

# California Recreational Trails Committee

## Minutes

September 7, 2007

9:00 A.M.

### Tahoe City PUD – Board Room

221 Fairway Drive, Tahoe City, CA

#### I. Call to Order

Time: 9:05 AM

Chair: Maryanne Vancio

#### II. Introduction of Committee Members and Staff

Greg Gandrud (GG), Member

Jeannie Gillen (JG), Member

John Mercurio (JM), Member

Maryann Vancio (MV), Member

Laura Zabkar (LZ), Member

Dan Ray (DR), Chief of Planning Division, California State Parks (CSP)

Kathryn Tobias (KT), Senior Staff Counsel for CSP

Steve Musillami (SM), Executive Secretary of CRTC / Statewide Trails Manager for CSP

Cheryl Essex (CE), Park and Recreation Specialist for CSP

#### III. Minutes approval from May 2007 Meeting

- A. Minutes from the May 2007 meeting were moved for approval by JM, seconded by LZ and approved unanimously.

#### IV. Reports

A. State Park Director's Report (DR)

1. Successful and long-sought installation of a trail bridge over the rugged Big Sandy Creek at Millerton Lake State Recreation Area, connecting the Pacific Crest and John Muir trails to create CA's only trans-Sierra trail. Assisting were 68 volunteers from eight volunteer groups, CA Army National Guard helicopter, horses and a mule train with contributions from 10 businesses.
2. Acquisition of 307 acre addition to Henry Cowell State Park increases recreational and interpretive opportunities as well as protecting habitat for mixed forests and rare and endangered species.
3. Mill Creek addition to Del Norte State Park opens to the public, including about 25,000 acres of second-growth forest and more than 350 miles of abandoned roads. A planning process is underway to guide facilities additions, land rehabilitation and public use.
4. Gianella Landing parcel along the Sacramento River in Glenn County has been purchased. With 20 acres of land and 900 feet of river frontage, it will expand recreation opportunities next to the busy Bidwell-Sacramento River State Park's Irvine Finch River Access.
5. CA Children's Outdoor Bill of Rights signed by Gov. Schwarzenegger. For more information, see: [www.calroundtable.org](http://www.calroundtable.org).

B. Statewide Trail Manager's Report (SM)

1. Introduce Cheryl Essex, new staff member with the CSP Statewide Trails Section
2. CA Trails & Greenways Conference (CT&GC) update
  - a. Date is May 29-31, 2008 in San Diego at the Bahia Resort

- b. Session Selection Committee is being formed. Call for volunteers?  
(JM volunteered.)
- 3. Coastal Trails Program
  - a. JP Burns State Park reconstruction of historic Waters Ridge Trail, sustainable alignment is being designed
  - b. Glass Beach Trail at MacKerricher State Park may be delayed by the need for an EIR because of archeological & endangered plant issues
  - c. Hearst Acquisition Property, Elephant Seal Boardwalk extension should be under construction by year end using California Conservation Corps (CCC) staff.
  - d. Garrapata State Park Sobrianes Point to Garrapata Beach trail alignment is in the preliminary design phase
  - e. Land & Water Conservation fund grants for the Water's Ridge Trail and Elephant Seal Boardwalk have been submitted to NPS to augment the State Coastal Conservancy funding
- 4. Coastal Trail Signage
  - a. We are working on locating and signing the trail through State Park properties jointly with the State Coastal Conservancy
- 5. The Delta Protection Commission is convening trail advisory and technical committees for planning the Great California Delta Trail
- 6. (JG) Cuyamaca Horse Camp? Action on relocations for equestrian trails disturbed by the Cedar Fire? Request in-route camping at Paso Pecacho.
  - a. (SM) Descanso planning on-going, no other information available
- 7. State Trail Administrator's conference scheduled in Tahoe in a few weeks
- C. Chair Report (MV)
  - 1. Thank you to Tahoe PUD for the meeting facilities and to all agencies and staff responsible for the great tour yesterday
  - 2. Southern CA Trails Coalition non-profit agencies collaborating on trails maintenance, preparing a trail maintenance training video for volunteers
  - 3. San Diego Board of Supervisors approved County Parks and Recreation Department to study the status of the California Riding & Hiking Trail within the County for possible ownership transfer from the State.
    - a. (GG) Asked if release of liability information is available?
      - ◆ MV will send copies of San Diego County model legislation, trails ordinance and release of liability to CSP staff and CRTC members

## D. Member Reports

### 1. JG

- a. Recreational Trails Program: \$5 million available, only \$3 million± spent, encourages applications for funding
  - ◆ (SM) total amount was reduced due to federal rescission midway through funding year
- b. CA Trail Days
  - ◆ 1000 patches, 19 projects registered, 5,000 volunteer hours recorded
- c. Kennedy Meadows changes equestrian camping
- d. Pt. Reyes may move horse camp.
- e. She encourages equestrians to keep track of equestrian projects in their areas and share information with the CRTC
- f. Can CRTC send a letter to the family mourning Jim Real's passing?
  - ◆ (SM) Yes, also plan to recognize him at California Trails and Greenways Conference

### 2. JM

- a. Asked by Sen. Torlakson to serve on Great California Delta Trail advisory committee

### 3. GG

- a. Zaca Fire temporarily removed a lot of recreation land from Santa Barbara area. Front-country trails may experience increased use and user conflicts. Local trail groups are planning improvements
- b. Mapping trails statewide
  - ◆ Web trail portal session at CT&GC went well with John Gardner from Google Earth & Maps. Still outstanding questions about how to make this info available to the public, with Google or State Parks or other managing entity. Estimates \$5000 to create "self-maintaining website".
    - (SM) Mapping all CA trails would be a huge effort with little funding in sight. Collaboration with other agencies is necessary. CSP is working to inventory their trails.
    - (JG) Motion to form an ad-hoc Trail Portal Subcommittee to research for discussion at next meeting. (LZ) second. All approved with GG & JM on sub-committee.

### 4. LZ

- a. Report on trail user conflict ad-hoc subcommittee meeting on Aug 17<sup>th</sup>
  - ◆ Members: Equestrian interests--Lynn Brown, John Keys, and Janet Petersen. Hiking interests--Mike Lunsford, Mary Ann Webster, Laura Zabkar. Biking interests--Tom Ward, Michael Kelly with one position vacant
  - ◆ Established a consensus-based process: work together to resolve internal & external conflicts, make land manager contacts, review products of previous efforts, conduct case studies and interview users, produce model recommendations & guidelines for implementation including trail use conversions

- ◆ Established a Purpose: To create a set of trail use policies and recommendations for public agencies that would serve to resolve conflicts and achieve safe high quality experiences for all users.
- ◆ Follow-up meeting to be scheduled

#### E. Subcommittee Reports

1. CRTC Awards Subcommittee
  - a. (MV) no meeting held
  - b. (JG) place awards info on website ASAP
  - c. JM stepping off subcommittee, motion by JM for LZ to join, second (GG), unanimous vote
2. Trail User Conflict Subcommittee
  - a. see above member report from LZ (Item IV D4)

### V. New Business

- A. Committee procedural questions discussion
  1. JG asks how items get on the Agenda and requested that this record reflect the denial of her request, on behalf of the User Conflict Subcommittee to put Multi-Use Guidelines on the Agenda as an Action Item, be so noted.
  2. KT clarifies that chair sets the agenda
  3. JG requests of chair that a procedural discussion take place next meeting to clarify motions & subcommittee procedures
- B. 2008 California Trails & Greenways Conference Sponsorship Solicitation
  1. Request for CRTC member assistance in obtaining sponsors. Each member received a list, script and instructions. Members were very supportive.
- C. Trail Multi-Use Discussion/Recommendation
  1. Staff Report summarized (SM) and attached hereto.
  2. Committee opened discussion for public comment
    - a. Barbara Weitz requested information regarding the process by which trails are converted to different/additional uses and recommended that a moratorium be placed on trail conversions until criteria for change-of-use is available to the public.
    - b. Tom Ward, representing International Mountain Biking Association (IMBA) asks that the Committee consider adding the IMBA publication "Managing Mountain Bikes" to the guidelines in the Staff Report and states that not all trails should be multi-use. Bike users are a more recent user group but should not be excluded from recreation resources because of that.
    - c. Jim Haagen-Smit of IMBA mentioned that more resources about safe riding on trails is available on IMBA website and suggests that some trails should be converted solely for mountain bike riding.
- D. JG made a motion to accept staff recommendations:
  1. That the "Safety Considerations for Multi-Use Trails" and the "Generic Safety Guidelines for Multi-Use Trails" drafted by the CET & LC be used as guiding information for the development of comprehensive multi-use trail guidelines by California State Parks.
  2. Development of comprehensive and objective multi-use guidelines should include the following elements in an objective and measurable

format: 1) Design, 2) Safety, 3) Sustainability, 4) Education and 5) Enforcement.

3. JG amended the first half of her motion to accept the staff report and staff's recommendations with the following addition -- That the "Safety Considerations for Multi-Use Trails" and the "Generic Safety Guidelines for Multi-Use Trails" drafted by CET & LC along with the IMBA's "Managing Mountain Bikes" and other applicable information be used as guiding information for the development of comprehensive multi-use trail guidelines by California State Parks
  4. (GG) second, (MV) expressed concern that she has not reviewed this publication, motion was passed unanimously.
- E. Jim Real letter will be drafted by MV & JG for the committee

## **VI. Old Business**

- A. Honoring Tony Look (Adopt-a-Trail)
  1. SM explained the Adopt-a-Trail process where \$500 annually is donated per mile to a non-profit group for trail maintenance. Alternately, an endowment can be established to provide this funding.
  2. Charlie Willard summarized Tony Look's legacy of trail advocacy and summarized the history of the movement to name a trail in his honor.
  3. JG made a motion to support the Adopt-a-Trail process and CSP's work on this matter. JM seconded, motion was passed unanimously.

## **VII. Presentation**

- A. South Lake Tahoe Greenway – Sue Rae Ireland, California Tahoe Conservancy (530) 525-9137

## **VIII. Public Comment**

- A. Janet Phillips presented information about the Tahoe-Pyramid Bikeway.
  1. MV would like to add this to a future agenda so an endorsement from the committee can be discussed.

## **IX. Next Meeting – December 6 & 7, 2007 – Riverside/San Bernardino Area**

- A. (MV) Next agenda: Procedural discussion to clarify motions & subcommittee procedures, trail user conflict sub-committee update, presentation of Tahoe-Pyramid Bikeway

## **X. Adjournment at 12:23 PM**