

# California Recreational Trails Program (RTP) Advisory Board Meeting Notes

Tuesday, June 19, 2018  
10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

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CA Department of Parks and Recreation  
1416 9<sup>th</sup> Street, Sequoia Room 950, Sacramento, CA 95814

## **Board Members Present:**

Amy Granat, (Vice Chair), California Off-Road Vehicle Association (motorized)  
Maryanne Vancio, Trails by Design (non-motorized)  
Bob Coomber, Persons with Disabilities Representative (non-motorized)  
Janet Philips, President – Tahoe-Pyramid Trail, non-motorized trail representative  
Dr. Bruce Witcher, OHMVR (motorized) trail representative

## **Board Member Participating via phone:**

Jerry Grabow, AMA District 37, OHMVR (motorized) trail representative

## **Board Member Not Present:**

John Mercurio, Chair, California Recreational Trails Committee (non-motorized)

## **Staff Members Present:**

Jean Lacher, Chief, Office of Grants and Local Services (OGALS),  
California Department of Parks and Recreation  
Viktor Patiño, Manager, OGALS, California Department of Parks and Recreation  
Richard Rendón, Supervisor, OGALS, California Department of Parks and Recreation  
Natalie Bee, Associate Park and Recreation Specialist, OGALS,  
California Department of Parks and Recreation  
Sixto Fernandez, Senior Park and Recreation Specialist, Off-Highway Motor Vehicle  
Recreation (OHMVR), California Department of Parks and Recreation  
Jessica Terry, Associate Park and Recreation Specialist, OHMVR,  
California Department of Parks and Recreation  
Martha Ibarra, Staff Park and Recreation Specialist, OHMVR,  
California Department of Parks and Recreation  
Teresa McWilliam, Program Manager, Active Transportation Program (ATP), Caltrans

## **Observers/Members of the Public:**

None

## **Call to Order**

Amy Granat called the meeting to order at 10:16 a.m.

## **Welcome and Introductions: Jean Lacher (Chief, OGALS)**

Jean opened the meeting by introducing herself and welcoming everyone. Each Board Member and Staff Member introduced himself/herself.

## Overview of Board Member Roles and Responsibilities

Jean reviewed highlights of board member responsibilities based on federal guidance. She noted that representation from both non-motorized and motorized Board Members is required, and that representation cannot consist only of state agency representatives. Board member representation covers trail uses within that state. Jean referenced the “State Recreational Trails Advisory Board (SRTAB)” roles and responsibilities document that provides a historic summary about the SRTAB. Jean requested feedback from board members about potential revisions.

- Dr. Bruce Witcher said the document needs to be clear about the role of the Board Members. Since this Board does not conduct project selections, the type of input that Board Members are expected to provide could be clarified. Further, the meaning of “innovative” could be made clearer.
- Amy Granat suggested that paragraph 2 needs “real world examples” of the 40% multi-use projects. Board members should be responsible to check that the 40% requirement is being met. Jean reminded the board that in CA, the federal 30-40-30 split is reflected in the 3 offices (2 at State Parks and 1 at Caltrans) that administer the RTP.
- Bob Coomber suggested that paragraph 2 could include both non-motorized and motorized wheelchair use examples.
- Amy Granat said in regard to paragraph 3 that she did not recall a federal agency applying for motorized funds. Sixto stated that OHMVR does have federal agencies apply. For motorized portion of guidelines, Sixto stated that his office is revising the guide to mirror Trust Fund language. Jean shared an example of an eligible federal agency applicant. She said that the State Parks non-motorized portion of the program has grant to the National Park Service.

## **ITEMS FOR ACTION**

### **Election of Officers: Amy Granat (Vice Chair)**

Amy Granat opened the nominations for Chair and Vice Chair at 10:40 AM.

She requested nominations for Chair. Bob Coomber nominated John Mercurio citing this Board is important to him. Board Member Amy Granat seconded the motion. The Board unanimously approved John Mercurio as Chair. All supported the nomination.

For Vice Chair, Board Member Maryanne Vancio moved to re-elect Amy Granat for Vice Chair. Board member Bob Coomber seconded the motion. The Board unanimously approved Amy Granat as Vice Chair.

## **ITEMS FOR INFORMATION**

### **Funding Overview**

Richard Rendón provided an overview about the distribution of RTP funds in California between OGALS and Caltrans non-motorized trail projects, and OHMVR for motorized trail projects.

Jean mentioned that OGALS' RTP Non-Motorized Guide is going through the California Office of Administrative Law's rulemaking process. The revised approach is to separate the procedural guides into: (1) Non-Motorized Application Guide; (2) Motorized Application Guide; and, (3) Grant Administration Guide. This approach arose from lessons learned from use of the 2007 RTP Guide, which contained non-motorized / motorized categories and administration requirements in one guide. The previous approach resulted in applicants having a difficult time understanding applicable material based on specific projects. Additionally, staff had difficulty reviewing projects because there was no differentiation between non-motorized and motorized trail criteria.

Dr. Whitcher asked when the next application cycles will be open. Richard said the next non-motorized cycle will be in 2020. Sixto said OHMVR is also revising the guide, and said the next application cycle will be in the spring or summer 2019.

Janet Phillips asked about electric bikes on trails and if they are considered motorized or non-motorized. Amy Granat said they are not considered motorized. However, Sixto said electric bike users are currently being given tickets by law enforcement in some jurisdictions for not having a green sticker. Dr. Whitcher shared that the US Forest Service considers electric bikes as motorized. Bob Coomber suggested that the definition of motorized use is poorly defined and interpretation depends on the jurisdiction where the use occurs. Bob anticipates that more consistency statewide will arise over time. Jean acknowledged that this topic may need to be added to the Board meeting agenda for next year.

Maryanne Vancio shared that for equestrian users, electric bike use on non-motorized trails is frightening given the speeds of up to 20 miles per hour. Maryanne is hoping for guidance and decisions. She said that the County of San Diego does not allow electrical bikes on County park trails.

Jerry Grabow questioned why it's not considered motorized since electric bikes have a motor. Bob Coomber responded that the motor is under the 49 cc threshold that California Department of Motor Vehicles considers a motorized vehicle.

#### Stewardship Agreement Update

Jean provided an update on the Stewardship and Oversight Agreement between FHWA/California Department of Parks and Recreation/Caltrans. She explained that a new agreement has been reviewed by Parks Legal Office, FHWA, and Caltrans. The agreement will outline the RTP roles and responsibilities for each department. Jean said the Agreement has been delayed because the Federal Guidance is changing and the agreement will be finalized after the new Federal Guidance is known.

#### Non-Motorized RTP Project Updates

Natalie provided updates of RTP Non-Motorized projects. She stated that OGALS did not have an application cycle since the last board meeting was held in 2017. Therefore, Natalie provided status updates of federal funding approval since the last meeting. Natalie presented a PowerPoint of completed non-motorized RTP trail projects with

“before and after” photographs. Janet Phillips and Amy Granat expressed appreciation for this segment and requested that it be shared at future board meetings.

#### Motorized RTP Project Updates

Jessica Terry, OHMVR, provided updates and a PowerPoint presentation on the motorized RTP projects funded since the 2017 board meeting.

Janet Phillips asked about grants for acquisition projects stating she did not see any acquisitions and was wondering how many were awarded. Other board members said acquisition is difficult, especially for motorized recreation projects.

#### Active Transportation Program (ATP) Updates

Teresa McWilliam, Program Manager, Active Transportation Program (ATP), Caltrans gave an update stating that applications will be received on July 30, 2018 and will be forwarded to Richard Rendón for RTP eligibility. Maryanne Vancio asked if acquisition is eligible through ATP, and Teresa said acquisition is eligible.

Bob Coomber said the City of Livermore is working on a 20-year Active Transportation Trail Plan to connect the city with other cities and East Bay Regional parks. Amy and Dr. Witcher described various motorized trail project challenges that cross multiple jurisdictions, where County, Forest Service, and NGO’s all have to find a way to accomplish a project.

#### Board Member and other Staff Updates

Jean asked the Board if they had final comments or questions. Bob Coomber re-emphasized how much he appreciated the “before and after” segment of project photos. Jean discussed updates about California Department of Parks and Recreation role is administering a portion of Proposition 68 and mentioned that trails are eligible in some programs, including Per Capita.

Jean asked for final comments and requests for next year’s meeting. No further comments or requests were made.

#### **Open Comment Period: Jean Lacher, Observers/Members of the Public:**

No comments from members of the public.

#### **Conclusion:**

The meeting adjourned by Amy Granat at 11:57 a.m.