



**Meeting Summary
September 15, 2011
4:00 p.m. to 5:30 p.m.
MLTPA Annex #6**

A. Call to Order: Mammoth Lakes Trails and Public Access Foundation (MLTPA) President and CEO John Wentworth called the meeting to order at 4:06 p.m. in the MLTPA Annex Unit #6. Also in attendance were Mammoth Trails Charter Members Malcom Clark (Sierra Club) and Hank Garretson (Eastern Sierra Nordic Ski Association); and MLTPA paid intern Jill Morrison.

B. Additions to Agenda: No additions were made to the agenda.

C. Organizational Items

1. Acceptance of August 18, 2011, Meeting Summary (attachment): The summary was accepted by the Charter Members as submitted.

D. Special Updates

1. Lakes Basin Path Opening/Completion: John Wentworth noted that the Lakes Basin Path is now open and that the Town and the Forest Service have recognized several safety issues that they hope to address. The Town and Forest Service would like MLTPA to assist with the development and implementation of a number of traffic-calming ideas. Hank Garretson brought a letter to the editor to the meeting and wanted to address the assertion made by the author that the Lakes Basin Path is for bikers and is not safe for walkers. Mr. Garretson noted that the Lakes Basin Path is a multi-use path (MUP), not solely a bike path. He suggested the addition of signs that direct walkers to stay to one side and that acknowledge the multi-use nature of the path. Mr. Wentworth stated that MLTPA will respond to the letter in *The Sheet* addressing these issues. He also noted that after the official opening of the Lakes Basin Path, Eastern Sierra Transit Authority president John Helm noticed a dramatic increase in the number of bikes going up to the Lakes Basin. Mr. Wentworth suggested that the trolley in conjunction with the new path now provides an opportunity for a family-friendly bike route around the Basin and down into town. Mr. Garretson posited that more information provided on the trolley about the risks of biking and walking down the path, either in the text of maps or relayed via the driver, might help to educate users.

2. Shady Rest

a. Ormat Geothermal Project: Malcom Clark noted that Inyo National Forest (INF) Public Affairs Officer Nancy Upham released a public notice about three upcoming meetings related to the projects in Shady Rest and at the Inyo Craters.

b. Motorized Staging Project: Mr. Clark noted that there will be a site visit on September 27, 2011, for the Shady Rest motorized staging project. He also mentioned that the full Environmental Impact Report (EIR) for the Shady Rest Staging Project is available on the Mono County Board of Supervisors website.

3. TOML Business (Stuart Brown): Stuart Brown was unable to attend this meeting.

a. Measure R Fall 2011 Funding Cycle: Mr. Wentworth gave the update on Measure R, noting that the Recreation Commission is currently attempting to determine if Measures R and U can absorb the missing elements from the recreation budget. He noted that the Recreation Commission is looking to set priorities for Measure R. Mr. Wentworth encouraged the Charter Members to attend the Recreation Commission meeting on Monday, September 19, 2011, in Suite Z, at which time the Commission will review the Fall Measure R process.

b. RecStrats to Town Council October 5: Mr. Wentworth noted that the RecStrats process is complete and that out of this process a list of priorities has been established. He suggested that the Recreation Commission needs to follow these priorities rather than creating their own. Mr. Garretson agreed that 1) the Town needs to stick with the RecStrats priorities and 2) that they need to commit the Measure R money so that it cannot be taken away by the lawsuit.

c. Budget Process and Lawsuit Settlement: Mr. Wentworth shared that the formal discussions of the lawsuit will begin in the next few weeks.

d. TSMP CEQA/Adoption: Mr. Wentworth noted that the CEQA for the Trail System Master Plan (TSMP) is complete and that the comment period closed, with the Town receiving only four letters. He expressed that this should allow the adoption of the TSMP to move forward.

i. Joint Recreation and Mobility Commission Meeting on Sept. 20: Mr. Wentworth noted that this meeting has been canceled.

ii. Planning Commission Meeting on Sept. 28: Mr. Wentworth shared that the TSMP will go to the Planning Commission on September 28, 2011, for approval prior to adoption by Town Council.

iii. Town Council Meeting on October 19: Mr. Wentworth declared that at the October 19, 2011, Town Council meeting, the TSMP should be officially adopted.

4. Mammoth Trails Website Activities/Persona: Mr. Wentworth updated the Charter Members on the status of the Mammoth Trails website and the integration of their interviews into the web content. He noted that while the site does not yet have any elements of design, the data is currently being entered into the template of the website.

a. Review of Data Development Process: Mr. Wentworth demonstrated to the group the potential for the future of the app version of the Mammoth Trails website. Using his smartphone, he showed an app of the maps and trails available in Whistler, British Columbia. He noted that when the phone GPS is active, the user can see exactly where he or she is on the trail. He expressed the hope that the Mammoth Trails web app will look much the same, only better. Mr. Garretson noted that the elevation profile looked “scary” (i.e., showed more dramatic vertical change than really exists). He suggested finding a way to more accurately represent the elevation change. Mr. Wentworth took note of this and stated that the Mammoth Trails site will not only include elevation profiles, but will also have trail lengths, maps, and more.

5. Summer of Stewardship 2011 Reports and Upcoming Events

a. Aug. 27: Lake George Trailheads (High Sierra Equestrian Club/High Sierra Striders/Kittredge Sports/Old New York Deli & Bagel Co.): Mr. Wentworth noted that this event was successful and had a good turnout.

b. Sept. 11: Convict Lake (Old New York Deli & Bagel Co./Convict Lake Resort): Mr. Wentworth noted that this event had more volunteers than any of the other five events.

c. Sept. 24: Construction of Panorama Dome Mountain Bike Trail Connection and Realignment of Panorama Dome Hiking Trail: Mr. Wentworth shared that on September 24, 2011, MLTPA and Friends of the Inyo (FOI) will lead a trail-building event. He explained that volunteers will be rerouting the Panorama Dome Hiking Trail so that it shares a trailhead with the Panorama Dome Mountain Bike Trail. He also noted that volunteers will build a new section of mountain bike trail to connect the current Panorama Dome Mountain Bike Trail to the Lakes Basin Path. Mr. Clark questioned what effect the Panorama Dome fuels reduction will have on the work day. Mr. Wentworth stated that it will not be an issue, but that bikers will not be able to ride the new trail right

away.

d. Oct. 12: Mountain View Trail: Mr. Wentworth noted that another event will occur on October 12, 2011, on the mountain-bike trail from Minaret Vista to the Earthquake Fault. He suggested that this day will involve general maintenance and as-yet-undetermined projects, such as bridge repair.

6. Mammoth Biathlon Feasibility Study: Mr. Garretson gave an update on the progress of the Biathlon Feasibility Study. He shared that the contractor from Vermont, Morton, has completed their initial survey. He explained that Morton flagged the stadium shooting area and flagged trails at both Panorama Dome and Inyo Craters. Morton determined that both sites have great potential, as well as a number of challenges. Mr. Garretson posited that for the short and medium term the Panorama Dome site will be utilized. He acknowledged that it will require a couple of million dollars to do anything at Inyo Craters. Mr. Garretson shared that he is awaiting the final report and that the next steps will be a partnering effort between the Eastern Sierra Nordic Ski Association (ESNSA), Tamarack Cross Country Ski Center, the INF, and Mammoth Mountain Ski Area (MMSA). He suggested that next summer this partnership will begin to remove trees and flatten out the site at Panorama Dome in order to install the range. He stated that trails and infrastructure will come afterward. Mr. Wentworth asked if ESNSA would be applying to Measure R. Mr. Garretson was unsure, as he did not know how the process would work if the public funds would be used to materially benefit Tamarack and MMSA. Mr. Wentworth noted that if MMSA matches a portion of the funds, ESNSA should still be eligible for Measure R money. Mr. Garretson was also not yet sure where this year's event will be held. He noted that Morton will come back later this fall to reassess the Panorama Dome site when the fuels-reduction effort is complete.

7. High Sierra Fall Century Report (John Armstrong): Mr. Armstrong was not in attendance. Mr. Garretson noted that Mr. Armstrong sent out an email expressing that the event was a success although the number of participants was down 10% to 15%.

E. Announcements and Updates: No announcements or updates.

F. Requests for Future Agenda Items: No requests for future agenda items.

G. Next Meeting: Thursday, October 20, 2011, 4–5:30 p.m., Mammoth Lakes Library Ellie Randol Reading Room: This was confirmed by Mr. Wentworth.

H. Adjourn: With no further business to come before the group, the meeting was adjourned by consensus at 4:42 p.m.