



**Regular Meeting Summary
November 17, 2011
4:00 p.m. to 5:30 p.m.
Mammoth Lakes Library Ellie Randol Reading Room**

- A. Call to Order:** The meeting was called to order by Mammoth Lakes Trails and Public Access (MLTPA) Foundation Community Engagement Director Kim Stravers at 4:04 p.m. in the Ellie Randol Reading Room of the Mammoth Lakes Library. Also in attendance were MLTPA Board President/CEO John Wentworth (arriving at the end of the meeting); Mammoth Trails Charter Members Doug Will and Jim Stimson (Eastern Sierra Nordic Ski Association), John Armstrong (Eastside Velo), Forrest Cross (Friends of the Eastern Sierra Avalanche Center), Drew Foster (Friends of the Inyo), Jonathan Pierce (Mammoth Track Club), and Malcolm Clark (Sierra Club); and guest Jon Crowley (Eastside Ski Running).
- B. Additions to Agenda:** None.
- C. Organizational Items**
1. **Acceptance of October 20, 2011, Meeting Summary (*attachment*)**
 - a. **Review of the role of Mammoth Trails and discussions of topics that affect the Mammoth Lakes recreation community:** Ms. Stravers spoke about the viability of Mammoth Trails as a community forum for public discussions on a wide variety of recreation topics and emphasized that all outdoor-recreation activities have a voice at the table. The Charter Members accepted by consensus the October 20, 2011, meeting summary as submitted.
- D. TOML Reporting (tabled from last meeting)**
- a. **RecStrats adopted:** Ms. Stravers stated that Town Council had adopted the final RecStrats document in September 2011.
 - b. **Measure R Fall 2011 funding cycle:** Ms. Stravers noted that the application period opened October 24 and will close November 28. She shared that MLTPA is assisting the Town with writing an application for enhancement of the Town's component of a Mammoth Lakes Trail System (MLTS). The Town is the official applicant, and MLTPA is paying for its work on this application from its own unrestricted funds, which do not include any public money. Ms. Stravers explained that this application is directly related to the Inaugural Documents of Authority (IDOA) process that the Town and the Inyo National Forest (INF) have been participating in for some months now and that a true commitment of funding to sustain the Town's portion of an MLTS must be demonstrated by Town Council to the INF before the INF will enter into a cooperative partnership or any other agreements necessary to move an MLTS forward. Mr. Armstrong stated that trails need to be refurbished, planned, and created to show the

community that work is being completed on the MLTS or else we will lose momentum with the greater project and disappoint the public.

- c. **Budget process and lawsuit settlement:** Ms. Stravers related that she had no updates on this topic to share at this time.
- d. **Inaugural Documents of Authority:** Ms. Stravers reported that this process has been informing the Measure R application that the Town is expected to submit on November 28. There is a “content draft,” which was just updated at the last partner meeting on November 14, which summarizes approximately 25 key agreements/actions between the Town and the INF that will form the basis for partnership agreements and other binding documents that will allow the Town and the INF to work efficiently and jointly for the benefit of an MLTS. Ms. Stravers noted that this process is being facilitated by Strategic Marketing Group and that SMG’s contract for services is being paid for solely by MLTPA out of its own, non-public resources.
- e. **Third-Quarter Report to TOML from MLTPA:** Ms. Stravers shared that MLTPA’s report is available for viewing on Vimeo via a link provided on mltpa.org. She noted that this reporting has been specifically requested by the Recreation Commission.

E. INF Reporting

- 1. **Amendment to National Forest Ski Area Permit Act:** Mr. Armstrong shared that this amendment will allow facilities expansion for certain recreation activities on permit areas of national forestlands, such as Mammoth Mountain Ski Area (MMSA) on the INF. He noted that how MMSA may take advantage of such opportunities has not yet been fully discussed. Mr. Armstrong also mentioned the recent regulations put forth that prevent MMSA and other ski resorts from granting visas to foreign workers for seasonal employment. This will particularly affect the hiring of ski instructors, as MMSA has traditionally hired skilled foreign workers for these positions and may now have to attempt to fill these vacancies with U.S. labor only. More information is to come on how this mandate will be realized at MMSA.
- 2. **Shady Rest and Scenic Loop Staging Areas:** Mr. Clark shared that INF District Ranger Jon Regelbrugge attended the most recent monthly meeting of the Sierra Club, on November 15, and that he wasn’t able to provide much insight into or detail on the grooming plans for Shady Rest. He anticipates that the Sierra Club will receive more information about this program at their December meeting.

F. MLTPA Reporting

- 1. **Inyo Craters/Shady Rest Working Group:** Ms. Stravers reported that this working group has been conceived as a way to address not only motorized recreation opportunities as were discussed at the October Mammoth Trails meeting, but also non-motorized recreation opportunities in the same areas. She noted that this may look very much like the Sherwins Working Group/Sherwins Area Recreation Plan process, which hosted a variety of interests and resulted in a community-vetted plan for the Sherwins area that considered all types of activities and other area-specific concerns as well as the larger MLTS. Ms. Stravers explained that this working group is only being explored at the moment and that once more information becomes available she will share it with the

group.

2. **Mammoth Trails Website Data Development:** Ms. Stravers reported that work on this project by MLTPA continues and that the team is currently evaluating the potential of using responsive design to satisfy mobile-device presentations of website content. She explained that responsive design essentially resizes and reorders the elements of a web page in such a way that the page is automatically optimized for the screen resolution and dimensions the viewer is using to visit the site, whether that is a desktop computer, an iPad, a Blackberry, or any other “smart” device. At the group’s request, Ms. Stravers agreed to share links to more information about this concept with the group.
3. **Summer of Stewardship 2011 Wrap-Up:** Ms. Stravers read to the group a few statistics from MLTPA’s preliminary reporting on the summer’s accomplishments, noting that there were well over 100 individual volunteers who participated over seven events. Mr. Foster shared that Friends of the Inyo (FOI) was very happy with the program and that they would like to see the opportunity to include more SHARP Trails Technical Committee trail-building projects added to the schedule for 2012, if possible. He further reported that FOI had assigned Carole Lester as Lakes Basin Steward for 2011 and that nearly 500 people participated in various tours, lectures, and other activities over the summer. FOI also did wilderness-area work with a paid steward and a couple of interns.
4. **Mammoth Biathlon Feasibility Study:** Mr. Will reported that Morton Trails’ recommendation for the main location was Panorama Dome, due to lots of parking for spectators and other positive factors. Inyo Craters was recommended as a backup or complement; this would be nice for getting people into different locations in the community, which Lake Tahoe, for example, does well. He shared that the winter biathlon this year will be at Red’s Lake, which will be spectator friendly due to its amphitheater configuration. The ski course will be shorter. Red’s Lake is where biathlon training was held this past spring and summer.

G. Announcements and Updates: Mr. Cross shared that the Easter Sierra Avalanche Center (ESAC) fundraiser and season kickoff event will be held on January 7 at one of the MMSA facilities, which will allow for easy movement for attendees between outside clinics and indoor presentations. There will be a presentation by Andrew McLean and a raffle. He noted also that there will be a beacon basin installed at the Welcome Center this winter, as well as the return of the one at Gus’ Pasture at MMSA. Mr. Pierce shared that the marathon trials for the 2014 Winter Olympics will be held on January 14 and that Mammoth Track Club has five athletes prepping for that competition. The trials will be held in Houston to coincide with that city’s annual marathon. Olympic trials for track athletes will happen in June or July in Oregon. Mr. Stimson shared that Eastern Sierra Nordic Ski Association (ESNSA) just held its first meeting of the season and that they will be paying for all of the uniforms and waxing for the local school teams. Scholarships also will be provided. Robin Morning and Alana Levin will coach the teams this winter. Mr. Armstrong shared that Bill Walton is the celebrity spokesperson for a 50-mile Eastside Velo ride from The Village at Mammoth in 2012, and that MMSA will be hosting a World Cup ski halfpipe event this season, as ski halfpipe has been added to the Winter Olympics for 2014. Mr. Wentworth reported that the Recreation Commission has approved the formation of the Mammoth Lakes Trail System Coordinating Committee, and that, under contract with MLTPA, Triad Engineering is completing engineering

profiles for the installation of a bridge over Mammoth Creek as part of SHARP Recommendation #S5a.

H. Requests for Future Agenda Items: None.

I. Next Meeting: Thursday, December 15, 2011, 4–5:30 p.m., Mammoth Lakes Library Ellie Randol Reading Room

J. Adjourn: With no further business to come before the group, the meeting was adjourned by consensus of the Charter Members at 5:15 p.m.