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State Land Commissioner

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

ASCOT held a meeting open to the public January 16, 2015 at Arizona State Parks in the Basement Board Room located at 1300 W. Washington Street Phoenix, Arizona 85007 beginning at 10:00 am.

**AGENDA**

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

Jan Hancock - Maricopa Trails and Parks Foundation  
Mathew Nelson - Arizona Trail Association  
Richard Kesselman - Volunteers for Outdoor Arizona  
Michael Harris - Representative at Large  
Doug Von Gausig - Representative at large  
Nick Lund - TRACKS  
Claire Miller - City of Phoenix  
Craig Stevens - Back Country Horsemen of Central AZ  
Bill Gibson - Bureau of Land Management  
Bernadine McCollum - Wickenburg Conservation Foundation  
Linda Slay - Arizona Horse Council  
Angela Villa - Representative at Large

Not Present:

Patrick Kell - International Mountain Bicycling Association  
Lisa Gerdl - Representative at Large

A quorum is established.

**B. INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS AND STAFF**

Mickey Rogers, Bob Baldwin, Kent Ennis, Cassandra Castellanos, and Jeff Prince

Ann Justice-Allen – Arizona Game and Fish Department  
Eddie Slay, AG's Office gave a presentation on the Open Meeting Law and answered questions from the committee.

**C. CALL TO THE PUBLIC**

Jan Hancock introduces Larry Snead Executive Director of Maricopa Trails and Park Foundation

## **D. ASCOT ACTION ITEMS**

### **1. Approve of Meeting Minutes from the November 1, 2014 Meeting**

Doug Von Gausig moves to approve the meeting minutes, McCollum seconds.  
**Unanimous approval.**

### **2. ASCOT Will Review the Nominating Committee Recommendations for 2015 Officers**

Bill Gibson, Chair of the Nominating Committee motions to vote for Linda Slay for First Vice Chair, Miller seconds, unanimous approval. Chair Lund conducts the vote.  
**Unanimous approval.**

Gibson moves to conduct a vote for Rick Kesselman as Vice Chair of the State Trails System Subcommittee, Slay seconds, unanimous approval. Chair conducts the vote in favor for Rick Kesselman as Vice Chair of the State Trails System Subcommittee.

**Vote: 7 – 12**

Claire Miller moves to conduct a vote Bill Gibson as Vice Chair of the Arizona Premier Trails (APT) System Subcommittee, McCollum seconds, unanimous approval. Lund conducts vote for Bill Gibson as Vice Chair of the APT System Subcommittee.

**Vote: 5 – 12**

Lund acknowledges Kesselman as Vice Chair of the APT System Subcommittee.

Gibson moves to vote for Slay as Vice Chair as the Public Outreach Subcommittee, Von Gausig seconds, unanimous approval. Chair conducts vote for Linda Slay to be appointed as Vice Chair of the Public Outreach Subcommittee.

**Unanimous approved.**

Gibson moves to vote for Lisa Gerdl as Vice Chair for the ESEF Subcommittee, Miller seconds, unanimous approval. Lund conducts vote for Lisa Gerdl to be Vice Chair of the ESEF Subcommittee.

**Vote: 5 – 12**

Gibson moves to vote for Nelson as Vice Chair for the ESEF Subcommittee, Miller seconds, unanimous approval. Lund conducts vote for Nelson to be Vice Chair of the ESEF Subcommittee.

**Vote: 7 – 12**

Lund acknowledges Nelson as Vice Chair of the ESEF Subcommittee.

Gibson moves to vote to retain Nick Lund as Chair of ASCOT, Miller seconds, unanimous approval. Lund conducts vote for the Chair of ASCOT to be retained.

**Unanimous approval.**

### **3. Consider Approving the 2015 Trails Plan**

Cassandra Castellanos Arizona State Parks Statewide Planner gives a presentation on the 2015 Trails Plan and answered the members following questions:

Q.) Von Gausig asks if any of the three segments reported anything about disturbance of wildlife as a concern?

A.) Yes, wildlife is addressed and listed as one of the environmental concerns more details are in the Trails Plan.

Q.) Jan asks if we can have a copy of the presentation?

A.) Yes.

Q.) Nick Lund asks if there is anything about the preservation of wildlife habitats in the priorities section?

A.) I am almost positive that one of the priority points does address wildlife. I only put the top priorities on the presentation. I can look at the full document for more detail on priorities.

Nick Lund asks that the finalized and complete list of priorities and action items be emailed out to all members so that the committee can address them with their work.

Q.) What do we plan to do for the 2020 Trails Plan when landlines will not be the best way to gather data?

A.) Chapter two is a study limitation section in the Trails Plan. This is something we are going to take into consideration for the next one because we are finding that a certain demographic does not have landlines. We are finding out the costs and ability of reaching people on their mobile devices. We are also missing our winter visitors who come from out of state and visitors eighteen and under. These are the things we are considering for the next trails plan. Lately, response rates for surveys delivered by mail are a lot better. Hybrid data collection with online, word of mouth, cell, and landlines will be most reliable.

Member suggests that it is incumbent upon us to find out who these people are and the best way to get them to respond.

**Bernadine moves to approve the 2015 Trails Plan and recommends the Arizona State Parks Board adopt the plan. The motion is seconded. Unanimous approval.**

#### **4. Consider Approving Premier Trails Nomination Forms and Recommend to State Parks Board for Approval**

The APT Subcommittee will meet after Parks Board approves forms at February meeting. Will meet next to plan the actual implementation process. Working close with staff at that time about who to contact, how to get land managers involved, and what other entities to get involved.

Kesselman moves to approve the nomination criteria and point allocation as presented by the State Trails System Subcommittee, and make a recommendation to the Arizona State Parks Board for final approval at their February meeting, Miller seconds.

The committee will discuss each page of the forms for comments or edits:

**Criteria for Nominating Trails:**

- Pg. 1 (6): Add “system” to title. “Saying Arizona State Trails System.”  
Take out word “both” in second sentence.  
Number 8 – in parentheses should read IE not LE
- Pg. 2 (6): Number 10 – Second sentence take out “it is”  
Number 11 – Change “The” to “All” and add “s” to trail and trail segments  
Number 12 – Remove “the” replace with “Any”  
Number 20.C – add “if applicable”
- Pg. 3 (6): Letter A – “And legendary trails” taken out.  
Letter B – add word “level of” so sentence reads “...recreation activities resulting in a high level of satisfaction of exercise...”  
B. 1 – removes second “hiking” and remove “riding with”
- Pg. 4 (6): E. 3 – Difficult to understand wording.
- Pg. 5 (6): E.6 – Signage and interpretive information must be provided to the trail users that identifies the trail’s historical/cultural importance, with consideration given to cultural sensitive material though consultation with Native American representatives of tribes of Arizona including: how to protect the resources and its context while enjoying the site.  
F.3 – Take out “water.”
- Pg. 6 (6): IV. 1 – include the word “receive” before nominate  
IV. 2 – Leave in but amend language in subcommittee meeting  
IV. 3 – add “s” to recommendation  
IV. 4 – remove “on” with “in” the list  
Add, “If re-nominated by the land manager, a trail in the Arizona Premier Trails list ...”  
IV. 5 – add “and ASCOT” to the end of sentence

**Nomination Forms:**

Kesselman explains that Part I is the same for every Nomination form. These are basic questions that gather necessary information for evaluation. Part II is where there is the most variance among the forms. Part II questions are relative to the specific category of the form. Part III - Additional Attributes, again, has the same language throughout the forms. All forms add up to 100 points.

**Kesselman moves to approve the criteria for nominating trails, the nomination forms for the different designations, and the various Parts (I,II, and III) into the Arizona State Parks Board for approval, Gibson seconds, unanimous approval.**

E. **REPORTS** - Committee and Staff reports may be written or verbal.

**1. Recreational Trail Program (RTP) Grant Cycle Will Be Announced**

Mickey Rogers – Grants Coordinator announce that on Monday (January 19) the 2016 Recreational Trails Program (RTP) and Off Highway Vehicle (OHV) funds are available. Approximately \$800,000 available for non-motorized projects this year. The cap for one project is \$80,000. A project for trail maintenance and/or realignment can apply for up to \$30,000. This money is available to cities, counties, towns, federal agencies, Indian governments, and non-profits. The projects require a 5.7% match. On Tuesday, January 27, staff is conducting a workshop at the State Parks office to help applicants with the information needed for the application. Since the NEPA process is changing, anyone who is applying should come to the workshop. Applications are due by Friday, February 27, 2015. Once the review committee ranks the projects we will ask the ASCOT board to review them in April. Applications are available online.

Bob Baldwin asks if anyone is interested in signing up to help with the review process in March. Nick Lund stated he was interested and will help.

## **2. ASCOT will receive an update from the Education, Safety, Environmental Fund Subcommittee (ESEF) and Discuss Possible Uses of Available Funds**

Chair Lund explains that the State Parks Foundation has been holding on to \$5,100 that was accumulated through the workshops ASCOT has put on. He adds that there is available Recreational Trails Program (RTP) Education funds available that must be spent by September 30, 2015. The ESEF subcommittee met in October to discuss what to do with these monies.

Stevens, said during the October meeting they narrowed down the options to 1)Trail Safety 2) Education outreach 3)Cell applications regarding trails 4)State Parks website.

Kesselman suggests considering to use the monies for any IT costs that might come with implementing the Arizona Premier Trails system once completed.

Chair asks staff what/where in the trail community should this money be focused on?

Baldwin explains that the \$20,000 RTP does not need to be applied for to have to be spent by September. This money is limited to being spent on safety and environmental use. The idea was to design a package of what was eligible and what you want to offer, based on a degree of need, and then offer the money through an application process. The applicant's contribution would be a 6% match for this package. The subcommittee would outline the details for this package. Hold on to the \$5,100 that does not have a time restraint.

Chair suggests continuing to have a hold on the \$5,100 to utilize for the Arizona Premier Trails and the future costs involved with implementing. The subcommittee can focus on establishing a strategic plan for the \$20,000 with a 6% contribution match from the applicant for the pre-paid "package."

## F. DISCUSSION ITEMS

### 1. Electronically Assisted Bikes (E-Bikes) and Pack Goats on Non- Motorized Trails

In 2010 about 1,000 Big Horn Sheep were killed because of about 10-15 pneumonia outbreaks around Western U.S. The big horn sheep receive the diseases because of the grazing leases on federal lands and on some state lands where producers of sheep and goat products have a grazing allotment with a free-range grazing agreement. No rules or regulations exist to manage pack goats on these lands. Recommendations from the Wild Sheep Group for the Western Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies suggest management of domestic sheep and goats and big horn sheep habitat and to practice effective separation - separation either through time or space - of domestic livestock and big horn sheep. What we would like to see happen is to work with all the land management agencies to develop talking points and education programs for people who are going to be using pack goats, develop a framework that would prevent contact between pack goats and big horn sheep, implement strategies to manage when contact does occur. We need to work together to managing the potential and very real risk of contact between domestic livestock and big horn sheep and maintain and prevent damage to big horn sheep populations.

Q.) Is the disease transmission strictly when the sheep and goat contact or could a goat brush against a tree and pass the disease indirectly?

A.) The biggest diseases we are concerned about will not be passed indirectly.

Biggest concerns are animals grazing in same area at same time or physical contact.

Q.) Is water contamination something that would transmit the diseases?

A.) It has not yet been proven to be contaminated at the level of transmission.

Q.) How many goats are we talking about?

A.) There are clubs/associations of pack goats to outreach too. It is a limited number of people. It is something that is trending, gaining traction.

Q.) Do you anticipate the idea that these goats have a potential to be feral?

A.) Yes. Potential to be an invasive species as the burros are.

Q.) Will there be conflict in the future if we try to limit pack goats? There are other groups that advocate for goats to be allowed on lands to eat the invasive weeds.

A.) This is a concern. Weed goats will have less control over grazing and are more likely to become feral.

Q.) Is there a possibility of horses, al pacas, and llamas carrying these diseases?

A.) Horses definitely not, llamas I would not rule out completely. More research about llamas. Cattle have had some cases of pneumonia. Therefore all livestock, with the exception of horses, is a potential of concern.

Q.) Are there any strategies on the domestic animal side in terms of veterinary medicine and care that might help prevent the situation?

A.) There are vaccinations that will help reduce the risk but it is very difficult to make that risk a zero. Difficult to make it a regulation or enforcement.

Q.) Are you aware of any outfitters that applied for permits for excursions into the wilderness area with goats on it?

A.) One operator who was working out of Tucson area and was interested in utilizing pack goats. I believe that Coronado denied permit.

Lund recommends that the Parks Board receives this presentation along with G&F Heritage Fund.

Gibson explains to the members that an e-Bike is an electronically assisted bike by a battery powered assisted motor. BLM has started seeing them around. BLM and biking associations are considering them motorized vehicles. Issues will arise because they look just like a bicycle and are relatively quiet. A discussion on how to define e-Bikes will be in the near future.

#### **G. MEMBER'S SUMMARY OF CURRENT EVENTS - ASCOT**

Members discuss more specifically their representative organization and their current events and activities. Kent Ennis makes a note about the proposed Governor's budget and ensures the committee that staff is keeping an eye on things.

#### **H. TIME AND PLACE OF NEXT MEETINGS AND CALL FOR FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS**

April 11, 2015 – Joint meeting with Off-Highway Vehicle Advisory Group (OHVAG).

June 20, 2015 – check into availability of Mormon Lake

#### **H. ADJOURNMENT**