

California Recreational Trails Committee Meeting

Folsom, California

* Minutes*

Sunday, March 28, 2004

Committee Members Present: Jim Chapman, David Koehler, John Mercurio, Jeannie Gillen, Jim Hasenauer.

Committee Members Absent: Grieg Asher
One Vacancy

State Parks Staff Present: Ken McKowen, Adrienne Tillis

Chair John Mercurio called meeting to order.

- I. **Minutes from January 03, 2003** meeting reviewed and approved
J. Gillen requests of Ken McKowen that meeting minutes be made available on a more timely basis for review and reference. Goal is to have draft minutes available within two weeks following the Committee meeting.

- II. **Agenda Additions:**

Lake Berryessa issue added to agenda
Change of order made in addressing agenda items.

- III. **Reports**

- a. **State Parks Report**

State Parks Trails Policy: K. McKowen reviewed the status of the Departments developing "Trails Policy" that calls for multi-use to be a primary consideration when developing trails in state park units. The "policy" is complete and approved by upper management, but is awaiting the development of a comprehensive planning document needed to link an existing conditions transformation, where necessary. This Planning link will be included as part of the new "Trails Handbook" standards. Work is continuing on completing the document as quickly as possible. ADA and accessibility issues are also part of the planning process, as is reviewing existing trails for their potential classification as multi-use.

Discussion among Committee and staff regarding public use, user conflict, public education and use of volunteers, and department efforts to mitigate conflict.

Status of Grant Programs: K. McKowen reviewed status of various grant programs utilized for trails development. Possible reductions in TEA funding and in state funded EEM program.

J. Chapman discussed cutbacks and a need to communicate with the Congress regarding the importance of continued trails program funding.

Action: Committee unanimous—J. Chapman to draft Recreational Trails Committee funding support letter to be sent to the President Bush, Senate and House committees/chairmen. All in favor

Action: Committee unanimous: Letter expressing Rec Trails Committee support of continued full funding of the EEM program to be written by D. Koehler to the Governor.

K. McKowen: Proposition 40 still has funds available. The Coastal Conservancy also has funding (from Prop 40) available for the California Coastal Trail project.

K. McKowen: Commented on the potential location of the 2005 Trails Conference being held in S. California, possibly San Diego.

J. Hasenauer: the Trails and Greenways Foundation has offered to co-host a conference in Ventura and that he heard that Trails4All was interested in co-hosting in Orange County.

- b. **Chair Report** (J. Mercurio) Committee member Lawrence Sterling resigned his seat in January. Any new candidate can be nominated by a trails organization; appointment is made by the Governor. The position vacancy is for a Northern California representative.

c. **Member Reports**

J. Hasenauer: Malibu Creek State Park has released its general plan draft for public comments. The Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area (which includes NPS CDPR Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy and others) is about to begin a public portion of their trail planning.

The Ahmanson property planned development averted with land purchase—Santa Monica Mountain Conservancy now owns the property, but will pass title to NPS eventually.

J. Mercurio reported that two underpasses for the Iron Horse Trail in Concord have been dedicated. Also reported that Bay Area voters passed a ballot measure that will increase bridge tolls from \$2 to \$3; the funds to be used for open space and trails.

J. Gillen: J. Gillen was advised that Juan Bautista de Anza Trail will have two events this year. Reported on successful User Conflict Conference Session, and requested meeting with DPR staff to continue discussion of same subject.

D. Koehler: Central Valley/Fresno, provided update on San Joaquin River Trail acquisitions.

There is also renewed trails interest in constructing a trail along Kings River near the city of Redley.

J. Chapman: Discussed the wilderness issue, BLM undergoing updating process, management plans sessions held in Susanville for the 1.5 million acres managed by BLM. BLM also wants to get into recreation in part by developing more OHV and equestrian trails.

Current Forest Service direction appears to lock up resources and lots of conflicts, snowmobiles, horse,

Caltrans published a book that analyzes nine counties and rates them by usability-accessibility, etc... Guidelines, District 2 sups discuss.

Developing ownership and the barriers of the land showing how it works from their perspective. Taking the document and enhancing it, where are the trail heads.... The All American Highway, Caltrans cooperation with trails program.

Comment: J. Gillen wants to know what diversity was included, cultural aspect, ADA, etc...

Comment: J. Chapman-Caltrans is sensitive to livestock, horse, ranch related issues.

Hasenauer: Suggests Committee use them as a model. Take every opportunity to raise these issues.

Comment: J. Hasenauer: Is there a resolution to link the mountain towns together?

Comment: J. Gillen was advised that horses were not being recognized as transportation in at least one federally funded S.B. County trail project, but learned later that was a local/political opinion and in fact federal agencies have funded many projects where horses are considered transportation.

Comment: K. McKowen: The Coastal Commission is bringing Caltrans, State Parks and the Coastal Conservancy together to discuss trail Right-of-Way issues along the Coastal Trail—Same issues will be relevant to other highway/trail ROW issues. Will keep Committee apprised of results.

Comment: Hasenauer: Good news about the close cooperation between the trail community and Caltrans. Asked if the funding problem for the Rim of the World trail been resolved. The trail supporters were using transportation funds for the trail and an issue came up regarding the use of transportation-funded trail projects that would allow horses.

d. Committee Reports

Proposal for California Recreational Trails Committee Annual Award

Lawrence Sterling was replaced on the Long Distance Trails Recognition subcommittee by Jeannie Gillen. Focus: Finding connections and naming of long distance trails in California. Subcommittee arose from a search for American River Parkway connection with Placer and eventually to Tahoe Rim Trail.

The California Recreational Trails Committee (CRTC) subcommittee of John Mercurio and Jeannie Gillen was formed to create a proposal for a new statewide award to be sponsored by the CRTC. The subcommittee has developed the following proposal for an annual award, the California Recreational Trails Committee Annual Award.

This award would be given to a person (not an event, program or trail). Only non-trail professionals would be eligible. Those employed by a public agency, non-profit or a private business whose primary job is trail related would **not** be eligible. Those holding elected office would be eligible. The award is not open to anyone who has previously received any state, national or international trail award. The award is open to persons representing any user groups of trails and urban, suburban or rural interests. Nominees must have been publicly involved with trail issues for at least seven years. Extra consideration should be given for accomplishments related to creation of a specific "product" such as a trail or program.

Announcement of the award would be coordinated with the State Trails and Greenways Conference. In years where there is no conference, the announcement would occur in conjunction with a regular CRTC meeting.

- ❖ The application packet would contain the following an application form which would provide the following information about the nominee:
 - number of years active with trail issues
 - user group most closely identified with (if any)
 - hometown
 - occupation
 - significant trail related activities that support this award
 - contact information for the person making the nomination
 - at least three letters of endorsement
 - other material indicating the nominee's contributions to trails

- ❖ The process leading to presentation of the award would be:
 - CRTC forms award committee comprised of:
 - CRTC member
 - trail industry professional

- agency professional
- State Parks staff person
- at-large member selected by CRTC
- CRTC calls for nominees via:
 - mailing list of CRTC
 - user group organizations
 - trail related agencies
 - trail related non-profits
 - press release
- Award committee reviews nomination packets
- Award committee selects one winner
- State Parks secures commemorative certificate signed by the Governor and mounted for presentation. Certificate to be given to the Statewide Trails Section at least sixty days before event to obtain signature.

Motion by J. Hasenauer that J. Mercurio and J. Gillen be made the Awards Committee and implement program. D. Koehler second. Vote:
Approved/Unanimous

Jim Hasenauer and J. Gillen voted to be the User Conflict Subcommittee.

IV. New Business

Added: Lake Berryessa (US Bureau of Reclamation) concessions contract expiration and trails issues:

J. Hasenauer: Berryessa concession contract is expiring. General discussion of public access constraints with existing concessions agreement. The concession trail park “residents” are attempting to retain status quo. Action: Unanimous: J. Hasenauer to write a letter on behalf of the Rec Trails Committee expressing support for ending the current concession operation and opening the surrounding lands to more public trail access. Public comments are due by April 22, 2004. Website: www.berryessatrails.org.

V. OLD BUSINESS

Trail Days Status: K. McKowen reports that Tony Look, head of Trail Days, is having medical problems and difficulty getting program information to participants. Suggestion to retain Tony Look on the letterhead and move forward with preparation for April 17th date. Ken will contact Tony Look once again and renew offer of assistance.

Item A: California Wilderness Act: J. Hasenauer states that the California Wilderness Act has now been split into two bills, which are in Committee and are not moving. Bill HR-1501, Representative Thompson and

Senator Boxer's bill. Always possible that a bill could move at the end of the session.

IMBA- in Mendocino, collecting all of the remaining land and the need for access, of the 12 that are significant 5, maintain access to the trails now wilderness advocates to willing, Toby Horst, Backcountry Horsemen won't stand by it unless there are some certain backings.

Item 6 Gen. Discussion-

Jeannie announcement Emergency training, at UC Davis:
www.vetmeducdavis.edu

Jim C.-Caltrans Rail right of way task force- in Susanville, land owned by BLM, more than Rails to Trails, in discussion to multi-use, Jim says the Committee should monitor to make sure of the progress.

Jim H- adds comments, he had attended the meeting in So. Cal.

Public Comments—

Bob Svedeen –Ca. State Horseman's assn. Re: BLM, NPs uses of the desert plans.

Suggests someone from committee go to meetings. Had request about Dream Trail-150 miles of multi-use potential. 10% short on the south side. Trails don't meet.

Item for next agenda-make a presentation for dream trail. CSHA is support

Toby Horst - American Horse council. From Fresno area - Regarding the fires situation and the Wilderness situation.

Dorothy Jennings from Templeton- horseman at a federal level are considered transportation. Wants clarification. Will give Jeannie her e-mail.

Toby Horst: Clarification on horses being used as transportation with regard to grant.

K. McKowen: It was not Feds; it was CTC that made the determination

Doug Elliot, VP- Tuolumne Trails City Trails councils- wants minutes from this meeting.

Re: Award Committee: How to publicize it? K. McKowen Responded.

Item #7

Discussion of today's meeting and item for next meeting-

Jeannie commented on the overall Trails and Greenways Conference. Need more volunteers, some people like the smallness of it. Some people wanted someone from Sacramento to come and speak at the conference. Overall was very good.

Jim Chapman: liked the food from the Conference. Can't compare to any other conference. This is his 1st one. Outstanding conference. Liked the informality and laid back feel.

He appreciated the staff and volunteers. It was relatively affordable.

John Mercurio- was impressed with the conference and the depth.

Ken McKowen: Possible location of next year's conference: Certainly So. Cal, possibly San Diego.

Jim Haseneaur: Ventura has lots of access as well.

Next meeting: Possible for last week of June 2000, tentatively.

Meeting adjourned at 4:26pm!