
MISSOURI OZARK TRAIL COUNCIL

May 16, 1998

AGENDA

- ❖ Introductions
- ❖ Status Reports
- ❖ Ozark Trail Team (Deb)
- ❖ National Trails Day Events (Pat)
- ❖ Ozark Trail Web-Site (Louis & John)
- ❖ T-Shirts (Deb)
- ❖ Next Meeting Date

MISSOURI OZARK TRAIL COUNCIL MEETING
May 16, 1998
MINUTES OF THE MEETING

PARTICIPANTS:

Deb Schnack, Department of Natural Resources
Fred Stenger, Ozark Trails Club
Charles Davidson, Conservation Federation of Missouri
Bob Gestel, Sierra Club
Terry Laupp, Hosteling International
Teresa Kight, Department of Conservation
Dan & Louise McKeel, Interested Citizens
Dick Chenoweth, U.S. Army Corp of Engineers
Wayne Miller, Sierra Club

Paul Nazarenko, United States Forest Service
Bill Konen, United States Forest Service
John Kurtzborn, Missouri Rambler
Karen Mobley, United States Forest Service
John Roth, Mozark
Mark Weaver, National Park Service
Bruce Linders, Hosteling International
Bruce Bailey, AmeriCorps

The May 16, 1998 meeting of the Ozark Trail Council convened at approximately 10:00 a.m. at the Meramec State Park Visitor Center. The meeting was called to order by Debbie Schnack, Trail Coordinator, Division of State Parks. Following the introductions the minutes of the October 25, 1997 Ozark Trail Council meeting were approved as written.

STATUS REPORT:

CORPS OF ENGINEERS (Dick Chenoweth):

Dick reported that the Corps had investigated the issue brought up at the last council meeting concerning several steep sections of trail. As a result switchbacks have been laid out at the Joe Bill Bluff area and construction is about 98 percent complete. The Corps plans to put in a safe hard crossing for equestrians at Clark Creek. This should be complete by November 1. Hikers and bikers will still have to wade the creek. If future demand warrants a crossing for hikers and bikers, it may be developed. The Corps has provided the information for the Wappapello Lake section brochure to DNR, who will do the layout.

SIERRA CLUB (Bob Gestel, Wayne Miller):

The Sierra Club has been working in Pioneer Forest on a connector trail from Himont Tower to Laxton Spring that will connect with the Ozark Trail. It is nearly complete. In the future a southern segment will be added that will create a 10-12 mile loop trail.

MISSOURI RAMBLER (John Kurtzborn):

John stated that on several sections of Ozark Trail that he had hiked recently, there were signs of bear. He suggested the council might want to consider in the future including information about bears in the brochures.

UNITED STATES FOREST SERVICE (Bill Konen, Paul Nazarenko and Karen Mobley):

Bill reported that a trail has been developed along the Eleven Point River from Highway 19 East to Hurricane Creek where it connects with the Ozark Trail. This provides approximately a five-mile loop. Paul reported that the Trace Creek section is in good shape. The forest service has been working on the connection between Hazel Creek and the Berryman Trail and hope to have it completed by the end of this year. Approximately 4 1/2 miles of trail have been constructed. The trail between Council Bluffs and the Ozark Trail is complete and Paul noted that mountain bike use in the Trace Creek section as well as the new Council Bluff trail has really increased. Paul and Karen reported that USFS had entered into an agreement with AmeriCorps. They are going to GPS the trail and do

maintenance. A new segment of the Karhagane section has been cleared to Highway J. The portion of Karhagane section North of Highway J is still in the NEPA process.

AMERICA CORPS (Bruce Bailey):

Bruce confirmed the America Corps had signed an agreement with the USFS. Funding for the project should be available both this year and next year. America Corps has already completed maintenance and signing from the Berryman Trail to Bell Mountain Wilderness. They have been out every week since February with four or five people. They will GPS the trail in the future. Bruce also confirmed that America Corps at their last director's meeting had decided that maintenance of the Ozark Trail and collection of GPS data was a project that America Corps should pursue.

OZARK TRAIL CLUB (Fred Stenger):

Fred reported that the club has been working on the Victory Section. As of their last outing in March, all the remaining downed trees had been cleared and the trail resigned from Ellsinore to the Wrangler trailhead near Highway 67.

HOSTELING INTERNATIONAL (Bruce Linders, Terry Laupp):

Bruce reported that HI had been working on the Trace Creek section between Highway A and 32 and it was now in good shape. They plan to work next week on the Outtery Creek crossing where there is some erosion problem. This area may be considered for a bridge in the future. The annual HI Ozark Trail backpacking trip is scheduled for October 10-17. The trip will be on the Taum Sauk Section and the Trace Creek Section. The cost for the entire week will be \$150. This cost includes shuttle service, food and a t-shirt. They anticipate that a \$900 - \$1,000 donation will be made to the council from proceeds of the hike. Terry invited council members to stay after the meeting and watch a 35-minute video he has put together with photos of last year's hike. Any agencies or organizations that can help out by advertising the trip or that could assist with shuttles would be appreciated. Bruce noted that MRRRA is still very interested in the trail and wants to see it continue to the north.

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE (Mark Weaver):

Mark reported that volunteers continue to maintain the Powder Mill to Rocky Falls section of the Ozark Trail. The park has received funding via the National Park Foundation for the rehabilitation and improvements of the Big Spring Slough trail and the Chubb Hollow trail. These trails are loop trails off of the Ozark Trail. The Slough trail will provide an accessible interpretive loop between the spring and Peavine Road. Waysides will be installed describing the work of the CCC and recent archeological discoveries near the trail. The Chubb Trail will improve the trail linking the Lodge to Chubb Hollow. From Chubb, it is planned to link with inland trails that have been neglected in recent years. Upon completion, the Van Buren Boy Scout Troop 67 has volunteered to take on the maintenance of the trails. Proposed improvements to the Ozark Trail at Powder Mill include reorienting the staging area from the Missouri Department of Conservation (MDC) lands opposite Blue Spring to the Powder Mill ranger offices. This new location will offer a higher degree of security for long term parking as well as providing more visibility and easier access from Highway 106. A spur trail connecting the ranger station to the highway along an abandoned trace will provide direct hiker access from the Ozark Trail. Powder Mill campground is nearby offering campsites, restrooms and river access. Park staff met with Mitch Miller of MDC to consider a loop trail linking Rocky Falls and Stegal Mountain with the Ozark Trail. Few opportunities exist in the area for a loop trail experience such as this. A number of resource and research questions are still unexplored and must be resolved before this project moves ahead.

MISSOURI DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION (Teresa Kight):

Teresa responded to a concern regarding a possible timber harvest on MDC property north of Highway 106 on the Blair Creek Section. No trees will be cut within 100 feet of the trail. She also reported that the segment of the Ozark Trail through Huzzah Conservation Area does exist as shown

on the area maps, but no Ozark Trail signs are in place. There is still a need for some type of bridge to cross the Courtois Creek. There is no budget for a bridge at this time.

DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES (Deb Schnack):

Deb has been working primarily on getting the Ozark Trail volunteer effort organized. (See the progress update in the New Business section.)

OLD BUSINESS:

Bruce reported that he had checked with Wal-Mart concerning their potential support for the Ozark Trail since Wal-Mart uses the brand name Ozark Trail for some of their products. He found out that each store has the authority to contribute to certain causes but he plans to follow up to see if there could be an overall commitment from Wal-Mart to support and market the Ozark Trail.

OZARK TRAIL TRADEMARK:

Bruce, Louise and John agreed to investigate further the concept of trademarking the Ozark Trail name. The Ozark Trail logo is already registered. John knows a trademark lawyer that may be able to advise the council on this matter.

NEW BUSINESS:

OZARK TRAIL TEAMS:

At the last Ozark Trail Council meeting the council discussed the need to better organize volunteers that would assist with trail maintenance and construction. The consensus was to solicit an existing not-for-profit to take on the role of volunteer coordination. Deb reported that since that meeting a lot of progress has been made. After discussion with the Conservation Federation of Missouri (CFM) they have agreed to take on the role of Ozark Trail volunteer coordination. Deb read a resolution (attached) that was passed at the CFM annual meeting in March. The CFM has since received a National Recreation Trail Fund (NRTF) grant for the purpose of hiring an Ozark Trail Team Coordinator. The program will be patterned after the very successful Stream Team Program, which is coordinated by the CFM. Charlie explained the mission of CFM and reaffirmed the commitment of CFM to the Ozark Trail Team concept. He indicated that they had some candidates in mind for the volunteer coordinator position and that efforts to get the program started would probably be moving at a pretty fast pace. Deb emphasized that all the agencies needed to provide input in regard to how the program should function. She will be contacting the agencies to set up a meeting to discuss the details. Bruce suggested that other long distance trail councils be contacted to learn how they manage their volunteers. Deb explained briefly the NRTF grant process and emphasized the importance of recording volunteer time. Volunteer hours will serve as the match for CFM grant. Charlie indicated that CFM might also be able to assist the council by being able to accept donations for the trail. The council, as opposed to a simple agency, could then determine the best use of these funds.

NATIONAL TRAILS DAY EVENT:

The Corps will be hosting an equestrian event at Wappapello Lake in cooperation with the Missouri Equine Council (MEQ). The MEQ will be hosting several rides on the Ozark Trail on June 6th. Marsha Copeland has been coordinating the event with the Ozark Trail Council. Fred reported that the Ozark Trail Club was going to set up an information booth at the Highway 172 trailhead. Club members will be guiding short day hikes from the area and distributing Ozark Trail brochures. Some of the club members will also be building a footbridge in the Victory Section to celebrate National Trails Day.

EQUESTRIAN USE ON THE OZARK TRAIL:

Bruce expressed his concern about the impact of equestrian use on the Ozark Trail. He believes hikers, bikers and horseback riders all have a right to use the trail, but feels strongly that the

equestrian community needs to take a stronger role in the maintenance of the trail and needs to understand how equestrian use impacts other trail users. It was suggested that as the Ozark Trail Teams are organized the coordinator should focus on getting the Missouri Equine Council involved as well as other equestrian groups to identify specific problems. It was also suggested that perhaps an on site meeting of some equestrian leaders and some bikers and hikers might be beneficial. It is a matter of understanding other users needs and doing what is good for the whole trail community and not just one particular user.

WEB SITE UPDATE (Louise McKeel, Dan McKeel, John Roth):

Louise updated the council about her Ozark Trail Web Site and she encouraged agencies and organizations to send her updated information. She also requested that she be allowed to use Ozark Trail logo on her Internet site. The motion was made and second that the Missouri Ozark Trail Council endorse the concept of multiple web sites and Louise and Dan be allowed to use the Ozark Trail logo on their web site. Council members also emphasized the importance of all Ozark Trail web sites linking with other Ozark Trail web sites. Existing web site use is provided by Fred (Ozark Trail Club), Terry (Ozark Trail Backpacking Trip) and Louise and Dan (General Ozark Trail information). John said that as a result of his fire and resulting insurance claim he is a little behind in getting his web site on line. All of the brochures have been scanned, some artwork has been done by volunteers, but he is in need of some additional volunteers to help put everything together. John anticipates that the site will be up by the next meeting. The site address is www.ozarktrail.org.

USE OF DONATED FUNDS:

The motion was made and seconded to allow the use of donated funds from the HI Ozark Trail Backpacking trip for printing the hang tags for the Ozark Trail t-shirts.

NEXT MEETING:

The next Ozark Trail Council meeting will be held on October 3, 1998 at Meramec State Park at 10:00 a.m. at the Visitor Center.

Prepared by:



Approved by:



Douglas K. Eiken, Director, Division of State Parks
Chairman, Ozark Trail Council

NOTICE



Ozark Trail Council Meeting
Meramec State Park
Visitor Center

October 3, 1998

10:00 a.m.

Please call (573) 751-5360 the week before the meeting to inform Debbie if you plan to attend. No other meeting notice will be sent. Agenda items are welcome.