



**Meeting Summary
December 15, 2011
4:00 p.m. to 5:30 p.m.
Mammoth Lakes Library Ellie Randol Reading Room**

- A. Call to Order:** Mammoth Lakes Trails and Public Access Foundation (MLTPA) President and CEO John Wentworth called the meeting to order at 4:03 p.m. in the Mammoth Lakes Library Ellie Randol Reading Room. Also in attendance were Mammoth Trails Charter Members Malcolm Clark (Sierra Club), Jonathan Pierce (Mammoth Track Club), Jim Stimson (Eastern Sierra Nordic Ski Association), Jon Crowley (Eastside Ski Running), Drew Foster (Friends of the Inyo), and Rita Klabacha (High Sierra Triathlon Club); TOML Recreation Manager Stuart Brown, Recreation Commissioner Pat Agnitch, Senior Planner Ellen Clark, and Town Council member John Eastman; MLTPA Community Engagement Director Kim Stravers and paid intern Jill Morrison; and members of the community Rebecca Garrett and Tom Moody.
- B. Additions to Agenda:** No additions were made to the agenda.
- C. Organizational Items**
1. **Acceptance by Charter Members of November 17, 2011, Meeting Summary (attachment):** By consensus of the Charter Members present, the summary was accepted as submitted.
- D. Special Updates**
1. **Proposal from TOML to INF for Mammoth Lakes Trail System**
 - a. **History:** Mr. Wentworth gave a PowerPoint presentation explaining the current proposal from the Town to the Inyo National Forest (INF) for the official establishment of the Mammoth Lakes Trail System (MLTS). Using the Identified Jurisdictions Map, Mr. Wentworth expressed the importance of the Town working with the INF on the development of the MLTS, specifically due to the overlapping Town and INF jurisdictions that affect the proposed MLTS. Mr. Wentworth discussed the MLTS Inaugural Documents of Authority (IDOA), which will guide the partnership. He noted that the proposal from the Town will contain a combination of MOUs, special-use permits, and other legal documents as necessary and that the proposal will be to create one coherent Mammoth Lakes Trail System that will include the design of signage, wayfinding, soft-surface trails, and more. Mr. Eastman asked if the INF will still have strong involvement and a good relationship with MLTPA now that Mike Schlafmann (former INF Deputy District Ranger) has left the district. Mr. Eastman noted that he wanted to be sure that INF District Ranger Jon Regglebrugge and Recreation Staff Officer Jon Kazmierski, the remaining contacts at the INF, would take this partnership seriously and provide the necessary level of commitment. Mr. Wentworth explained that though the INF has limited time and resources, the INF is committed to seeing this partnership through. Mr. Wentworth noted the importance of a non-profit,

such as MLTPA, to shuttle funds into projects that have been approved by the MLTS Coordinating Committee (the overseeing body of the partnership). Mr. Foster asked if the IDOA was waiting to be adopted. Mr. Wentworth explained that the IDOA was approved, but until MOUs and other official documents are in place, it is not technically a legal document from the INF's perspective. Mr. Wentworth noted that part of the partnership will include the development of an interpretive program, which will have the ability to reach outside of government resources to put the program together. An example would be to use the work of local photographers on INF interpretive panels. Mr. Wentworth highlighted this as a way the community can become involved in the partnership. Mr. Wentworth also noted that the INF is willing to allow the Town to represent the entire network of trails as the MLTS, even though the Town will not take all of the trails within the MLTS under special-use permit. Mr. Foster asked how the sale of MLTS merchandise would work and if the merchandise would be sold through the Eastern Sierra Interpretive Association (ESIA). Mr. Wentworth explained that the sale of MLTS goods would be done by the Town, not ESIA, for the benefit of the MLTS. Mr. Eastman asked if Mr. Wentworth saw support from the general public for this proposal. Ms. Stravers noted that Mr. Wentworth has been promoting the MLTS through the quarterly reporting presentation to service groups, and the response from these community members is that they support the creation of the MLTS. Ms. Agnitch noted that one of the main hesitations from the Recreation Commission was the \$300,000 per year ask from the Town for the MLTS through Measure R. She suggested that in a good economy, Measure R generates \$800,000 annually, but in a less affluent year, \$300,000 would be hard to guarantee to one applicant. Mr. Eastman noted that Measure R exists because of the efforts of Mr. Wentworth and MLTPA.

- b. **January 18 Town Council policy item:** Mr. Wentworth explained that if the proposal is approved by the Town Council and the Recreation Commission, the Town can demonstrate to the INF that we as a community are committed to the MLTS for the long term. From that commitment, MOUs and special-use permits can be drawn up to make the MLTS official. Mr. Wentworth noted that if the Town decides not to support the proposal, this partnership will not happen and Measure R money will not be spent. Ms. Stravers noted that a part of the proposal is committing resources to support the partnership.
- c. **Relationship to Measure R:** Mr. Wentworth noted that the proposal is a part of the Measure R application from the Town.
- d. **Show of Support:** Mr. Wentworth encouraged the attendees to attend the Town Council meeting on January 18, where the proposal will be discussed as a policy item.

E. TOML Reporting

- a. **Measure R Fall 2011 funding cycle:** Mr. Brown noted that the Recreation Commission reviewed all of the Measure R applications at the December 13 meeting. A further review will occur on January 10 and the final recommendations will be made on January 19, which will be

reviewed by Town Council on February 1. Mr. Brown explained that the Measure U Committee will meet on January 10 to finalize the application process, which also will be approved by Town Council on January 18 or February 1. Mr. Brown emphasized that the goal is to sync multiple Town programs together, including the Capital Improvement Projects (CIP), Measure R, and Measure U. He also stated that the Biathlon Feasibility Study was delivered to the Town today and will be reviewed by the Recreation Commission on January 10.

- b. **Lawsuit settlement:** Mr. Brown noted that the lawsuit settlement remains in a holding pattern.

F. INF Reporting

1. **Shady Rest and Scenic Loop Staging Areas:** Mr. Wentworth noted that while the INF is always invited to the Mammoth Trails meetings, due to their limited resources, they are not always able to attend. Mr. Wentworth did not have an update on the Shady Rest and Scenic Loop Staging Areas.
2. **Amendment to National Forest Ski Area Permit Act/MMSA (John Armstrong):** Mr. Wentworth noted that at the previous Mammoth Trails meeting John Armstrong updated the Charter Members on the new amendment that allows ski areas to do more than just downhill skiing with their permits (mountain biking, etc.).

G. MLTPA Reporting

1. **Inyo Craters/Shady Rest Working Group:** Mr. Wentworth noted that the interested parties need to decide what the next steps forward will look like in the creation of an Inyo Craters/Shady Rest Working Group and what opportunities the group will be able to identify. Mr. Foster asked what Mr. Wentworth envisioned for this group—for example, if he thought this would be like the Sherwins Working Group (SWG). Mr. Wentworth explained that he anticipates an SWG-style process to identify trail opportunities, with both motorized and non-motorized users. He expected the group would be able to make recommendations and suggestions to the INF, highlighting roads and trailheads that the motorized community is particularly interested in. Mr. Wentworth emphasized, however, that the motorized community, and particularly this new working group, would need to accept the Travel Management Decision as it is in order to move forward.
2. **Mammoth Trails Website Data Development:** Mr. Wentworth noted that he met with the Mono County Chronic Disease Prevention group. He explained that they need experiences for people who are morbidly obese, recovering from surgery, or have other medical conditions. Ms. Stravers noted that the value of the MLTS and how it will be presented on the website is that we will have signature experiences developed by specific recreation groups in the area so that people can just “show up here and go.”

H. Announcements and Updates: It was noted that Mammoth Lakes Tourism (MLT) is already beginning work on their summer promotional material. If clubs have anything they want put out in the MLT collateral, contact MLT Executive Director John Urdi. Mr. Pierce noted that five runners from Mammoth Track Club are going to Houston for the Marathon Olympic Trials. Mr. Stimson noted that ESN SA had the Tannenbaum Race up at Main Lodge and raised a total of \$1,700 for the high school and middle school Nordic

ski teams. Mr. Clark noted that Delta Minerals is looking at mining a site tested in the 1980s by Royal Gold, north of Hot Creek and the airport. Mr. Clark raised questions of practicality due to new state regulations and strong community opposition. He also noted that the proposed site would raise concerns for the Los Angeles watershed, as well as aesthetics from Mammoth Mountain. Mr. Clark stated that the threat of gold mining at this site is not imminent, but that it will be something to watch. Ms. Klabacha noted that the triathlon team will be meeting next month to plan for next summer.

- I. Requests for Future Agenda Items:** No requests were made for future agenda items.
- J. Next Meeting: Thursday, January 19, 2012, 4–5:30 p.m., Mammoth Lakes Library Ellie Randol Reading Room:** This was confirmed by Mr. Wentworth.
- K. Adjourn:** With no further items to discuss, the meeting was adjourned by consensus of the Charter Members at 5:25 p.m.