



Mammoth Trails Regular Meeting Summary
May 13, 2010
4–5:30 p.m.
Mammoth Lakes Library

A. Call to Order: The meeting was called to order by MLTPA Foundation CEO/Board President John Wentworth at 4:05 p.m. at the Mammoth Lakes Library, 400 Sierra Park Rd. Mammoth Lakes, CA 93546. Also in attendance were Mammoth Trails Charter Members Forrest Cross (Eastern Sierra Avalanche Center), Hank Garretson (Eastern Sierra Nordic Ski Association), Stacy Corless (Friends of the Inyo), Alana Levin (High Sierra Triathlon Club), Brian Knox (Mammoth Nordic), and Malcolm Clark (Sierra Club); Inyo National Forest Recreation Staff Officer Jon Kazmierski; MLTPA Development and Community Relations Director Kim Stravers and Natural Resources Director Drew Blankenbaker; Town of Mammoth Lakes Tourism and Recreation Department Director Danna Stroud and Community Relations Manager Stuart Brown; and guests Jim Ouimet and Jeffrey Smith (Eastern Sierra Dog Teams) and Amy Hastings (Mammoth Track Club).

B. Additions to Agenda: None.

C. Organizational Items

1. **Approval of April 15, 2010 Minutes (Kim Stravers):** The minutes were approved by consensus as written.
2. **Mammoth Trails Event-Planning Calendar (Kim Stravers):** Ms. Stravers reminded the group to enter their organizations' events and agreed to resend the link to access the calendar to the group.

D. Special Updates

1. Town Rec Dept. Reorganization

- a. **Update (Danna Stroud):** Ms. Stroud shared that the Tourism & Recreation Commission has come up with a proposal for the transition and reorganization of the recreation department and that it has been given to Town Council (see handout). The reorganization and the T&R Commission's plan will be integrated into a budget discussion by Council, at which time the Commission will be able to formally present their proposal and discuss its potential financial ramifications with Town Council.
- b. **T&R Commission Proposal:** Mr. Wentworth walked the group through the components of the proposal (see handout). The recreation plan within is a revision to the one adopted by Town Council in January and contains comments from the Commission about how it might be implemented. MLTPA is mentioned in these comments, but has not yet had any discussion with the Town about

potential responsibilities. The skills matrix at the end of the document contains tasks and strategies pulled straight from the recreation plan and assigns them to the staffing framework recommended by the Commission. June 30, the end of the current fiscal year, is when things will change with the transition to the DMO and the recreation department's restructuring. Mr. Wentworth encouraged Mammoth Trails members to talk with Council members and Council candidates about this issue, as it relates directly to the Town's capacity to handle recreation in the future. Ms. Stroud noted that Mr. Brown will serve as the Recreation Manager for the department as of July 1 to assist with the transition until a decision has been made regarding a complete structure for the department. The new Town Council won't be seated until after July 7, but on June 16, 23, and 30 there will be budget workshops held between the current and new Councils (no action can be taken at these meetings). There are eight current TOML staffers in the recreation department who have been offered positions in the DMO; if they decide not to accept them, their employment ends effective June 30. The draft TOML budget is to be looked at as a starting point. It is important to note that the proposal structure is not going to match what's in this draft budget, which comes out on May 21; the budget is meant more to show projected revenues than expenditures.

2. Sherwins Area Recreation Plan (SHARP)

- a. Far West Ski Association: Jordan-Reily Award:** Mr. Wentworth announced that he has been awarded this distinction but will accept it on behalf of the Sherwins Working Group. The award honors one- or two-year projects that advance the Association's public affairs concerns. Austin McInerney, facilitator to the SWG, will travel to Indian Wells to accept this award, as the conference is on June 12, which is the field-training day with USFS Trails Specialist Keith Dawley for the SHARP Trails Technical Committee (TTC).
- b. Trails Technical Committee (TTC)**
 - i. Meeting #3: May 19:** Mr. Wentworth announced that we may have to move venues from the USFS conference room to Sierra Meadows Ranch or another location. Ms. Stravers stated that MLTPA will notice Mammoth Trails and the entire Sherwins Working Group each time the TTC initiates work on a new project, and that if a recipient is interested in participating, he can indicate that and she will add him to the SHARP TTC-specific mailing list. Mr. Wentworth said that MLTPA will try to group some of the 15-odd projects together to make the process more efficient, and noted that not all of these projects will be able to reach the NEPA-ready stage this summer.

01. Turner Propane Tank Farm: Mr. Wentworth explained that the TOML is processing the construction application, but that the USFS has special-use permit responsibilities. This project will impact the first TTC project, the borrow pit staging area, which is being discussed on May 19.

02. Snowcreek VIII DA: Mr. Wentworth noted that there are no hard details on this yet, but that SHARP could possibly benefit from this agreement in terms of future implementation.

c. Panorama Dome/Solitude Canyon Working Group: This item was tabled to the next meeting.

3. Mammoth Youth Sports League (Stuart Brown)

a. Introduction and Update: Mr. Brown provided a number of updates to the group:

i. Summer/Fall Recreation Guide: This guide is produced with Eastside Ventures and is due out Memorial Day weekend with a 12,000- 15,000-copy print run. The guide contains an overview of recreation and sports opportunities offered by the TOML and other partners. Mr. Brown passed around a draft for the group to review.

ii. Town Clean-Up Day: The event is on June 5 this year (see handout and press release) and the organizational committee has asked each of the eight Town Council candidates to sponsor one of 10 different zones; four have committed to date. This year there will not be appliance pickup; only TOML trash bags will be picked up free of charge, and this by appointment only with Mammoth Disposal. Volunteers may pick up trash bags at their chosen zone or at Mammoth Creek Park West between 8:00 a.m. and noon on the day of the event.

iii. Mammoth Sports Council: Mr. Brown noted that, with Mammoth Trails, there is great joint representation of trail users, but that this same framework is missing for traditional sports such as soccer. He is spearheading this effort, which will culminate in a 501(c)(3) organization that advocates for local sports participation, funding, and facilities in Mammoth Lakes. The next developmental meeting of this group will be May 24 at 5:00 p.m., most likely at the Mammoth Lakes library, and will focus on examining the potential mission, members, and other building blocks. Ms. Levin emphasized that it is important to keep the line of communication open between Mammoth Trails and the Mammoth Sports Council so that funding and other resources are not inadvertently diluted. She advised that a Mammoth Trails Charter Member

be present at each of these meetings to facilitate this communication.

4. Garmin Connect & Mammoth Trails

a. Data Development Opportunities for MT

- i. Pilot Program:** Mr. Wentworth explained that Garmin Connect is an offshoot of the parent company and is meant to deal directly with Garmin user experiences. MLTPA is working on how they can take Mammoth Trails data and develop it into recreation experiences; they will do some beta work and come back to the group soon for testing. He noted that this will not become Garmin's proprietary information, as it is all meant to be an open-platform system. The new barcode technology also may be able to be incorporated into this.

5. Mammoth Lakes Trail System (MLTS) Signage and Wayfinding

a. Map, Signage and Wayfinding Subcommittee: Ethics

Messaging for MLTS Signage: Mr. Wentworth explained that there is placeholder text on the Type 2 prototype sign right now, but that the text might be able to be revised in the future to reflect Mammoth-specific experiences and uses.

- b. Spiess Contract/Lakes Basin Path Opening:** Mr. Wentworth stated that this is scheduled for the July 4 weekend. The prototype sign is to be installed in Mammoth Creek Park West in the first couple of weeks of June and is the first of the more than 150 signs to come from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) funding.

- c. Wayfinding and Signage Standards Manual:** Mr. Wentworth noted that MLTPA is still at work on this effort.

6. Mammoth Biathlon

- a. Project Update:** Mr. Garretson shared that planning for next winter's biathlon is already in progress, and that sometime in the next week or so a delegation from the U.S. Biathlon Association will be coming to town to explore sites for a potential permanent biathlon range; they are interested in making Mammoth Lakes a high-altitude biathlon training center.

E. Member Events and Projects

- 1. Measure R Spring 2010 Application Process:** Mr. Wentworth explained that the TOML sent out noticing that on May 18 between 2:00 p.m. and 4:30 p.m. those parties making applications in the spring cycle can engage with the T&R Commission. Ms. Stroud may be contacted for the order in which the presentations will be heard by the Commission. MLTPA has an application in for additional funding to support the wayfinding and signage standards manual. Mr. Garretson shared that there was an application submitted on behalf of Mammoth Trails for funding for orange event barricades because the timing system funded from Mammoth Trails'

fall application was more expensive than had been anticipated. The group is asking for \$4,000 for the barriers plus another \$4,000 to replace the Town's race clock. Mammoth Nordic has an application in for funding to expand the Nordic grooming program on campus for the schools as well as throughout Mono County.

2. **Mammoth Trails Measure R Fall 2009 Award (Andrew Kastor):** As Mr. Kastor was unable to attend this meeting, this item was tabled. Mr. Garretson noted, however, that they will be testing the new timing system next week at the Little Eagle parking lot.

- a. **Draft Equipment Check-Out Procedure**
- b. **Draft Rate Card**
- c. **Draft Contract with TOML**
- d. **Purchase Update**

3. **Summer of Stewardship 2010 "Trail Days" (Stacy Corless):** Ms. Corless provided the group with a handout detailing the dates and locations of the upcoming events, noting that there will be a volunteer appreciation/kickoff party on June 4 at Mammoth Brewing Company from 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. July 17 is the first official trail day, and FOI/MLTPA are looking for groups to co-host this and future events. Co-hosting means supplying volunteers in exchange for high-volume media exposure of your club and of the event. Businesses who co-host will be expected to provide raffle prizes and volunteers and may cover the cost of lunch for the stewards.

FOI will kick off the season on June 5 with National Trails Day, as they are partnering with the Sierra Club and the June Lake Trails Committee to do significant work at Gull Lake. Ms. Corless handed out FOI volunteer-program rack cards to the group, which include information about the Leave No Trace, Lakes Basin Host, and Wilderness Campsite Inventory training programs. FOI will continue their Volunteer Vacations program this year as well.

4. **High Sierra Triathlon: Club and Race Update (Alana Levin):** Ms. Levin noted that the race will take place on July 9–10 this year and there are at least twice as many registrants as last year. She is interested in bolstering the event's relationship to the Eastern Sierra community by letting local recreation providers and shops tell attendees what else they can do during that weekend. She is interested in having a Mammoth Trails presence at the event with the group's new pop-up tent, as a few Charter Members will already be participating as supervisors of the bicycle and running courses (High Sierra Striders, Eastside Velo, and Mammoth Nordic). Mr. Knox volunteered to staff the Mammoth Trails tent and to organize staffing from other Mammoth Trails members so that the group can publicize their charter and mission and possibly advertise for upcoming major events such as the Fall Century.

5. **Recent Events**

- a. **Earth Day at Canyon Lodge: April 17 (Stacy Corless):** Ms. Corless shared that it was good exposure, but that The Village at Mammoth disallowed the use of the Mammoth Trails pop-up tent.
- b. **Lakes Basin OSV transition:** Mr. Kazmierski noted that it went very well, but that there were three incursions into prohibited areas the following week. There were USFS staff patrolling every day for two weeks after the opening, with assistance from the Mammoth Volunteer Nordic Patrol. Signs were installed at the closure gate and at the intersection of Lake Mary Road and Old Mammoth Road.

6. Upcoming Events

- a. **Bishop High Sierra Ultra-Marathon: May 15 (Hank Garretson):** Mr. Garretson noted that there are 306 entries to date. The 50k-or-less course is clear of snow, but the longer course still has snow on the overlook.
- b. **Freedom Mile:** The Footloose Freedom Mile will take place again on the Fourth of July this year.

F. Announcements and Updates: Ms. Corless announced that she had been informed recently that non-profits with \$25,000 or less in gross receipts are required by law to file a specific tax form. If organizations do not file by Monday, May 19, they will lose their tax-exempt status. Ms. Corless will forward a link with more information to Ms. Stravers, who will share it with the group.

G. Requests for Future Agenda Items: None.

H. Next Meeting: Thursday, June 17, 2010, 4–5:30 p.m., Mammoth Lakes Library Ellie Randol Reading Room

I. Adjourn: There being no further business to come before the group, the meeting was adjourned by consensus at 5:39 p.m.