



Mammoth Trails Regular Meeting Summary

February 18, 2010

4–5:30 p.m.

Mammoth Lakes Library: Ellie Randol Reading Room

- A. Call to Order:** MLTPA Foundation President/CEO John Wentworth called the meeting to order at 4:10 p.m. at the Mammoth Lakes Library, 400 Sierra Park Rd., Mammoth Lakes, CA 93546. Also in attendance were Mammoth Trails Charter Members Stacy Corless and Drew Foster (Friends of the Inyo), Andrew Kastor (High Sierra Striders), and Hank Garretson (Eastern Sierra Nordic Ski Association); Town of Mammoth Lakes staff members Steve Speidel, Danna Stroud, and Stuart Brown; USFS staff member Jon Kazmierski; guest Clayton Mendel (395 Fat Tire Council); and MLTPA staff member Kim Stravers.
- B. Additions to Agenda:** Mr. Kastor updated the group on the status of the equipment they'd been granted money to purchase through Measure R. He explained that Ms. Stroud is in the process of initiating payment to the vendors responsible for fabricating the banners, pop-ups, etc., and that he had spoken with her about formulating a contract confirming the TOML's and Mammoth Trails' responsibilities. The TOML will own the equipment, but Mammoth Trails will be the point of contact for reservations, check-in/checkout, conditions assessments, and similar tasks. Monies collected for rental of the equipment by non-Charter Members are likely to go into a fund reserved for equipment repair and replacement, which also may be tapped for matching funds in future Measure R applications. The equipment will live in TOML storage (yard and Whitmore facilities). It was agreed that this contract and its formal policy should be prepared for adoption at the March Mammoth Trails meeting. The group further discussed the need to train renters on equipment usage and storage, identifying possible spring and fall clinics as an option as well as potentially "hiring out" an operator. It was further agreed that a rate card should be established for rentals and that a deadline should be put into place for receipt of Charter Members' logo artwork for the equipment.
- C. Special Updates**
- 1. MLTS Signage and Wayfinding Program**
 - a. Map, Signage & Wayfinding Committee (MSWC)**
 - i. Project Update:** Mr. Wentworth stated that the subcommittee had produced a report identifying suggestions for the program and has submitted it to the TOML and USFS, having met three times previously to develop their comments. The fabrication package for the signage must go out to bid by March 1, but the messaging opportunities have not been nailed down and will be explored through a



separate process that will not inhibit the current bid package. MLTPA will contract with Corbin Design to lead the wayfinding logic process as well as to develop a standards manual for the signage and wayfinding program in the Mammoth Lakes region. Mr. Speidel shared that the shop drawing process is when messaging will be finalized, which will happen after the fabrication bid is awarded. Mr. Wentworth then presented a full-scale mockup of a Type 2 sign and took the group through the analysis MLTPA did on the modular map size on the front, as well as the full-size regional map suggested for the back. Mr. Speidel explained the plans for the Rescue ID system represented on each sign in the system, noting that opportunities to include information such as elevation can be explored through the messaging process.

- ii. **MSWC Report Review:** Mr. Wentworth reviewed the content of the report, which included comments on messaging and naming conventions based on the design intent for the nine sign types produced by Corbin Design.
- iii. **Next Steps:** Mr. Wentworth again noted that the wayfinding logic and standards manual are projects to be undertaken in early March by MLTPA and Corbin Design, under contract.

2. Future Projects: Status and Updates

- a. **Mono County Recreation Access Tool (MCRAT):** Mr. Wentworth stated that MLTPA and FOI are set to sign a contract with Mono County, possibly this week, to set this project in motion.
- b. **Trail System Master Plan CEQA:** Mr. Wentworth stated that this project is on track, noting that Ellen Clark is the TOML project manager. A revised scope will be provided to the Sierra Nevada Conservancy, who granted the monies to fund this project, to address timing issues brought on by the SNC's freezing of the grant shortly after its award, in December 2008.
- c. **Lakes Basin Special Study (LABSS):** Mr. Wentworth stated that FOI, the TOML, the USFS, and MLTPA had met this week to sort through scoping and responsibilities for this project, also funded through an SNC grant. Mr. Kazmierski shared that the preferred outcome is a SHARP-like deliverable addressing traffic circulation and pedestrian mobility that will go through a NEPA-specific process and inform the larger USFS Lakes Basin Management Plan currently being undertaken by the USFS. The focus will be primarily on summertime activity but may include some winter analysis as well. Mammoth Trails will be asked to participate in this effort.



- d. **Shady Rest Working Group:** Mr. Wentworth stated that this project is coming back online. It will be similar in form and intent to the Sherwins Working Group and will be funded through Mammoth Pacific/Ormat, the geothermal company that is planning for improved access to their wells in the area as well as new wells and facilities.
3. **Sherwins Area Recreation Plan (SHARP) (John Wentworth)**
 - a. **SHARP Technical Review Committee**
 - i. **Project Tracking:** Mr. Kazmierski stated that, due to a temporary reassignment of Jon Regelbrugge, Mike Schlafmann is currently acting as District Ranger. They have discussed implementation strategies for SHARP and how to work with the Trails Technical Committee on specific alignments and other details needed before USFS specialists may be brought in for environmental review. See the attached "SHARP_SummerTracking_031010.xls" spreadsheet for a detailed list of which projects have been selected by the USFS for work beginning in the summer of 2010.
 - b. **Solitude Canyon/Panorama Dome Study Group:** This group may convene at any time to continue more detailed conceptual planning for those areas. The USFS can participate by providing sideboards and technical information, but cannot convene the group.
4. **Winter Recreation Updates**
 - a. **Shady Rest Park Winter Usage:** Mr. Kazmierski noted that the OSV turnaround in the newly designated parking area is limited and that there is room for improvement. Though actions will hinge on the plans made by Mammoth Pacific, the new temporary Deputy District Ranger (Andrew Johnson) will be tasked with convening a stakeholder group to come up with a plan for how to address motorized and non-motorized staging at Shady Rest next winter.
 - b. **April 17 Lakes Basin OSV Transition:** Mr. Wentworth shared that it is important that this be perceived as an enforcement issue and that Mammoth Trails work effectively with the USFS and their Law Enforcement Officers (LEOs) without being implicated in any user conflicts. Mr. Kazmierski noted that he will talk to his LEOs (specifically, Adriane Thatcher or Lisa Walker) to see if they can be stationed at the Lake Mary Road winter closure for a couple of days to patrol. Ms. Corless suggested possibly getting the Mammoth Basin Backcountry Patrol involved. It was further recommended that the USFS submit some press releases and/or produce some public service announcements about the rules governing the opening, in advance of April 17.



5. **Summer of Stewardship 2010 (John Wentworth & Stacy Corless):** Ms. Corless shared that MLTPA and Friends of the Inyo (FOI) are working on the program outline for 2010 and that the RFP from the National Forest Foundation, which funded this work in 2009, had just been released. She noted that they should be able to present a draft co-sponsorship program by the March Mammoth Trails meeting.
6. **Mammoth Region Recreation Council (MRRRC):** Mr. Wentworth stated that the next big meeting is February 25 and that John Armstrong has been participating in this process a Mammoth Trails member. He shared that a proposal for Mammoth Lakes Recreation's structure and responsibilities should be coming out of this next meeting.
7. **Utility Users Tax Discussion:** Mr. Wentworth stated that Town Council recommended at the Council meeting the night before that MLTPA and the High Sierra Striders be contacted regarding the UUT, and that he thinks the two groups should get together soon to discuss opportunities. He further stated that this may be an excellent opportunity to get the portion of the TOML trail signage and wayfinding program not funded by ARRA completed, as well as put into place an improved winter mobility program (trail grooming, snow clearing, etc.) and assist with the Whitmore track project. He stated that the UUT, if it appears on the ballot this June, will be voted on as a general tax and would therefore require only a 50% majority to pass. Mr. Speidel offered that it's important to educate the public about what this tax has purchased for them in the past (Shady Rest Park improvements, etc.) and present it as a continuation rather than a new tax. Ms. Corless announced that FOI and MLTPA had discussed putting together a Candidates' Forum presented by Mammoth Trails, which would give the group an opportunity to have Town Council candidates address recreation issues directly. It was agreed that this item should appear on the March agenda.

D. Organizational Items

1. **Approval of January 14, 2010 Minutes (Kim Stravers):** The minutes were approved by consensus as written.
2. **Mammoth Trails Event-Planning Calendar (Kim Stravers):** Ms. Stravers demonstrated how to use the Mammoth Trails online calendar and promised to send the group login and password information so that they could begin populating it with their group's events.

E. Member Events and Projects

1. **Recent Events:** None.
2. **Upcoming Events:** Ms. Corless announced that FOI and Mammoth Nordic will host "Slide with a Guide" at 9 a.m. this Saturday at Shady Rest. Ms. Stravers announced two avalanche awareness seminars on behalf of



ESAC: one is on February 19 at the Lee Vining Community Center and the other is on March 6 at the June Lake Community Center. Both events start at 6 p.m.

F. Announcements and Updates: Mr. Wentworth announced that he is going on vacation in March and may not be able to make the regularly scheduled meeting.

G. Requests for Future Agenda Items: None.

H. Next Meeting: Thursday, March 18, 2010, 4–5:30 p.m., Mammoth Lakes Library Ellie Randol Reading Room

I. Adjourn: With no further business to come before the group, the meeting was adjourned by consensus at 6:05 p.m.