



Oregon Recreation Trails Advisory Council

Minutes

August 7, 2015

Samaritan Health Services, 525 N Santiam Hwy,
Lebanon, OR 97355

9:00 PM to 5:00 PM

Housekeeping

Attendance:

- X Nancy Ream-Enabnit, Chair, and District 3
Kent Howes, Vice-Chair, and District 2
 - X Jim Thayer, District 1
 - X Rod Sell, District 4
 - X Beck Wolf, District 5
Lauralee Svendsgaard, District 5 (Coast Representative)
 - X Julie Chick, District 5 (Coastal Representative)
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Agenda Item:	May 2015 Minutes	(Action)
Presented by:	Rocky Houston, OPRD	

May 2015 ORTAC meeting minutes were reviewed.

Motion to approve May 2015 minutes by Jim Thayer.
Seconded by Julie Chick.

Motion carried unanimously.



Local Agency / Trail Advocate Updates

Agenda Item: Greenbelt Land Trust (Information)
Presented by: Michael Pope

The Greenbelt Land Trust operates in Benton, Polk and Marion Counties.

A review of the acquisition and planning of the Bald Hill Farm was presented. The site is close to Benton County's Bald Hill Natural Area. The 600 acres was acquired in 2013 and lies in a heavy recreation area. They have a mixed use vision for the property that is focused on conservation.

They are working on connecting the two properties and link Bald Hill to Fitton Green Natural Area. They are building a 0.85 mile trail across the property to make the connection. They have an RTP grant to assist with this and have completed the portion of the project that removed the trail from a gravel road to an adjacent alignment near the road.

Agenda Item: Corvallis to Sea Trail (Information)
Presented by: Gary Chapman

The Corvallis to Sea Trail concept began in 1972. In 2003, the new organization was established and they began to work with adjacent private landowners, the USFS, Siuslaw National Forest and local jurisdictions to develop agreements the trail. On July 7th, 2015, the Siuslaw National Forest provided them with a special use permit to develop 35 miles. The permit is for 5 years. This will allow a connection from Corvallis to Big Elk Campground. The goal is to ask for the rest of the trail to be expanded in 5 years.

They have built ¼ mile of new trail already and it will be open on June 4th, 2016. They have put in over 30,000 hours of volunteer time since 2003. This equates to about 100 volunteer days per year to brush out the route.



Agenda Item:	South Santiam Community Forest / Trail	(Information)
Presented by:	Anya Hall and Sharon Kanareff	

The South Santiam Community Forest is a concept that would link public access from Sweet Home to the Willamette National Forest Boundary along the South Santiam River, a distance of approximately 12 miles. A Regional Solutions Project developed a Declaration of Cooperation with 40 parties signing it. Currently, there are 20 entities participating in the efforts. The key objectives are:

1. Create a Community Forest
2. Enhance the connection to forests through recreation and economic opportunities
 - a. South Santiam Trail
 - b. Acquire the Cascadia Cave property
3. Improve livability and quality of life for East Linn County

Agenda Item:	USFS – Willamette National Forest	(Information)
Presented by:	Brad Peterson and Cindy Glick	

They presented an overview of the Santiam Wagon Road, which an application for Oregon Scenic Trail Designation has been submitted on. The trail is 19.5 miles and follows a historic road that is on the National Register and on the State Historic Trail lists. It is a underutilized trail, but provides a great recreation opportunity.

They are completing several trail projects. They have an RTP grant project to re-route the Opal Creek Trail. It is a fall line trail and the re-route will follow sustainable trail construction principals. They will start construction in the fall. They are completing several Marion watershed projects to improve trail drainage on the Iron Mountain Trail, Trout Creek Trail and the Rooster Rock Trail.

They have been working with the Sweet Home Trail Alliance. They are a non-profit that does trail work around Sweet Home.



Agenda Item: Oregon State University (Information)
Presented by: Ryan Brown

A presentation on the OSU – McDonald Dunn Research Forest was made. It is located just north of Corvallis and is a popular recreation site. This was not the original goal, but is now a goal of the forest. The goals of the forest are:

- Teach; Research
- Money for the College of Forestry
- Protection of natural and cultural resources
- Neighbor relations
- Engagement with public
- Recreation Opportunities

The forest is 11,500 acres. It has 40-80 active research projects at any one time on the property. They have 40 classes that use the forest. They have 115,000 annual users and 25 miles of managed trails. They hold quarterly trail advisory council meetings. A review of the trail planning efforts was presented.

They have an active RTP grant to work on trails connecting the Lewisburg Saddle to Peavy Arboretum. The first segment is the Side Saddle Trail. It is a 0.25 miles trail to connect parking with an existing trail. The second segment is the Vineyard Mountain Trail. It is a new 0.7 mile trail. The third segment is Dave's Trail. It is a new 0.8 mile trail. The last segment is the No Secret Trail. Is is a 1.5 mile purpose built trail for mountain biking.

Agenda Item: Build Lebanon Trail (Information)
Presented by:

A review of Build Lebanon Trails was completed. They have a vision for 50 miles of trails in and around Lebanon. They have been in existence since 2005. They have received several OPRD grant to assist in developing trail segments. We reviewed the Cheadle Lake trails and the Canal Trail segments.

A review of (2) projects were completed: Mark's Slough Trail and N. Santiam Hwy / Medical School.



Council Business Items

Agenda Item: Scenic Bikeways Update (Information)
Presented by: Rocky Houston

Summary of Bikeway Committee Work

The Bikeway Committee received eight applications this spring.

- Four of the applications were rejected (without rating them) by the committee at the April Committee meeting. (Three due to lack of meeting scenic criteria)
- The Committee could not come to consensus on the Historic Columbia River Highway. Staff took the application and the Committee concerns/comments to OPRD. The director wrote a letter to the proponent, which in summary said that because of the stringent rules on the scenic area, the lukewarm support of the governing agency OPRD does not want to act on the application.

Field Rating

The committee is field rating four applications:

- Volcanic Legacy
- Santiam Calapooia
- Sherars Falls (near Maupin)
- Crooked River Hwy (near Prineville)

Due to a prior vote of the committee, the committee will vote to move up to three of these forward.

Recommended Routes

- Painted Hills, recommended in 2011 is now moving forward due to the new economic development director for Wheeler County taking the lead.
- Oregon Outback (Lake County), recommended in 2013 is making very slow progress

Newly Designated Routes

Cascade Siskiyou and Wild Rivers Coast were designated at the June Commission meeting

Five Year Reviews

All of the Bikeways designated in 2011 are up for their five year review. The committee is behind schedule on this due to figuring out the best process for the review.



Revising the Administrative Rule

The Scenic Bikeways Coordinator is working on a draft revision that would clean up and clarify the language in the rule and would change the make up the Committee. Any changes are stil in rough draft for. ORTAC will receive a draft soon. Possible changes are to:

- make a seat for a state wide bicycle tourism/event organization
- Have the agency positions be appointed by their directors, not OPRD's director
- Remove the seat held by an Oregon Bicycle and Pedestrian Committee member
- Add a seat to ensure geographic diversity
- Clarify what it means to consult with ORTAC. Clarifying this will resolve any misunderstandings.

Designation Removal

- The Bikeway Committee gave the local proponents of the Metolius Loops up to one year to find a way to "Give Metolius Loops proponents up to one year to come back with sign plan and a plan to promote the bikeway that is consistent with programmatic objectives and that has Forest Service support."
- In preparation for the five year reviews a memo was presented at the OPRD Commission meeting outlining why and how a route would be removed from designation.

Cooperative Agreements with Proponent Groups

- Two of the proponent groups have signed a cooperative agreement with OPRD. The other proponent groups are expected to sign soon.

Agenda Item:	Santiam Wagon Road	(Information)
Presented by:	Rocky Houston	

A review of the Santiam Wagon Road application was completed. A review of the scoring committee's review from the previous day was reviewed. Plans for the next day's review were discussed.



Agenda Item: Peterson West Trail Route Revision (Action)
Presented by: Rocky Houston

A review of the revised route was reviewed. ORTAC recommended that the route be reviewed.

A sub-committee was formed including Jim T., Kent H., Rod S. and Julie Chick.

Council Site Visits

A walking tour from the meeting room along the Mark Slough trail was completed. It included the alignment of the RTP project and the currently developed sections.

Meeting Adjourned at 5:00 PM



Oregon Recreation Trails Advisory Council

Minutes

August 8, 2015
Linn County, Oregon
8:00 AM to 5:00 PM

Council Site Visits

A review of 7 miles of the Santiam Wagon Road was completed.

Meeting Adjourned at 4:00 PM

DRAFT