



**Douglas A. Ducey**  
Governor

**Sue Black**  
Executive Director

**State Parks Board**

R.J. Cardin, Chairman  
Kay Daggett, Vice-Chairman  
Mark Brnovich, Phoenix  
Alan Everett, Sedona  
Shawn Orme, Mayer  
Orme Lewis, Jr., Phoenix

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

ASCOT held a meeting on April 11, 2015 at the Granite Reef Senior Center located at 1700 N. Granite Reef Rd., Scottsdale, Arizona 85257 beginning at 12:00 pm.

**AGENDA**

(The Chair reserves the right to set the order of the agenda.) **A. CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL**

**Members Present:** Michael Harris, Representative-at-large; Claire Miller, City of Phoenix; Angela Villa, Representative-at-large; Jan Hancock, Maricopa Trails & Parks Foundation; Nick Lund, TRACKS; Craig Stevens, Back Country Horsemen of Central Arizona; Richard Kesselman, Volunteers for Outdoor Arizona; Linda Slay, Arizona Horse Council; Bill Gibson, Bureau of Land Management.

**Quorum established**

**B. INTRODUCTION OF MEMBERS, GUESTS, AND STAFF**

Staff Present: Mickey Rogers, Kent Ennis, Dawn Collins, Brianne Fisher

**C. CALL TO THE PUBLIC**

None.

**D. ASCOT ACTION ITEMS**

**1. Approve of Meeting Minutes from the January 16, 2015 Meeting**

Miller moved approval of the minutes; seconded by Slay.

**Minutes approved unanimously, with corrections.**

**2. Discuss and Recommend Changes to the RTP Project Grant  
Criteria and  
Response Form**

Chair indicated that staff had developed a project evaluation form, based on the priorities identified in the 2015 Trails Plan. ASCOT may suggest additions and/or changes to the form.

Rogers the first-level priorities are worth more points than the second-level priorities and several bonus points have been added that weren't there in the past. A couple things that are going to change, if you have 10 percent of your costs related to the priority items (scope

items), you get the full 12 points. Anything less than 10 percent and you get no points.

Rogers continued and said when the review committee looks at the grant applications, they will make sure the scope items are related to the specific first-level priority and they're not trying to shift the costs over.

Chair asked whether the sheet that's filled out by the applicant clearly states, "Here's what the item is and here's what the points are worth?" They have to address that?

Rogers responded, yes. He indicated the staff is open to any suggestions, changes, deletions or additions; because this goes from ASCOT to AORCC, to the Park Board for approval. If you have any recommendations, please let staff know.

Hancock added that the materials and instructions were difficult to understand. She thought that the bonus could only be earned in the areas in which you were applying. Also, there was a component for trail training and she did not know that a second scope could be added. She summed up saying that since a lot of organizations may not be able to come up with the ten percent, this should help level the playing field.

Slay asked if there would be bonus points for being an Arizona Premier Trail. Chair made a comment about There are only 100 premier trails and they change every five years and he doesn't want them to appear elitist. Kesselman said he's inclined to agree with the Chair. Gibson also agreed. Hancock added that trails in the process of being built cannot be a premier trail and shouldn't be penalized.

Chair asked for final comments. Slay indicated she had a correction on page 11. Miller moved acceptance of the information with the correction on page 11; seconded by Villa.  
**Motion approved unanimously, with correction.**

### **3. Review the Selection of Projects for the 2015 RTP Trail Maintenance Program**

Rogers reported that the selected projects are highlighted in the report. The final five were Scottsdale, Coronado, Mongolian Rim, Coconino and Maricopa County. He asked if the group had a recommendation for when the funds become available. Hancock moved the submitted projects be accepted; seconded by Harris.

**Motion approved unanimously.**

Chair indicated they needed to prioritize the remaining three, the Granite Basin Recreational Trails, the Love's Brown Canyon Trail, and the Backhoe Trail. Kesselman recommended Prescott being number one, Love's Brown Canyon Trail, number two and Backhoe number three. Stevens seconded.

**Motion approved unanimously.**

### **4. Recommend Funding the January 2015 Non-Motorized Trail Projects**

Chair reported that on March 23, a team reviewed and scored 13 project applications requesting \$756,335.50 in recreational trails program funding. The proposed scope items were evaluated to determine eligibility and compatibility with program requirements. Staff

recommends funding eight, totaling \$509,780. Kesselman moved acceptance of the staff recommendation, seconded by Miller.

**Motion approved unanimously.**

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

1. **Arizona Premier Trails (APT) Subcommittee** will give an update on the nomination and implementation process from their March 17, 2015 meeting.

Kesselman reported that the nomination forms and the criteria form were presented to the State Parks Board, which was approved at its February meeting. The group is now developing the implementation process. The next step is to finalize the design layout. Chair added that if the group had additional recommendations, get them to Kesselman and Rogers.

2. **Education, Safety, and Environment Subcommittee (ESEF)** will give an update on plan for spending the \$20,000 available in RTP funds.

Stevens reported the group recommended the \$20,000 be divided into four \$5,000 increments, allocated toward trail safety, educational outreach and QR codes. The funds would be spent in support of existing programs and the applications reviewed by the subcommittee. Research on the QR code possibilities revealed very little money involved. Harris continued and said the group agreed the process should be an RFP process, soliciting different groups to submit RFPs, based on the parameters in the interest of the funds.

3. **Public Outreach Subcommittee** will give an update on their decided goals for the 2015 year.

Slay updated group on some of the goals and decisions of subcommittee, starting with ASCOT picks on the website. They're seeking land managers' approval and encouraging members of the committee to submit trails to be posted on social media. Hancock asked if there was a way to archive the "picks." The committee plans to promote Arizona Premier Trails System through a conference session and will work on their presentation. Kesselman stated that he would like to have a joint meeting with the subcommittee.

#### **F. DISCUSSION**

Some members of the committee discussed their recent involvement in trails community activities.

Notably, Chair reported that since the TRACKS program on the White Mountain Trail system was completed a couple years ago, rescuers take 45 minutes or less. The regional emergency responder organizations have reported that it has resulted in less rescue time for personnel.

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

June 20, at Mormon Lake Lodge.

**H. ADJOURNMENT**