

California Recreational Trails Committee

February 16, 2006

9:30 a.m.

San Luis Obispo Coast District

750 Hearst Castle Road

San Simeon, CA 93452

I. **Call to Order**

Jeannie Gillen, Chair, brought the meeting to order at 9:30am

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

Members Present:

John Mercurio, Maryanne Vancio, Jim Collins and Gregory Gandrud

Side Note: New Committee members Maryanne Vancio and Gregory Gandrud were welcomed.

Absent Members:

Jim Chapman

Ron Griffin

David Koehler

Staff Present:

Paul Romero, Chief Deputy Director, California State Parks

Steven Musillami, Executive Secretary for the CRTC, Statewide Trails Manager

Penny Harris, California State Parks

III. **New Business**

At the recommendation of Chair Jeannie Gillen, it was approved by the committee to move new business forward on the agenda to accommodate the guest speakers and members of the public who wished to speak.

Coastal Trail Grant – California Coastal Conservancy, California Conservation Corps & California State Parks

Speakers:

Steve Horn, Deputy Executive Director of the California Coastal Conservancy

Domenic Santangelo, Director, California Conservation Corps

Phil Afala, California Conservation Corps Supervisor

Steve Horn

Distributed copies of the publication "*Completing the California Coastal Trail*" which included the vision of the entire California Coastal Trail. This project is the work of a multi-agency commission including State agencies, private individuals and local land trusts. Purpose was to set out policy standards, costs and needed legislation, including bond acts. It identifies where main needs are for public action, such as the purchase of land, and the multi-use aspect of the project which conserves and provides for recreation for user groups including bikers, equestrians and hikers.

It includes a system of trails, including braided trail systems that will also provide accessible trails as well as long distance bicycling.

A substantial amount of the Coastal Trail, approximately one-third, is under public ownership where the trail can be improved. Approximately one-half of the property needed for the trail is already under public ownership. The first step will be to make existing trails more accessible. This will entail a partnership with California State Parks and The California Conservation Corps.

The remaining funding from Proposition 12 for Coastal Trails is being granted through the Coastal Conservancy in the amount of 1 million dollars to California State Parks to employ the conservation Corps in this project. This integration of programs will streamline administrative procedures. This master agreement with a long-term commitment will provide training for the Conservation Corps as well as provide services. This is the beginning of a more concerted effort to complete the trail program. The objective is to focus efforts where supporting facilities already exists. One such project will be the extension of the elephant seal boardwalk near Piedras Blancas.

The three agencies will create more coastal opportunities and will be able to utilize the last of the earmarked money from Proposition 12.

The objective is to encourage legislation and the public to raise the \$350 million needed to complete the 1,100 to 1,200 miles of trails. In the long run, this is a low-cost recreational opportunity for the health of Californians with the problems of obesity, etc. and is a wise investment.

Question/John Mercurio: Will the state trail be managed by the State?

Answer: Forty percent of the property is within units of California State Parks. A substantial amount is also in local government ownership and with the federal government. There is also a substantial amount currently on private land as well. It is not intended that the Coastal Trail be managed by the State, but the State is lead in the project.

Question/Jeannie Gillen: With multiple jurisdictions, will there be a consistency of management?

Answer: There is no compulsion by the Coastal Conservancy to demand policy. Every organization has its own policy. There will be elements of statewide concern such as ADA. Through the grant procedures, the State can provide guidance.

Question/Jim Collins: Is there a timeline for agreement with a variety of landowners?

Answer: The procedure is not to condemn right-of-way. The policy is to acquire property on a willing seller basis. There is no hard and fast goal for a timeline. The cost estimate to complete the California Trail is in current year dollars. It comes down to public support for money and good-faith efforts of the agencies. Working on an insignia for the California Coastal Trail with California State Parks. Hope to have an insignia this year to increase the profile of the project.

Question/Maryanne Vancio: Are any sections of the trail not multi-use?

Answer: It comes down to the individual entity and policies. There is a broad understanding that it needs to be multi-use; ADA issues will drive the multi-use because suitable surfacing to accommodate wheelchairs will also be suitable for bicycle traffic. There are a wide variety of environmental constraints and it is not feasible for all trails to be multi-use. The default route is generally Highway 1. The focus on these areas between facilities will be so that people will have access to segments of the trail and can get on and off.

Domenic Santangelo and Phil Afala

In the partnership with California State Parks, we have amassed a highly skilled group with the MOU for providing services. Confident in the skill level for concepts and needs of the team. One key issue is the permitting process for the projects and models exist with Fish and Game. The California Conservation Corps (CCC) is excited to be in this key partnership. The San Luis Obispo CCC is its flagship. This group is the highest generating fee for service in the CCC because attention is paid to customer service and the quality of work. California State Parks, the citizens of California, and the Coastal Conservancy will receive on-the-ground quality work. Having been with the CCC for 28 years, this is the highest team of project supervisors. The CCC hires unskilled young people without direction, and it is amazing what can be done with good supervisors. The Coastal Trail project will provide young people with confidence in their lives, often disadvantaged youth that will be transferable to other aspects of life.

Question/Jim Collins: How do you tackle the training?

Answer/Phil Afala: In the past there has been a California State Parks Trails Manual and CCC put its supervisor through the State Park Trails Training Program. There has been a Basic Trails Certification Program in CCC and we want to bring it back. This plan will provide common skill sets in trail construction and maintenance. Additional skills such as bridge building can be accomplished through shadowing.

Question/Gregory Gandrud: What about payment?

Answer/Phil: Corps members are paid minimum wage and medical benefits. They pay \$300/month room and board and take home approximately \$1,000/month. There are 80 residential members at Camp SLO. The CCC can also set up spike camps in the back country, so they can be mobile as well.

Domenic – There is also a certified crew from San Bernardino that is housed at Camp SLO.

Jeannie Gillen – CCC worked in redwoods on Prairie Creek Trails and they look great.

Phil – A good relationship between the State Parks Maintenance and CCC are critical. Young people are needed to learn and teach to continue the expertise. Many CCC members continue on to work for California State Parks.

Question/Jeannie Gillen: What can the Committee do as a body to support?

Answer/Steve Horn: Project needs capital. Any influence with the Governor or legislators would help in expressing the importance of the project to long-term quality of life.

Paul Romero: The amount of \$350 million is beyond the scope of the California State Parks or the Coastal Conservancy. Write individual letters as appointees of the Governor. We appreciate the partnership and the bond is strong. Steve Horn spent much of his own time on the Hearst Conservation easement. Without his efforts, it would not have been as successful and I want to personally thank him. Four Districts will also receive funding as well: Mendocino, Monterey, and Angeles District.

Question/Jim Collins: What chairmen or committees should we contact?

Answer: For Senate, Resources – Sheila Kuehl (D). For Assembly, Water Parks and Resources – Fran Pavley (D).

Jeannie Gillen – Thanks for the partnership of the three agencies.

Doug Buckmaster from Coastwalk in Cambria

Regarding the Coastal Trail, thank you to Steve Horn for his work in acquiring the East-West Ranch of 36 acres and providing funding for the \$11.1 million purchase. The property had been slated for 735 homes in a gated community. Thank you also for Domenic and crew of CCC for completing the trails across the East-West Ranch. CCC also worked to reduce fire danger along the trails.

Coastwalk believes that user conflict and connectivity issues are both important elements in the planning of the Coastal Trail. Coastwalk is in favor of a braided trail system that is essential in minimizing user conflict in the form of alternate and parallel trails. Providing lateral trails to connect communities and school to the Coastal Trail is an important connectivity issue.

Steve Musillami: The Conservancy and CCC have a list of projects identified. California State Parks is putting together a plan in each park where there are trails and what they are called to provide an inventory and future list of projects. These will be identified ahead of time for funding, flagging, permits, CEQA clearances and other processes. Working with CCC and Conservancy will help to expedite the process.

IV. Minutes Approval from October 2005 Meeting

Jeannie Gillen made a motion to approve the minutes from the October 2005 meeting. Greg Gandrud abstained because he was not present.

With changes there was a concurrence to accept minutes from October 2005 meeting.

V. Public Comments

Bill Woodson (Citizen) Morro Bay

Read about the public meeting in the newspaper this morning. Resident of Morro Bay and member of Morro Bay Trails Committee, Morro Bay Beautiful, Morro Bay City Planning Commission. Present to observe meeting and to plug the Morro Bay to Cayucos Trail. I realize that the emphasis is on the access to the north, but also want to mention that the Texaco/Chevron Company is removing contaminated soil on their property and that something will happen and that it is an opportune time to think about working with them to get something accomplished.

VI. Reports

a. State Park Director's Report:

Presented by Paul Romero, Chief Deputy Director

- I am representing the Director and first wish to recognize the appointment of the two new members to the Committee, Maryanne Vancio and Gregory Gandrud.
- There is a notice by the Governor for a Strategic Growth Plan which will be discussed later.
- There is an organizational change in the Department. Nina Gordon has been redirected to the work under the new Deputy Director of Fiscal Responsibility. She is no longer in charge of the Planning Division and has submitted letters to each of the Trails Committee members thanking them for their work and support. There is planning for the potential of a new division in the Department that will focus on a Recreation. This will make recreation more visible and more functional and has been under consideration for a while. It will be a virtual division with no chief or assigned staff. It will consist of five deputy directors and a number of staff to focus on recreation activities. It will develop a Strategic Plan and Implementation process before staffing the division.
- State Parks Planning Division is presenting the Central Valley Vision, a biodiversity council made up of Department heads of several resources agencies. Based on its findings, the council will begin presenting in April in various forums. There have been bond dollars for urban areas but the Central Valley has not been funded. Seventeen percent of California State Parks are located in the Central Valley.

- State Park Branding: The California State Parks logo is intended to be a worldwide image and is a new brand that will be used on uniforms, and consistent language and image on brochures and color components for branding books. There will be a consistency in image and presentations for radio broadcasts, magazines, etc. and it is being funded by the California State Parks Foundation. A welcome kit is being developed for distribution as an image document in the amount of one million pieces and is being funded by private enterprise.
- The California Bicycle Tour will be held next week and will go from Sausalito to San Diego. There will be millions of spectators both live and televised on ESPN. It is designed to be an annual event and has been a technical challenge to coordinate with CHP and the event planners.
- The next State Parks Commission meeting will be in Chico on March 2-3, 2006. Agenda items will be the adoption of the Bidwell Mansion/Sacramento River General Plan and the loss of agricultural lands and potential mitigations.
- The Federal Land and Water Conservation Fund has been funded at \$1 billion each year, and the money has been allocated to State and local governments. The annual allocation has been \$20 million to California and of that \$2 million to State Parks. The State side of the fund has been zeroed out of the President's 07/08 Budget. It is significant to the Department in that 20-25% of the planning staff has been funded from this source. The number one priority on the Governor's platform is land and water conservation support and the Department has been authorized to lobby for the funding.

Jeannie Gillen: Can we lobby as individuals or concur as a committee that we want to draft a letter for the next meeting to support? We can also lobby and write legislators as individuals. Although this has not been agendaized, committee by-laws allow for taking action if it is noticed in writing. We have concurrence and consensus to draft a letter. Greg and Jeannie and Park staff will draft a letter. Greg will be going to Washington, D.C. and can hand deliver a letter.

John Mercurio: Zeroing out State side, not to local jurisdictions?

Paul Romero: Money to local jurisdictions channeled through the State.

Governor's Strategic Growth Plan. The Governor proposes rebuilding the infrastructure of the State over the next ten years, in two five-year increments. The proposal is to use bond money and private funding to repair levees, hospitals, prisons, colleges, etc. Bond efforts propose raising \$22 billion for the first 5 years. The population growth of California is an additional one-half million each year and continues to grow. The infrastructure has not grown to match. There are a number of proposals by legislators. Environmental groups are trying to get the initiative on the ballot by coalition and are gathering signatures. Hope to have achieved this by March 10th for the June ballot. If not, then for the November ballot.

California State Parks is being considered for funding by the legislature along with improvements to hospitals and mental health facilities. The directives do not allow for additional lands, but an emphasis on improvements to facilities and responding to growth. There is also deferred maintenance of approximately \$900 million to \$1 billion in infrastructure needs in California State Parks.

Jeannie Gillen and Greg Gandrud have also attending briefings and have copies of the Strategic Plan.

Paul Romero: There is a five year capital outlay plan that is in front of the California Parks Foundation for consideration.

b. Statewide Trails Manager's Report

Steve Musillami is also welcomed Maryanne and Greg to the committee.

- The 2006 California Trails and Greenways Conference is sending e-mail postcards and directing people to their website for the conference information and registration in Agoura Hills on May 5-7, 2006. There will be several workshop sessions, including trail planning and grant writing, trail user conflict resolution, and a tour of the Santa Monica Mountains Trail. The pre-conference workshops will also include a BBQ at Malibu Creek State Park and other social events with guest speaker Dr. Richard Jackson speaking about U.S. health issues.
- California Trail days will coincide this year with National Trail Days. It is a good link for joint ventures.
- Copies of the California State Parks Trails Policy which have been adopted by the Department were included in the Committee's packets as requested.
- After the last meeting in Arcada, I attended a rededication of the Kelly ditch Trail in Heise County Park in San Diego County. It is a five and three-quarter mile trail.
- Director Ruth Coleman has requested that an inventory be made of trails and trail-like facilities in Sacramento County to provide trails and running tracks. A study is being done on what kind of effort will be required to inventory and process this information and what to do with the information so that it will be usable.
- A request has been made by committee members to have business cards printed. Steve has asked what information each member wants on his/her cards. A brief discussion was held on whether personal information should be included besides Headquarters information. Committee staff will email each member to customize the cards.

Greg Gandrud: Would it be possible to consolidate information about trails in California including maps, such as Google's feature of satellite pictures and hybrids, and containing information such as accessibility and rules and regulations so that an interactive information system could be provided in a high-tech format for providing information and provide utilization by the largest number of the public? GPs systems could be used to locate trail heads.

John Mercurio: Is it the intention of the Department to have a resource that would cover the State of California that would be unified in to one place providing information on all hiking trails?

Paul Romero: The magnitude of such a project would cost millions of dollars and many years of work. It is doubtful that State Parks would take on such a project, but can access Department trails through www.parks.ca.gov/trails .

- There is a new look for the web page for recreational opportunities, including trails in the State Parks system. It is part of the focus of the new Recreational Division. It will not include Google Earth because the cost is prohibitive. It is free to individuals, but not to corporations.

Maryanne Vancio: San Diego County has gathered GIS data information for trails.

John Mercurio: It would be nice to take the lead and move forward to eventually bring this information in homes.

Steve Musillami: According to the by-laws there needs to be new officers elected after March of each year.

c. Chair Report

- Jeannie Gillen
 - Thank you to Steve Musillami for providing the public notification on the Committee meeting in the newspapers.
 - Thank you to Committee members James Hasenauer and David Koehler for their past services. Letters have been sent out to both.
 - Received an answer to a letter sent to the city of Los Angeles on the multi-use of trails in Griffith Parks. Although the city encourages multi-use of trails, it does not always work. Bicyclists race illegally along the trails and also start creating their own trails. There are currently no future plans to create new trails and multi-use is determined on a case-by-case basis along with what is appropriate and safe.
 - Jeannie is on the Board of Directors for the California Trails and Greenways Foundation. They are considering giving a Bill Bliss Memorial Award and a scholarship to Bob Gage to attend the conference. Also want a youth candidate

recommended to give a \$500 scholarship to in order to attend to get more youth involved.

- CTGF is willing to assist more with the conference responsibilities and possibly in the future with the help of the State Parks Foundation take over the entire responsibility.

d. Subcommittee Reports

--Recreational Trails Committee Awards Subcommittee

- CRTC wants to give an award from this committee signed by the Governor and called The Governor's Trail Award. The sub-committee and staff will be working on this process with the Governor's Office.

--User Conflict Subcommittee

- San Juan Bautista Foundation and National Parks supporting as volunteer coordinator the Anza Trail and are trying to get it listed on map quest.com. (?)
- Riverside – Pacific Crest Trail Festival – Hiking and riding with four-legged friend on trails.
- The California Horseman's Association was started over sixty years ago to sponsor , cultivate, and foster an interest in fine horses and horsemanship. At their quarterly meeting in January of this year, they adopted a Trails Policy that includes multi-use- use where appropriate, safe and recommends the use of CET&LC Trail Safety Guidelines.
- Lake Oroville has issues with multi-use. Plan with the Department of Water Resources on hiking and biking trails that went multi-use and did not go well. California State Parks suggested some compromises and may want to write a letter supporting this. The committee has done so before in 2003.

e. Member Reports

- Maryanne Vancio
 - Nothing to add.
- John Mercurio
 - Concerned with changing the date of California Trail Days. Might be better to have two dates, especially since California started the trail days events. It was unfortunate that it was combined.
- Jeannie Gillen
 - Feels similarly. If it is impractical for Sacramento to oversee both, maybe another foundation could take it over? Is it staff issues?

Steve Musillami: It has been a challenge with staffing and the seasonality of the third Saturday in April for parks in the Sierra. Unable to do some projects due to the snow. Other communities are starting to have their own community trail days.

Paul Romero: Earth Day is also in April and suggests that if we continue a State Trails Day that it is made a fall event to get away from the competition of events.

John Mercurio: I agree that a fall date would be good for California Trails Day.

Jeannie Gillen: Will be participating in the Pacific Crest Trail Fest in April at the Mission Inn in Riverside by facilitating sessions on "Hitting the Trails with your Four Legged Frinds".

Jeannie Gillen: Will be filling papers for the Juan Bautista de Anza National Historic Trail to become a non-profit 501 C 3 organization known as the Anza Trail Foundation. National Park Service, Amigos de Anza and the Arizona Trails Coalition will work together for the implementation of this trail.

Jeannie Gillen: Asked about the status of the Horse Camp at Cuyamaca, and asked to be kept apprised of activity there.

- Jim Collins
 - Working with Rails and Trails for twenty-seven miles of abandoned railroad in Wilton. Works in Mexico and has found there is a tremendous interest in what California is doing with hiking and biking trails. There are key people who do use the California system and want to use it as a model for Mexico. People come to San Diego to bike in groups and for races. Mexican politicians have an interest to meet staff and attend meeting. Move to promulgate a joint effort and understanding on the issues of obesity and health issues. Mexican families come to California to camp, hike and bike.
- Greg Gandrud
 - Montecito Trails Foundation works with Carpinteria to support trails, including the historic Franklin Trail. Has been no public access for thirty years. The Los Padres forest can access with the Franklin Trail. There are conflicts between mountain bikers, equestrians and hikers. There is a committee that will serve as a clearing house for jurisdictions to work with the conflicts of multi-use.

Multi-Use Conflict Resolution Video

- Shown to committee members, staff and public.

Old Business

- No old business to report or discuss.

General Discussion

- Greg Gandrud

- It may be possible to have online internships to collect information from different jurisdictions on the trails in California.
- Jeannie Gillen
 - The next meeting will be May 7, 2006 at the California Trails and Greenways Conference.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:05 p.m.