

California Recreational Trails Committee

Meeting Minutes

November 13, 2008

Best Western Novato Oaks Inn

215 Alameda Del Prado

Novato, California

9:00 AM

- I. Call to Order and Comments from the Chair at 9:04 AM**
 - a. The Chair thanks all for the informative tour yesterday, especially Dave Gould and Roy McNamee from the Marin District of CA State Parks (CSP), Craig Tackaberry from Marin County Public Works, Sharon McNamee from Marin County Parks Department, Steve Musillami and Cheryl Essex from the Statewide Trails Section of CSP, and Dan Ray from the Planning Division of CSP.

- II. Introduction of Committee Members and Staff**
 - a. Greg Gandrud (GG), Chair
 - b. Jeannie Gillen (JG), Member
 - c. John Mercurio (JM), Member
 - d. Maryanne Vancio (MV), Member
 - e. Laura Zabkar (LZ), Member
 - f. Dan Ray (DR), Chief of Planning Division for California State Parks (CSP)
 - g. Steve Musillami (SM), Executive Secretary of CRTC / Statewide Trails Manager for CSP
 - h. Cheryl Essex (CE), Park & Recreation Specialist for CSP

- III. Minutes approval from August 2008 Meeting**
 - a. Minutes of August 12, 2008 meeting were approved without comment or objection.

- IV. Reports**
 - a. State Park Director's Report (DR)
 - The State budget passed in October with full funding for CSP, although a hiring freeze is in affect for most positions. Proposition 84 also provides trail project funds.
 - There was action on several legislative bills of interest
 1. wilderness area planning bill in Sonoma/Napa that may have restricted trail access was vetoed
 2. extension of terms for concessions at State Parks passed
 - Three proposed CSP General Plans include regional trails. These will come before the Parks & Recreation Commission soon.
 1. Folsom SP—Pony Express and American Discovery Trails

2. Del Norte Redwoods—Mil Creek property includes undeveloped Coast to Crest Trail. The plan may include back country cabins and equestrian facilities
 3. Millerton Lake SRA—San Joaquin River Trail
- Summer fires damaged/closed trails in Pfeiffer Big Sur SP and Julia Pfeiffer Burns SP
 - Cuyamaca Rancho SP is the target of a lawsuit filed by an equestrian group over the relocation of the Los Caballos Horse Camp.
- b. Statewide Trail Manager's Report (SM)
- Coastal Trail Projects
 1. Water's Ridge connector at JP Burns SP is under construction
 2. Glass Beach trail at MacKerricher SP has been combined with a City of Ft. Bragg trail for the EIR/EIS. The potential for a lawsuit still exists.
 3. Elephant Seal Boardwalk at San Simeon SP has received permits and is estimated to begin construction July 2009.
 4. Garrapata SP trail is estimated to begin construction late 2009.
 5. CSP mapping of the CA Coastal Trail within their properties is beginning. The goal is to find gaps and look for funding to finish these links.
 - Trail Manager's Toolbox is under construction on the website www.parks.ca.gov/trails. We are looking for information that should be on the site and are adding trail etiquette information
 - Recreational Trails Plan Progress Report
 1. Goals and Action Items are discussed below (see item Va)
 - Pacific Crest Trail (PCT) realignment is being planned within Tejon Ranch in the Tehachapi Mountains. The PCT Association is working on a standard volunteer agreement with US Forest Service (USFS) and CSP on liability and worker's compensation issues.
 - California Riding & Hiking Trail (CRHT)
 1. San Diego County – Continuing to receive letters of support from agencies and large land owners [Bureau of Land Management (BLM), Vista Irrigation District (VID), CA Dept. of Fish & Game]. County Park staff plan to make a recommendation to the Board of Supervisors in January 2009.
 2. San Mateo County – Mid-Peninsula Open Space District and County staff are confirming easement transfers.
 3. Los Angeles County – CSP was contacted by LA County trail coordinator asking for status of easements within their jurisdiction. Most of the CRHT in LA County is within USFS lands. Information will be prepared and sent to LA County.

4. Riverside County – Starting research, multiple quitclaims identified currently. Meeting planned December/January.
- Meeting with California Coastal Conservancy
 1. DR & SM will be meeting with the Conservancy soon to discuss acquisitions and trail/parkway funding support.
 - Trails and Greenways Conference – Tenaya Lodge near Yosemite on April 22-24th, 2009.
 1. Meeting with the local agencies in Fresno went well. Local group includes representatives from BLM, USFS and National Park Service.
 2. Location is AWESOME!!!!
 3. Workshop research progressing within Yosemite Valley, hands-on training in Sierra National Forest and Trail Etiquette Workshop
 4. Budget Issues and concerns—we all face tough economic times (agencies and volunteers) which may affect attendance, but with less \$ available for construction, this is a good time for training
 5. Rising cost of food and facilities makes this conference more expensive
 6. We have a PLAN
 - a. Increase sponsorship dollars
 - b. Slight registration increase
 - c. Reduce number of meals provided—attendees can select/bring meals to fit their budget
 - d. Reduce keynote fees--we have good leads on affordable Keynote speakers
 - e. We would appreciate sponsorship support ideas
 - There are still two vacancies on the CRTC. Apply on the governor's website: <http://gov.ca.gov/appointments> at any time. More information on the CRTC is available at: www.parks.ca.gov/trails.
- c. Chair Report (GG) -- none
 - d. Member Reports
 - (JM & LZ) – none
 - (MV) CRHT is important in San Diego County. It's in the General Plan with five other major county trails connecting to it. Over 100 miles! Thanks to SM for his hard work, especially with VID—they shut the trail down but may reopen 8 miles. The County supervisors will meet in January to hopefully agree to accept easements from CSP.
 - (JG) The CRHT was dead and MV and SM brought it back to life—thank you!
 - e. Subcommittee Reports
 - CRTC Awards Subcommittee (LZ) – We are soliciting nominations for the CRTC Award. Information on the website at: www.parks.ca.gov/trails. More information is being distributed via email and USPS.

- User Conflict Subcommittee (JG) – two meetings in August, 2008. JG presented extensive information for the Trail Manager’s Toolbox at: www.parks.ca.gov/trails .
- Trail Portal Subcommittee – SM conducted research on three types of websites (**attached**)
 1. For-profit with advertising or member support
 2. Wiki-type sites with little oversight
 3. Agency and association sites often with a single person in charge, more expertise and background research conducted. At CSP, district staff manages the pages for their parks.

(GG) The goal of the web portal is to serve all users and include information on all trails in California with public transportation links, facilities and use information. How do we move this forward, Steve?

(SM) We need a group to sponsor and manage the site.

(DR) CSP will not play a lead role in this – we have resources and staff to only focus on State Park trails and regional trails described in the CA Recreational Trails Plan.

V. New Business

a. California Recreational Trails Plan (CRTP)– Draft Progress Report Review

- (SM) The CRTP progress report (**attached**) will bring legislative attention to CA trail issues. Information for the report was gathered at two CRTP meetings and the 2008 CA Trails & Greenways Conference.
- (DR) Does the CRTP want to make a motion to support the progress report?
- (LZ) I make a motion to support sending this draft of the progress report to the CSP director and Governor with member comments incorporated.
- (JM) Second.
- Motion passed unanimously
- Connie Berto claimed that equestrians were not invited and did not participate in the CRTP 2002 update or this progress report. SM stated that many equestrians were notified of each meeting through a press release and public notice emailed to our contact list.

b. Central Valley Vision Implementation Plan (CVVIP) - Draft Review

- (DR) The CSP Director asked the Planning Division to study how to improve access to CSP in the Central Valley, as residents in this area have fewer recreation opportunities than other areas of the state. Legislation directed us to propose specific requests, a timeline and budget, so we have been meeting with agencies and members of the public to determine their needs and desires. In October, the draft CVVIP was released (**attached**), proposing a 20-year plan for implementation. Highlights include:
 1. Improve and/or expand 36 existing central valley parks

2. Add 13 new parks
 3. Designate five heritage trails and seven boating trails
 4. A “Base Camp” strategy for expanding recreation opportunities by partnering with adjacent landowners
 5. Focus on creating better linkages with State Park properties using existing and proposed CA Regional Trails designated in the CRTP
 6. We would appreciate feedback from the committee and public
- JG appreciates this advance planning
 - Connie Berto asks whether planning for trails considers other than multi-use trails? (DR) Allowable regional trail uses vary and are determined by the responsible agency based on the diverse landscapes they traverse.
 - John Fazel representing Access Adventure offered information on their carriage ride program for persons with disabilities headquartered at Rush Ranch in the Delta (letter attached).
 - Jean Berensmeier is concerned that recreational needs may rely too much on concessions and that the heritage corridors focus too much on culture and not enough on natural heritage. Links are good but may homogenize areas that should be left alone. We need more 2-legged trails.
 - Cathy Hodges reports that an Oroville club also provides horse-drawn cart rides to persons with disabilities. She suggests that we need to provide different experiences while saving some wildness.

VI. Old Business

a. Multi-Use Trail Etiquette Guidelines

- SM suggests that the committee may want to encourage users to comply with etiquette guidelines. CSP relies on the new Trail Use Change Process.
- GG believes the advisory capacity of the committee can be used to advocate that user groups work together to make trails safer.
- JG supports the Trail Use Change Process instead of blanket conversion of trails to multi-use
- GG asks that the information presented by JG (see item IVe) be added to the Trail Manager’s Toolbox. SM will endeavor to do so.

b. Public Comment

- Connie Berto believes Marin foot paths should not allow mountain bikes, but fire roads are wide enough to share safely. She thinks that reports of trail conflicts by the public are as valid as ranger reports. She wants to understand the basis for decision-making regarding trail uses.
- Anne Sands agrees that wide trails with good visibility are suitable for multi-use. Most users practice good etiquette but not much can be done when trails are narrow—the key is an acceptance of rules and willingness to be

- Kathy Risso says there is a safety issue with opening narrow trails to bikers and suggests that there are lots of trails open now. She won't ride in China Camp SP anymore due to mountain bike use. Maintenance costs go way up with new uses.
- C. Delos Putz is concerned about displacement of equestrians and their physical safety on trails. He believes that the bicycle industry is engaging in a national campaign to encourage trail use. Public land managers should protect vulnerable users. Fire roads are best for bikes.
- Arlin Weinberger leads popular hikes for two Mt. Tamalpais groups. He is concerned with the Easy Grade trail conversion because of the possibility of disturbing native plants and the displacement of hikers that will occur when bikes are allowed. China Camp has been overtaken with bikes.
- Bob Cooper states that 98% of all bicyclists behave. Fire roads are more dangerous with bikes because of excessive speed, but it's worse on single track trails. There is too little enforcement in state parks and CSP must enforce trail etiquette.
- Larry Minikes bikes 250 days per year and claims the problem rests with the mountain bike manufacturers' anti-environment messages in their advertising. CRTC should advocate for legislation and bike manufacturers' cooperation to change the message to one of environmental protection.
- Wanda Roe rides well-trained horses but she and a friend were severely injured on the Indian Valley Trail after falls caused by a fast mountain biker. He did not stop after repeated requests. Mountain bikes are ruining the vegetation. She proposes a speed limit.
- Duffy Hurwin is concerned about safety for equestrians. Don't open trails to a vehicle invented in the last 20 years. There are similar conflicts with snowboarders and skiers. How about bicycle only trails? She had a conflict with a threatening biker with two dogs and was disappointed there was no enforcement.
- Nancy DuPont has 30 horses and is concerned about converting narrow trails built for hoof & foot to allow mountain bikes. She is unhappy about IMBA's request to convert 13 Mt. Diablo trails to allow mountain bikes—they are narrow and steep and were built by horsemen. Fire roads are okay for bikes.
- Al Bauman congratulates CSP for sharing responsibility for the Mt. Diaz Ridge Trail with NPS. Limited resources require sharing and imagination.
- Renee Burnes resides on a cattle ranch at Pt. Reyes Station and reports increased traffic on 100-year old trails.

- Alexis Goldner was injured on a trail. She says the Bolima trail is no longer safe as it's been taken over by cyclists.
 - Linda Novy is frustrated by the displacement of traditional trail users. She wants wild areas kept as animal corridors and worries that increased users may affect these habitats—research needs to be done to manage these properly. She complains that bike marketing is similar to motocross advertising and that the historic value of trails needs to be protected.
 - Tom Boss suggests that China Camp is still popular with hikers—that there has been no displacement by cyclists. He reports that he's on the board of Access for Bikes and they have built some China Camp trails and donated to education efforts like the Share-The-Trail program. They form bike patrols in Marin County which report and respond to injuries and safety hazards.
 - Heidi Adler teaches responsible bike riding and share the trail etiquette training in several high schools. She asks that trail enthusiasts work together to improve safe recreation access for all.
 - Tom Ward states that International Mountain Biking Association's mission is safe, responsible mountain biking and is appalled with injuries and concerns for safety reported here. Some mountain bikers feel arbitrarily shut out of parks and trails and become frustrated rule-breakers, which IMBA is against. Bikers won't go away just because they are riding illegally. He wants to work with the trail organizations here in Marin County to do a better job of cooperating so all trail users can enjoy the environment safely and responsibly.
 - Jean Berensmeier believes that bikes are vehicles and don't belong on narrow trails because they are too fast. Fire roads are okay. She notes that bike tire marks are evident on all trails in Marin County. Trails should be preserved for hikers. Bill's Trail is being damaged by illegal bike riders. Sam P. Taylor SP has racing road bike riders on the Flats.
- c. GG recommends that trail enthusiasts use the information on the Trail Manager's Toolbox web page to learn more about responsible trail use and management of multi-use trails.
- d. MV makes a motion that the information presented by JG be placed on the web page at www.parks.ca.gov/trails. LZ seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

VII. Presentations

- a. California Coastal Conservancy- Acquisitions of River Parkways & Greenways (canceled)

VIII. Public Comment

- a. Carol Colbert has concerns about incorporating mountain bikes on existing trails. Safety is of prime importance and a 6 ft. wide tread is needed for multi-use. She is concerned about the re-route and intersections of Easy Grade Trail.
- b. John Fazel gives the web sites for Access Adventure www.access-adventure.org and American Discovery Trail <http://www.discoverytrail.org/states/california/index.html> .
- c. Cathy Hodges wants to understand the criteria used to determine multi-use conversions in state parks. SM suggested she look at the website www.parks.ca.gov/trails for the Trail Use Change Process. A team of staff makes a recommendation and the park superintendent makes the final determination. Cathy reports that the Oroville FERC study acknowledged that mountain bike use increased maintenance costs, reduced hiker and equestrian trail user safety and degraded the user experience. DWR rates mountain biking as a high risk activity.
- d. Sandy Greenblat publishes the Marin County Equestrian Guide. She suggests that the proposed Trail Portal (item IV e) go “global” because landowner boundaries are often not visible in the dirt. Editorial comments are necessary and copyrights must be honored. CSP enforcement can be improved through auxiliary patrols.
- e. John Olmstead brought maps showing the conceptual location of the Cross-California Ecological Trail. It starts at Jughandle SP and traversed South Yuba River SP and possibly the new Sutter Buttes properties. He asks for adequate data to plan the east end of the trail in Nevada County.
- f. Renee Burns asks whether professionals are consulted for change-in-use requests. SM stated that trail experts and engineering geologists are often on the evaluation team. She was unhappy that an equestrian trail at Sam P. Taylor SP was paved and converted to bike use.
- g. Jean Berensmeier suggested that it would have been nice to have a presentation on the progress report at this meeting. She is concerned that mountain bikers are good organizers, so they may be heard more clearly than busy families and individuals. She clarifies that the terms “single track” and “double track” were developed to differentiate between vehicle and non-vehicle trails. She thinks resources need to be protected for the most intimate use—hiking.
- h. Connie Berto points out that predominantly female equestrians are accosted by predominantly male cyclists. There isn't enough enforcement. Education doesn't work. Talk is cheap but one cyclist was caught twice building illegal trails. She will send the economic survey on equestrians for the toolbox. She advocates separate trails or separate parks.
- i. Linda Chapin letter read by SM (attached).

IX. Next Meeting

- a. February 11, 2009 - Glendale

X. Adjournment at 12:40 PM