



## Mammoth Trails Regular Meeting Summary

April 15, 2010

4–5:30 p.m.

Mammoth Lakes Library

**A. Call to Order:** The meeting was called to order by MLTPA CEO/Board President John Wentworth at 4:10 p.m. at the Mammoth Lakes Library in Mammoth Lakes, California. Also in attendance were Steve Speidel and Danna Stroud (Town of Mammoth Lakes); Drew Blankenbaker, Megan Mahaffey, Colin Farrell, and Kim Stravers (MLTPA); and Charter Members Mark Mix (Disabled Sports Eastern Sierra), Hank Garretson (Eastern Sierra Nordic Ski Association), Alana Levin (High Sierra Triathlon Club), John Armstrong (Eastside Velo), and Malcolm Clark (Sierra Club).

**B. Additions to Agenda:** None.

### C. Special Updates

#### 1. Sherwins Area Recreation Plan (SHARP)

a. **Trails Technical Committee (TTC) Kickoff Meeting: Update:** Mr. Wentworth informed the group that the TTC had their first meeting the night before, and though turnout was disappointing the work was productive. The TOML, USFS, and MLTPA were at the table, as were a handful of individuals representing different interest groups and bringing different skill sets to the process. Upcoming meetings will occur at the end of April and again in May and June, and Mammoth Trails participants are encouraged to get involved. Ms. Stroud noted that the candidates for the upcoming Town Council election are interested in this effort and that outreach should be expanded to involve more of the public and to provide more community information, as there are significant opportunities for training and skills development. Mr. Wentworth noted that a field-training day has been planned with USFS Trails Specialist Keith Dawley, and that participant Mark Hendrickson, who works at the Mammoth Mountain Bike Park, brings a lot of skills to the table. MLTPA will send out an e-mail blast and put up a Web page specific to this effort. Mr. Speidel noted that the USFS is investing a lot in this project (landscape architect, resource specialists, etc.) and that we do not want to squander these resources. Ms. Levin requested that MLTPA draft a brief paragraph describing the TTC that Mammoth Trails members can post on their Web sites to drive participation.

**b. Panorama Dome/Solitude Canyon Working Group:** Mr.

Wentworth noted that this is a separate group from the TTC, but that it stems from a SHARP recommendation and will be convened soon.

**2. MLTS Signage and Wayfinding**

**a. ARRA-Funded Signage:** Mr. Wentworth explained that this multi-partnered effort is moving forward, though EROC has yet to award a bid to the sign fabricator. The signs will be for the trail system only, with municipal and other types to be explored through a different process. MLTPA is doing research into Web-based articulations of the signage as well.

i. **Lakes Basin Path:** July 4 is the target date for the 19 signs along the Lakes Basin Path, to be manufactured under contract with Spiess, to be installed and ready to unveil to the public.

ii. **Town Loop:** Installation of these signs will occur later in the summer.

b. **Type 2 Prototype:** Mr. Speidel explained that the prototype is on track for fabrication; the TOML has issued a purchase order for the low bidder, which is a high-quality firm that has worked with Corbin Design on a project in Ann Arbor. The sign will be installed at Mammoth Creek Park West, in advance of the rest of the ARRA signage package so that it may be used as a milestone and measurement for quality control down the road. This is part of the program including the Lakes Basin Path and the Town Loop, which is composed of more than 160 signs. Mr. Wentworth noted that consensus had been reached in identifying the network within the Mammoth Lakes Planning Area as the Mammoth Lakes Trail System. Mr. Speidel noted further that the Type 2 sign is the largest and signs will get smaller the farther out and along the trail you go. The prototype will be delivered June 11 and TOML staff will install it over the following two weeks. MLTPA will issue a press release regarding the prototype to get the public-outreach effort started.

c. **Wayfinding and Signage Standards Manual:** Mr. Wentworth explained that the work that has gone into establishing naming conventions, destinations, and messaging will flow directly into this document.

**3. Town of Mammoth Lakes Reorganization of Rec Department**

a. **Update (Danna Stroud):** Ms. Stroud explained that nothing is solidified yet, but that the Town Finance Director, Brad Koehn, has provided information on budget decision policy, which speaks directly to this. The Mammoth Lakes Recreation concept has been tabled for now and MLTPA will instead take on an augmented capacity in relation to the MLTS, which will bring capacity to the USFS as well. Concurrently, the TOML will reevaluate their organizational structure in terms of providing core services,

including a discussion of funding sources, as it is still likely that the destination marketing organization (DMO) will be taking all of Measure A. One budget policy decision facing the new Town Council after they're seated on July 7 will be consideration of using the surplus in last year's utility users tax (UUT) revenue to fund the current parks and recreation department, though that is a one-time opportunity that does not address an ongoing funding concern. There is talk also of possibly raising the administrative costs of Measure R from four percent to eight percent to help fill this gap, and the Council will need to decide if they will keep the ice rink open next winter or shut it down to preserve some funding for capital improvements. The existing Town Council will approve a working budget, however, before their departure. Finally, Town Council will be asked if the ice rink should be operational for the coming fiscal year or if they should shut it down to save for capital improvements. The fate of the Tourism & Recreation Commission has also not yet been decided.

- b. Upcoming Public Meetings:** MLTPA will be notifying Mammoth Trails members regarding Tourism & Recreation Commission meetings where they will be asking for stakeholder input on the reorganization. The group agreed that Charter Members should get together outside of formal Mammoth Trails meetings to devise a strategy for participation in this process.

On a related note, Ms. Levin announced that on Monday, May 3, KMMT/KRHV-FM will host a candidate's forum from 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. at the Snowcreek Bistro. The Chamber of Commerce and the Lodging Association also will be hosting forums in May.

- 4. Mono County Bicycle Racing Ordinance (John Armstrong):** Mr. Armstrong informed the group that the proposed ordinance banning or limiting cycling on Lower Rock Creek Road has been withdrawn by Supervisor Hazard after he met with members of Eastside Velo, the organizer of the Everest Challenge, and a number of involved state and county agencies. He noted that Steve Barnes, race organizer, outlined a six-point plan to improve the race (see handout) and the relationship between those involved and the residents of the area, which includes a change to the route, additional signage, and improved community outreach.

- 5. Lakes Basin Special Study (LABSS)**

- a. Project Update:** Mr. Wentworth explained that this is being funded through a Sierra Nevada Conservancy grant to the TOML, and that they are partnering with MLTPA and the USFS to perform the work plan. The scope is still being refined, but may include extending the traffic study to the intersection at Lake Mary Road and Old Mammoth Road, which may be useful to the implementation of the Sherwins Area Recreation Plan (SHARP).

- 6. Sherwins Egress**

- a. **Project Update:** Mr. Wentworth noted that three or four signs have been placed in the ground to show a basic articulation of the legal egress route and that, as it seems to be effective thus far, it will be more developed next spring. MLTPA will be responsible for taking down the signs at the end of this season.

#### 7. Ormat Geothermal Project in Shady Rest

- a. **Project Update:** Mr. Wentworth explained that MLTPA has been talking to Ormat and the environmental firm they've hired on to do the scoping of the environmental assessment, as well as Austin McInerny, who facilitated the Sherwins Working Group, about the public process for this project. No specific updates were available at this time.

#### 8. Mono County Recreation Access Tool (MCRAT) *This item was taken out of order, after item E1.*

- a. **Project Update:** Mr. Wentworth noted that this project is on track and that there will be hundreds of access points identified by project's end.
  - i. **Data Development:** See item 8a, above.
  - ii. **Data Reviewers Needed:** Ms. Corless noted that Friends of the Inyo will continue to provide staff support, and Ms. Stravers asked that anyone interested in assisting with this project contact her or MLTPA's new Operations Director, Megan Mahaffey, who was introduced at this time. Mr. Wentworth will continue to have conversations with Mono County about how MCRAT fits into the Scenic Byway designation for which they are applying.

#### 9. Trail System Master Plan CEQA

- a. **Update on TOML prioritization and schedule:** *This item was taken out of order, after item 7a.* Ms. Stroud explained that a funding discussion is still to take place about executing this grant, which the TOML hopes will include the Parks and Recreation Master Plan and which they hope can be completed this summer.

#### 10. Winter Recreation Updates

- a. **Shady Rest Park Winter Usage Stakeholder Group (Andrew Johnson):** This item was tabled to the next meeting, as Mr. Johnson was not in attendance.
- b. **April 17 Lakes Basin OSV Transition (Andrew Johnson):** Mr. Wentworth reminded the group to avoid enforcement roles. Ms Stroud reminded the group that Ron Malm had at one time suggested that having the USFS perform noise-emissions checks on OSVs at the gate might be a good way to assist with enforcement, and suggested that this may be a strategy to consider for next season.

#### D. Organizational Items

1. **Approval of February 18, 2010 Minutes (Kim Stravers):** By consensus, the minutes were approved as written.
2. **Approval of March 11, 2010 Minutes (Kim Stravers):** By consensus, the minutes were approved as written.
3. **Mammoth Trails Event-Planning Calendar (Kim Stravers):** Ms. Stravers reminded the group to add their events to the calendar and agreed to send out the calendar login information again.

## E. Member Events and Projects

1. **Measure R Spring 2010 Application Process:** *This item was taken out of order, after item C9a.* Ms. Stroud stated that the application window closes on April 28 at noon. Spring awards are meant for implementation or unanticipated opportunities; new projects will be considered, but are not a priority and will likely not receive funding. Ms. Stravers read from an e-mail from Andrew Kastor of the High Sierra Striders regarding a potential Spring 2010 application from Mammoth Trails to purchase a new clock for the timing system, as the TOML's clock has broken. Ms. Stroud advised that Mammoth Trails may opt to raise external funding for the clock as a good-faith effort to the TOML, since the TOML had made the initial purchase; Mr. Garretson agreed, suggesting that the group may wish to file an application to purchase the orange event signs they were unable to obtain with the fall grant due to the higher-than-anticipated cost of the archway. Ms. Stroud stated that there will be approximately \$140,000 available for awards after contingencies promised in the fall cycle have been awarded to the tennis club and MLTPA and money toward the purchase of a pool lift for the Whitmore facility has been awarded to Disabled Sports Eastern Sierra (the funding of which was triggered by Mono County's decision to absorb half of the lift's total cost).
2. **Mammoth Trails Measure R Fall 2009 Award (Andrew Kastor):** Ms. Stravers read from an e-mail from Andrew Kastor of the High Sierra Striders regarding the below items:
  - a. **Draft Equipment Check-Out Procedure:** Ms. Stroud urged the group to have a discussion soon regarding rental of the equipment to out-of-area clubs and organizations, as the Measure R ordinance specifies that the money must be spent on items and in areas "owned or managed by the Town of Mammoth Lakes." Mammoth Trails should be able to justify this type of rental—say, to a Bishop race organizer—as a benefit to Mammoth Lakes. The group also can consider how rental revenue may or may not be matched back to future Measure R applications. Mr. Kastor's e-mail noted that he and Mr. Garretson have planned a test day for the timing equipment and archway, which other members are welcome to attend, but that they will arrange actual equipment training this spring. Ms. Stroud asked that TOML staff be invited to participate in the training.

- b. **Draft Rate Card:** This item has not yet been resolved. The group agreed that the Charter Members should have a discussion with the TOML about this and the rental program discussed in item 2a, above.
  - c. **Draft Contract with TOML:** No update was available at the time of this meeting.
  - d. **Purchase Update:** Mr. Kastor's e-mail indicated that everything except for the sound system and buoys has either been received or is on its way.
- 3. **Summer of Stewardship 2010 "Trail Days" (Stacy Corless):** Ms. Corless explained that Friends of the Inyo and MLTPA are planning to include more events than just the trail stewardship days under the Summer of Stewardship umbrella this year. There will be a kickoff party for the Trail Days program and four trail-work days in the Lakes Basin, at Crystal Lake Trail, and at Convict Lake. Friends of the Inyo will do an additional trail-work day at Gull Lake for National Trails Day and at another location for National Public Lands Day at the end of the summer. Charter Members are invited to co-host these events again this year and are encouraged to find partner businesses, who will be asked to chip in toward the cost of each event. A more complete sponsorship package should be available by the May Mammoth Trails meeting.
- 4. **Recent Events**
  - a. **Winter Biathlon: March 27–28 (Hank Garretson):** Mr. Garretson reported that the event was a great success, with more than 160 competitors plus 90 people for the clinics. It was the biggest winter biathlon ever held in North America. Planning for 2011 is already underway.
- 5. **Upcoming Events**
  - a. **Earth Day at Canyon Lodge: April 17:** Ms. Corless noted that Friends of the Inyo will have a table set up at this event and that Mammoth Trails members are welcome to provide her with display materials. The event is from 12:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.
  - b. **Bishop High Sierra Ultra-Marathon (Hank Garretson):** Mr. Garretson noted that this race takes place on May 15 and that race organizers are looking for volunteers. He asked the group to get more information via Google.

In addition to these events, Ms. Stravers updated the group about upcoming races featuring High Sierra Striders members (see attached e-mail from Andrew Kastor). The May 8 Bishop Bronco Ride and May 1 Lone Pine Wild, Wild West Marathon also were mentioned.

#### **F. Announcements and Updates:** None.

**G. Requests for Future Agenda Items:** Ms. Levin requested that a High Sierra Triathlon club and race update be placed on the next meeting agenda.

**H. Next Meeting:** Thursday, May 20, 2010, 4–5:30 p.m., Mammoth Lakes Library

**I. Adjourn:** There being no further business to come before the group, the meeting was adjourned by consensus at 6:00 p.m.