We wanted to make sure you could actually see the correct trail on the network. Today, what do we have? Ten days ago we put it in for review by Apple. Apple is very strict on what it submits to the Apple Store. They go through to make sure there are no memory leaks and yesterday we heard good news that they accepted it. Now you can download the iPhone version. We have verified info for State Parks trails only.

Arndt asked when the Android would be available. McNeil responded that with most of the things as far as looking through the code, we needed to do it again. The same thing that happened with Apple IOS-7 happened with Android, the old codes still work on a few phones, but on those that have different GPS devices it doesn't work anymore. So we have to go back and modify all that code and that's a maintenance problem. Chair added that one of the things that they discussed earlier was a statement about if you have a link to another trail system that the accuracy is not there either. McNeil responded that, yes, if they had a link to somewhere else, yes, he agreed. He offered to show a short demo. Kesselman asked if theirs was an AZ State Parks hiking trails app? The first line said "these are for hiking trails found at AZ State Parks" and this is the link for that. If you go on this link will it give you info on non-AZ State Park trails; if not, are there other trails in this current app and what are they. McNeil replied that most of the things they could ground test were the things we knew about. If it was something we needed access to it would be in there. Kesselman continued that essentially the current app as it is with the Apple Store is being approved as only AZ State Park Trails are fully developed and no other trails from Scottsdale or anywhere else. McNeil said there are a few Forest Service trails that toehold on our properties. There 119 trails in the app and all have some intersection with State Parks. Chair added that their assumption was that there were going to be trails all over the state that were going to be in this. This is the first time they know it's pretty much limited to State Parks, so a lot of the discuss in this meeting was under the assumption that the app was going to include a lot of the trails like these top trails that are not in State Parks.

Keller added that they're kind of saying the same kind of thing, this is mapping for the State Parks trails and it goes to the next agency's boundaries and it's those agencies that are really responsible for mapping those trails and the conditions. Chair responded that all the trails he's worked with have been in the national forest, the US Forest Service is the agency. There's no way right now that info would come through this database. That's what he was assuming up until this point, that this app would be one that somebody coming into the state of AZ wanting to know about trails could go to and at least be linked with other ones. He suggested they go back to links to other major trail systems. Gibson agreed. Arndt suggested they hold this discussion for a future agenda item. Chair said he thinks it's an ongoing discussion but something they needed to go forward with. Maybe at the next meeting they could include it on the agenda.

Baldwin asked if he could try to wrap the discussion up. He said when this whole app idea appeared a year-and-a-half, two years ago, we had grand visions of doing things they have since found out they can't do. They paid ASU \$16,000 to develop something that State Parks has had to totally rebuild on its own money and there was no budget for State Parks to do any of this. So when they went back and rebuilt it all they could count on was the data they already had. They don't have the time nor the effort to go out and reach every land managing agency ask them to send their files so they could be corrected and put in the app. If that's possible, to put connections to other systems on this app, they could certainly do that; but like they said, all we can manage is the data we have control over. That's what's in there right now.

Kesselman said he was very pleasantly surprised that it's really focused and has done well at State Parks because that's a major part of our mission to promote State Parks. He also asked, when they come back if they could have some numbers or info to let them know what it might cost to add other links so this committee could decide whether it's even remotely doable.

Cox added there's no reason why those links can't be visible to the people using this app because most of them can give you at least the data to get you started. Agencies that maintain trail information should be able to provide that information. Chair said it sounds like these guys came to a lot of the same points.

2. State Parks Staff Will Report on the Status of the Nonmotorized Grants Cycle Announcement and Workshop.

Valeros reported that there's been a lot of interest in the nonmotorized grants cycle. On the 28th they did a workshop with 33 people in attendance either in person or on the phone. Since that time period, the people interested in doing nonmotorized projects have to contact her about their projects. The deadline to contact me and discuss their application is at the end of the day. Before she came to the meeting there were 20 plus people who have talked to her about projects they would like to do. She didn't know how many phone messages she will have when she gets back to her desk because a lot of people wait 'til the last minute. By end of day on the 12th they need to get their cost sheets in, the deadline to get in their grant applications for this cycle is the 28th of February. This is the only nonmotorized grant cycle they are doing this year. Keller asked if they don't contact you today they can't apply. Valeros said, for the record that is correct. They have to get in touch with her today. All that info was stated in the grants manual and all over the web page. Chair asked whether there were additional questions. No verbal response.

3. State Parks Board Approved Funding Sponsorship to the 14th Biennial National Scenic and Historic Trails Conference.

Valeros reported she included a copy of the State Parks report. The State Parks Board met and approved the OSTA funding in the October meeting for the trails conference held in Tucson. The final eligible cost was \$8,333.24. The grant reimbursement was \$5,928.74. OSTA contributed \$437. They had five color guard participants, four conference scholarships, five speakers and 130 volunteer hours. They did go far under what they had originally presented as their budget. Chair asked for comments or questions. No verbal response.

4. State Parks Board Approved the Removal of ASCOT Member for Failure to Attend.

Chair indicated that report is in each member's packet and didn't feel any need to report further but indicated it was a good reminder to all, in terms of looking at their bylaws in terms of meeting attendance. Being selected to serve on ASCOT carries a responsibility to participate. Part of that participation is attending as many meetings as you can, in person, and if you can't by telephone.

5. State Parks Board Approved Appointing Members to ASCOT for 2014 and the Recommendation to alter the composition of the committee for one year.

Chair stated it was something they recommended to State Parks Board for its approval and is in each packet.

6. State Parks Board Approved Acknowledgement of the TRACKS GPS Trail Marking System as a Valuable Tool.

Chair reported that the TRACKS members were very pleased with the results of this system. The head of the Navajo County Sheriff's Auxiliary told him that prior to the implementation of this project if somebody called and were having trouble or were lost or hurt on the 200-mile trail system they would literally have to send multiple officers out and it could take hours and hours to locate them. Up in his area there's usually one cell-phone tower and they couldn't even triangulate. With the new system they had three successful rescues in September and all took 45 minutes or less because of the implementation of this system. State Parks Board appreciated the system and voted to recommend it as a potential model to other trail systems around the state. There are a number of other trail systems that have implemented this system. Scottsdale has a very similar system. The Director of the Maricopa County Parks and Rec is on the State Parks Board. He said they have a similar one. He said that a lot of his ardent trail users – expert users he called them – don't like having so many markers out there and their conversation was, this system is not really for the expert trail users, it's for those people who go out for the first time and aren't familiar with trail systems and they get lost or hurt out there. Those are the people they're trying to make the trail system safer for.

Valeros indicated she had a couple comments. They are now including and promoting this in the grant manual as something they're recommended. It's also on the State Park's website. It's something State Parks is acknowledging and recommending. She has had a few inquiries from people calling in to her asking for more details and saying this is something they're interested in looking at, too. The

Chair added that he's been contacted by Superstition Area Search and Rescue. They think this would be a terrific idea for a lot of the trails back in the Superstition because they constantly get calls on those areas. TRACKS received an AZ Game and Fish Heritage Fund Grant to help fund this project. Game and Fish highlighted this project as a best use of Heritage Fund Grants in their report to the Legislature. It all ties in together in the trails community. Lane asked if he said it was being used up

on the Apache Sitgreaves and asked if it's in the wilderness areas there. Chair said that's not part of their trail system. It has been recommended to the Springerville RD.

Stevens asked if anybody from the Verde Valley Rescue Group contacted them regarding their system. Chair said they welcome anyone who wants to contact them because it's an easy system to implement. It costs less than \$3,000 to do it on a 200-mile trail system. So it really is not something that's expensive to do. It takes a lot of person power. We have 350 members in TRACKS and we did it all last summer.

Miller said the city of Scottsdale would be willing to answer any questions any agencies or groups may have as well. Chair said Phyllis Raley was very excited about this and she thought BLM would be very interested, especially Scottsdale. He thought their system was more complex and much more thoroughly worked out. Miller responded they had great support from their GIS group in order for that to happen, as well as their public safety agencies that helped and pitched in funding for not only the data layers that go onto the computers, but actually having printed output of some of the maps that are used for the on-the-ground rescuers to utilize. Chair continued and said, it's a simple system and really has made a remarkable impact.

F. DISCUSSION

- 1. ASCOT** members will report on current events and/or recent experiences of interest to the trails community and/or the status of any trail projects with which they may be involved. Action will be limited to selecting individuals to do further research on the issue and directing staff to include the item on a future agenda for appropriate action.

Chair indicated that the next item, Discussion, is one recently added to the agenda to facilitate going around the table and if someone has something in the area you represent that you think would really be of interest to the members of ASCOT, this give you the opportunity to talk about it. He said they would go around the table and encouraged the members to give a very brief report.

Gibson asked to be first to report. He reported he had one item from the BLM, a situation on the Middle Gila Mountain Passage for the Arizona Trail area. ASARCO is proposing a large tailing pile that will affect the Arizona Trail. BLM is looking at possible reroutes. He indicated that if anyone wanting to get involved, they should get in touch with him.

Valeros asked if there was any possibility that any of those trails were built with RTP funding. Gibson responded, yes. Valeros responded, okay, you saw where I was going with that; and Valeros thanked her for pointing that out.

Arndt asked whether it had section 4F designation because that brings in another issue that might help him. Gibson responded that's in the development stages right now – the waters of the [unintelligible]. Arndt said, no. If it's designated as an historic trail or recreation trail and has section 4F designation, which is different than 404 which is about water. So it would be addressed in your EIS and she is curious if it has because it has to do with how the trail is funded and how it's used. If it's strictly a recreational trail, then it has that status and mitigation or movement of that trail is

quite involved under an EIS project. Gibson said that's going to be part of the mitigation in the EIS. Arndt continued and said section 4F just designates it as a property that has to have special consideration under any – well, it's actually a transportation project, but it still needs to get designated. She suggested they take the discussion off line and Gibson agreed and asked her to get his email address from Valeros. The Chair said that Valeros provided everyone with the names, email addresses and contact info for every member of ASCOT.

The Chair asked Patrick next whether there was anything special going on with him in his involvement with IMBA that he would like to share with the group. Patrick responded he is working on an RTP grant for the Prescott Circle Trail. Other than that there are definitely a lot of things going on in AZ including an extensive system in Sierra Vista.

Lane indicated she is just listening today and will postpone adding to the discussion because there's a lot going through her mind.

Stevens reported he manages [unintelligible] Rescue for Yavapai County. After reading in the documents about signing systems and GPS points, he would like to get more info about how the process could be adapted in Yavapai County. Chair said he would be glad to share and Claire could also help.

Von Gausig said that South Verde River in Clarkdale was continuing to progress. They recently agreed with AZ Game and Fish to a grant that they have on their boating infrastructure funds. The first time Game & Fish used it for a paddle instead of a motorized power boat. These are funds that are supplied by US Fish and Wildlife under the monies they collect from boating, fuel and recreational surtaxes. They're going to be doing some improvements at the upper end part of the 90-acre TAPCO and they've also let the RFPs out – actually let the contract out for master planning for both of those parks and river access points, TAPCO and four-and-a-half miles downstream at Tuzigoot. They're co-managing with AZ State Parks and it's progressing really well. It looks like by late spring, early summer, they might have some major improvements done to TAPCO which would really open up that whole area.

Arndt indicated it's now mountain biking season and you will see a lot of mountain bikers out on the trail. They're doing a lot of trail maintenance, primarily in the regional parks in Maricopa County, where they conduct most of their races, but this year the race is going to be in Lake Havasu so there will be trail maintenance going on up there. This last year they had one of the biggest races they've ever had. Six hundred people showed up. In the 12 years she's been racing, other than the big races going on next week at Old Pueblo and Oracle, that's one of the biggest local races they've ever had. So there's a lot of enthusiasm and they're encouraged to do trail maintenance on the trails they race on. Up until June 1, she asked they all recognize they're all trying to share the trails.

Cox said he had an observation that about a month ago on the AZ trails they put in two new gates in the Box Canyon segment south of Kentucky Camp. He said he was mentioning it just in case they get a chance to look at it. It is the most simple and yet elegant design he's ever seen. It's constructed out of steel and is designed

for pack animals to go through. You don't have to unpack your pack animal. ATVs would have an extremely difficult time getting through. Chair asked if he would send the info to Valeros and she could add it as an info item in their next report because he felt a lot of people would be interested.

Miller said they continue to work in the northern area of the preserve. This season they are set to add another 20 to 30 miles of trail renovation, new build, reconstruction – a little bit of everything that would support that northern area. They had the Brown's Ranch grand opening in October and they had great representation from all around.

Slay said they were working away on the Black Canyon Trail. They're doing the Copper Mountain Loop now. That's going to be about an 8-or-9 mile loop that is north of Highway 69. They're verging on getting into Prescott National Forest. They have all the agreements with BLM so far, but not the Prescott NF, so in the meantime they're still developing some of their loops. She's been visiting Brown's Ranch and it's wonderful whether you ride a bike, horse, walk or whatever.

Slay asked to add more thing. She said she was reading in the paper about Jane Rau and it was so inspiring, who was so involved in trail advocacy in Scottsdale. Miller added that Jane Rau, prior to her accident and injury she just sustained, still comes out and does trail work with her at 91 years of age.

McCollum said that WCF is still working with BLM to expand Sophie's Flat. They're also having trail maintenance on February 17, and encouraged anyone who would like to join them. There's been a lot of erosion and damage from horses on the trails and they're also applying for a RTP maintenance grant to do some of the other work.

Keller said she started working for the City of Avondale and Avondale has two major river corridors, the Agua Fria River and the Gila River. They are in the process of putting out RFP's for the El Rio River corridor trails and their own citywide group of trails. They hope to eventually have quite a network of trails from the west valley because being at the confluence of the Gila and Agua Fria River, people who want to go from the east valley to Lake Pleasant and west of us to Lake Pleasant will have to go through Avondale so they are looking at making an equestrian, pedestrian and bicycling trail throughout the city.

Kesselman said he mentioned earlier that he had gotten involved in a project called, Save Daisy Mountain which is a up I-17 by Anthem and New River. They're an extension of the North Country Conservancy and they are now associated with Desert Foothills Land Trust. They're in the infancy of the groundwork in the old Jane Rowe tradition and they're talked to the Scottsdale Preserve Office trying to learn about grassroots and how to get funding to preserve Daisy and become part of a connectivity of trails from BLM, Phoenix and other Maricopa County trails. He asked if anyone knew a videographer or someone who has access to aerial photography. They are hoping to get a five-or-ten-minute presentation for part of their workshops. Von Gausig said he was doing a lot of aerial video with drones, but he could only do it as a volunteer. Richard said he would be in touch.

Chair reminded everyone they are State Park volunteers. Valeros gave everyone the info to report volunteer hours, including travel time. The website address is on the sheet. That's very valuable info for State Parks to have. It helps them in their annual report.

Ennis added that State Parks Director, Bryan Martyn, is extremely enthusiastic about State Parks and this was his idea. He came up with the new, tasteful decal that shows the logo as a clear decal that says, "I support State Parks." It works very well on tinted glass, or on a dark painted car. They're putting them out in each park by the donation canister and asking for a 25 cent donation, but the group can have them for free. On behalf of myself and the Director we appreciate the great work you do.

G. TIME AND PLACE OF NEXT MEETINGS AND CALL FOR FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS – ASCOT will determine the dates and locations for meetings for the remainder of 2014.

April 18, 2014 – Joint meeting with OHVAG for RTP certification and separate ASCOT meeting at the Carnegie Library in Phoenix.

State Recreation Trails Advisory Committee at 10:00 A.M.

ASCOT meeting at 1:00 P.M.

Valeros will be sending out info requesting suggestions for meeting dates and locations for the remainder of the year.

H. ADJOURNMENT – 4:25 pm