

California Recreational Trails Committee (CRTC)

Meeting Minutes

April 21, 2010

Cambria Pines Lodge

2905 Burton Drive

Cambria, California

5:00 PM

I. Call to Order

- a. Meeting called to order at 5:05 PM by Laura Zabkar, Chair

II. Introduction of Committee Members and Staff

- a. Greg Gandrud (GG), Member
- b. Jeannie Gillen (JG), Member
- c. Cathy Haagen-Smit (CH), Member
- d. David March (DM), Member
- e. John Mercurio (JM), Member
- f. Maryanne Vancio (MV), Member
- g. Laura Zabkar (LZ), Member
- h. Dan Ray (DR), Chief of Planning Division for CSP
- i. Wayne Breece (WB), Executive Secretary of CRTC / Statewide Trails Manager for CSP
- j. Cheryl Essex (CE), Park & Recreation Specialist for CSP

III. Minutes approval from July, 2009 Meeting

- a. Motion to approve minutes by LZ with revisions noted by JM, seconded by JM, and approved by GG, MV, DM, JM. Abstentions by LZ, CH, JG.

IV. Reports

- a. California State Parks Director's Report (DR)
 - The CSP Director planned to be here, but is instead participating in an important budget meeting today in Sacramento.
 - The budget difficulties this year have been daunting. Visitor attendance is almost the same while park open hours have decreased. Reduced services have been implemented in all parks--closed day use areas and camping loops, reduced student services, closed restrooms. We've had significant staff retirements, which reduced our expenditures but meant we lost a lot of expertise. Many partnerships have been explored and implemented to keep parks open as much as possible. Wayne Breece worked with field staff to reduce the impact of park closures on trail corridors like the Pacific Crest and California Coastal Trails.
 - The Governor received more comments on the potential closure of parks because of last year's CSP budget cuts to

than any other budget issue. We are grateful for the public's support. A campaign by the California State Parks Foundation and Save the Redwoods League, among others, has collected 760,000 signatures to place an initiative for a Parks Access Fee on the November ballot.

- Trail construction projects: Bond sales are re-starting. Bonds (Propositions 40 and 84), as well as Recreational Trails Program funds, Land and Water Conservation funds, CalTrans EEM funds and others support about \$5 million in current CSP minor trails projects.
 1. Recently completed projects are Burlington Nature Trail Improvement – Humboldt Redwoods SP (RTP), Foothill Trail Bridge Replacement – Prairie Creek Redwoods SP (RTP), Moonstone Beach Boardwalk project – San Simeon SP (EEM) and Peace Valley Trail – Sutter Buttes SP (EEM)
 2. Projects undergoing Environmental Review are Glass Beach – MacKerricher SP, Mendocino District. The Glass Beach project is part of the coastal trail. The EIR for is projected to be finished by June 2010. Another is the rehabilitation of Smith Redwoods State Reserve project in the Smith Redwoods SNR where Caltrans approved a change of scope request. Finally, Waters Ridge Trail project in Julia Pfeiffer Burns SP, Section 106 Compliance is in progress.
 3. Project that is to begin construction May 1, 2010 is Elephant Seal Boardwalk - San Simeon SP, San Luis Obispo.
 4. Recent projects underway include Fuller Ridge Trail - Mount San Jacinto SP, Snipes Pershing Ravine Trail Bridge - Folsom Lake SRA, Trail Bridge Replacement - Jedediah Smith Redwoods SP.
 5. Future Trail Projects-- we identified trail projects near or on the 27 California Recreational Trail System (CRTS) trails and are consulting with Districts to determine which projects to undertake.
 - Redwood Coast-to-Crest Trail has been extended in Del Norte County.
 - Planned CSP projects of interest to trail advocates include Crystal Cove State Park, Fort Ord campground, Cuyamaca horse camp. Another horse camp is being planned at Los Angeles County's Reagan Ranch.
 - The CSP website now has a search engine which locates public recreation lands by zip code (<http://www.findrecreation.parks.ca.gov/>).
- b. Statewide Trail Manager's Report (WB)
- Statewide Trails Section (STS) has been implementing strategies to promote and strengthen the CRTS.
 1. We are celebrating the 25th Anniversary of the California Trails & Greenways Conference by

distributing a free bandana decorated with the CRTS and displaying posters of 10 of the trails.

2. We are meeting with and cataloging ways the STS can assist these trail organizations in working together. We are asking three basic questions: What are some of the conflicts and challenges trail manager's face? How can we build collaboration among various agencies to build and maintain trails? How can the Statewide Trails Section be of assistance?
3. We are publishing an e-newsletter, with input from at least nine CRTS organizations, including topics such as regulatory issues for trail access, GIS mapping techniques, trail training, trail collaboration, funding and trail related events. Two have been published so far.
4. STS goal is to enter into MOUs with agencies to support CRTS trail development.
 - JG asks whether the STS is working closely with CSP Superintendents, since they are so important to trails. DR replied that with furloughs and a very difficult budget/staffing year, it has been hard to get them to focus on trail issues.
 - The Trail Manager's Toolbox at www.parks.ca.gov/trails/toolbox continues to be updated.
 - All are encouraged to attend the CSP Trail Use Change EIR scoping meeting tomorrow at 8 AM.

c. Chair Report

- LZ informs that there are many distance trails in Auburn area, and a 6 mile paved Miner's Ravine Trail in Roseville. The Dry Creek Greenway is proposed in south Placer County.

d. Member Reports

- GG introduces Rebecca Mordini who is working on Santa Barbara trail user issues. The Trails Toolbox (www.parks.ca.gov/trails/toolbox) has information about the Santa Barbara conflict resolution process. The county's open space is recovering from large fires potentially started by trail work volunteers. All are encouraged to comment on EIR for a solar array project in Ocotillo Wells area that may have a big impact on the Juan Bautista de Anza National Historic Trail.
- JM has been building single track trails with Save Mt. Diablo land trust on a 300-acre open space parcel they hope to transfer to East Bay Regional Park District.
- CH offers two new websites: <http://www.ctgf.org> and <http://www.folsomtrails.org>. The next California Trails and Greenways Foundation (CTGF) meeting is this Friday at noon--all are welcome. There is a new trail along the South Fork of the American River between Cronin Ranch and

Salmon Falls. The Hidden Falls Regional Park in Placer County has many new trails planned.

- MV explains that San Diego County has a trails plan with a strong review process. As trail coordinator, she reviews development proposals for conformance with 22 regional plans and prepares public access plans including multi-use trails. Several generous property owners are offering trail easements. California Riding and Hiking Trail easement transfer from CSP is on hold because of County concerns. The Boy Scouts have been active fulfilling a long-distance hike badge by doing trail work.
 - DM was concerned about CRTC's role in this tough budget year, but Wayne and Dan's report convinced him that progress is still happening with California's trails.
 - JG reported on a new equestrian bridge across the Kern River in Bakersfield. Recreational Trail Program Technical Assistance funding applications included only 3 complete applications of 64 submitted. Many of poor quality while attendance at the grant writing workshops is declining. Talk to JG if you are interested in volunteer counts. What is happening at the horse camp at Henry Coe SP? Trail Days program is on-going. Anza Trail Foundation is active, all are encouraged to attend the Anza conference session tomorrow.
- e. Subcommittee Reports
- CRTC Awards Subcommittee--several nominees with award winner announced tomorrow.
 - User Conflict Subcommittee--JG reports that the Trail Sharing Workshop was small but useful with four open space planners attending. There is a multi-use trail ride planned for Saturday at Montana de Oro. DR asks what role CRTC or this sub-committee might play in the EIR scoping process. JG wants to participate as an equestrian. It was agreed that CRTC members might attend via conference call then report at the next CRTC meeting.

V. New Business

- a. Election of officers and subcommittee members
- JG made a motion to continue current slate of officers (Chair LZ, vice-chair JM and CH) and subcommittee members (Awards LZ and MV, User Conflict JG and GG) since there were few meetings last year. GG seconded and this was approved unanimously.
- b. 2010 Proposed meeting location and schedule
- Mid - September- Nevada City region
 - January- Palm Springs region
 - April - California Trails and Greenways Conference
 - June - Eureka region
 - DR suggests formal publicly-noticed scoping meetings might occur in northern and southern California that CRTC

could attend, then a discussion could be held in a regular CRTC meeting or public conference telephone call.

VI. Old Business

- a. Trail portal subcommittee disbandment
 - GG stated that the vision of the trails portal website has been partially filled by many other websites and there is little financial support for a CSP leading role, so he made a motion to disband the subcommittee. JM seconded and the vote to disband was unanimous.

VII. Presentations

- a. California Recreational Trails System
 - Mokelumne Coast-to-Crest--Mary Boblet with Mokelumne Coast-to-Crest Trail Association reported on the organizational structure, location, goals, partners and challenges of completing this 300 mile long route.
 - San Francisco Bay Trail--Laura Thompson from the Association of Bay Area Governments reported on the partners, funding and challenges with this trail.
 - Trans County Trail--Maryanne Vancio of San Diego County reported on the MOU, location and barriers to completion.
 - Pacific Crest Trail--Jennifer Tripp with the Pacific Crest Trail Association reported on the founding, partners and length of this National Scenic Trail and the mission of the Association.

VIII. Public Comment

- a. Rebecca Mordini is the Santa Barbara Front Country Trail Coordinator tasked with resolving user conflicts on multi-use trails for the City and County of Santa Barbara and US Forest Service region.
- b. Jim Hasenauer is pleased that STS is reaching out to CRTS managers. He agrees with JG that CSP superintendents need to hear about trail issues. He supports the Trail Use Change EIR under development and suggests that negative comments about mountain bikers are unfair and not helpful.
- c. Letters received by Jaede Milosovich and Lynn Brown will be posted on the website
http://www.parks.ca.gov/default.asp?page_id=23505 .

IX. Next Meeting

- September, 2010, Nevada City region

X. Adjournment at 6:57 PM.