

MISSOURI OZARK TRAIL COUNCIL MEETING
November 17, 2001
MINUTES OF THE MEETING

PARTICIPANTS:

Deb Schnack, Department of Natural Resources	Fred Stenger, Ozark Trails Club
Carol Springer, MO Equine Council	Jim McInroe, Hostelling International
Karen Mobley, USDA Forest Service	Rich Bauer, Hostelling International
Gloria Chrismer, USDA Forest Service	Kris Swanson, USDA Forest Service
Bruce Linders, Hostelling International	Dan & Louis McKeel, Village Image, W.U.
Niki Aberle, Conservation Fed of MO	Teresa Kight, MO Dept of Conservation
Paul Stupperich, Sierra Club	Bob Gestel, Sierra Club
Scott Merritt, Sierra Club	Terry Laupp, Hostelling International
Peter Jackson, Pebble Publishing	

The November 17, 2001 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 Deb Schnack, Trail Coordinator, Division of State Parks. Following the introductions the minutes of the April 28, 2001 Ozark Trail Council meeting were approved.

OLD BUSINESS:

Once again, the subject of the Hostelling International funds was discussed. Bruce reported that the money is there, but they do have a new Director, therefore, there has to be a specific "need" for the money before it is donated. Deb suggested using it for a new slick general brochure. Deb reminded the OTC that DNR does have the \$500 donation from REI. Karen made a motion to set up a new brochure committee, which includes USFS, DNR, MDC, Hostelling International and CFM, and to focus their efforts on the general slick brochure. Niki seconded and the motion carried. Terry Laupp agreed to chair the committee and will try to get a meeting together in January. The deadline for the brochure was agreed to be at the next OTC Meeting next April. Furthermore, Carol motioned to spend the money from Hostelling International and DNR on this project. Again, the motion carried. As far as section maps go, DNR does not have the time to produce them as of now. It takes a lot of coordination from all stakeholders to put the brochures together. Internships were discussed, but no action was taken.

The subject of National Recreational Trail Designation came up again. So far the OTC has curtailed the designation of the Ozark Trail as a National Recreational Trail. The only benefit at this time would be promotion. Carol made a motion to table this issue for now. Niki seconded and the motion carried. It is tabled until the meeting in the spring of 2002.

NEW BUSINESS:

Peter Jackson, from Pebble Publishing, is now in the process of writing an Ozark Trail Guidebook. His deadline is December 2001. He will send copies to the agency managers for editing prior to publishing. The guidebook will include four full colored pages of Ozark Trail maps. Dan and Louise offered assistance with the maps.

Deb asked the OTC if we should send a letter from the OTC to the NPS showing our support for the Ozark Highlands Trail. The letter will state which alternative we support to emphasize multi-use. Carol made a motion to send the letter and Louise seconded. The motion carried.

STATUS REPORTS:

OZARK TRAILS CLUB (Fred Stenger)

Fred reported that there is no change on the Victory Section. The bridge building event that was suppose to happen on National Trails Day didn't happen. They are waiting to work on it in the spring of 2002. Furthermore, Fred is still getting emails requesting brochures.

VILLAGE IMAGE (Louise and Dan McKeel)

Louise turned in her volunteer report to Niki. It covered all hours worked on the *Welcome to the Ozark Trail* video. Furthermore, Dan and Louise reported that their website is back up at <http://sluez.home.mindspring.com/transozarktrail.html>

US FOREST SERVICE (Karen Mobley, Kris Swanson)

Karen introduced the new Deputy District Ranger, Gloria Chrismer, for the Salem District. Karen also announced this might be her last meeting as her duties may be reassigned. Gloria will take Karen's position on the OTC. Karen reported that the Salem/Potosi Ranger Districts now have access to the SWECO trail machine, which was delivered in January. They, with the help of Americorp, are working on the Blair Creek relocation. Furthermore, Karen reported on the new recreational activity, geocaching. For more information on this topic please see www.geocaching.com.

Kris reported that new hiking brochures for the USFS are now being printed. Also there are new signs being made warning users of the dying oak tree problem. The falling limbs could be a threat to the forest user.

Rich gave the USFS report for Paul Nazarenko. Paul would like to see more OTT's help him in his district. AYH, USFS, and the CFM are planning maintenance outing in late March of 2002. Also Rich reported that they are working on an easement with the Bass' to get to the Narrows. Furthermore, Rich reported that NEPA is still not completed for the 5-mile addition to the Courtois Section.

AMERICAN YOUTH HOSTELS (Bruce Linders, Jim McInroe)

Bruce reported that they are still working with Paul Nazarenko to get some large boulders at Ottery Creek so it can be crossed more easily.

Bruce reported that the OT backpacking trip, which was held October 13 – October 20, 2001 on the Courtois and Trace Creek Sections was a great success. They had 20 hikers in attendance. The next hike will be October 12 – October 19 on the Wappapello and Victory Sections.

MISSOURI DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION (Teresa Kight)

Teresa reported that the bridge on the Huzzah CA would not be built. Therefore, users will have to wade through the creek or boulders could be set in for easier crossing. MDC will start clearing trail to the south of the creek.

MISSOURI EQUINE COUNCIL (Carol Springer)

Once again, Carol reiterated the point that trails have to be designed for multi-use. This would remind trail users of the continued historical usage of horses on trails.

CORPS OF ENGINEERS (Dick Chenoweth):

Dick was unable to attend. Deb read his report.

The Wappapello Lake Section is in good-to-fair overall. Most all blow downs have been removed. One section of the trail, between Hwy. 67 and FF still needs some

additional maintenance. The blow down should be removed no later than the end of the month.

The status of the Clark Creek's Crossing remains the same with no changes planned or funded.

The Eagle Scout from Marble Hill has failed to follow through with his service project, which was to locate, design and construct a vista on the trail. Hopefully, another Eagle Scout, who is a member of the Local Order of the Arrow Lodge, will complete this project.

Presently, the Corp of Engineers is continuing to solicit and coordinate all volunteer trail workers with Niki Aberle, the OTT Coordinator.

SIERRA CLUB (Bob Gestel and Paul Stupperich)

Bob reported that they are still working on general maintenance on the Blair Creek Section. Paul reported on the Roger Pryor Backcountry in the Pioneer Forest area that will be leased to DNR. They are working on a management plan, which includes equestrian use.

DEPT OF NATURAL RESOURCES (Deb Schnack)

Deb reported that she, Niki, Terry, Jim and Bruce attended the REI grand opening last June. They publicized the OT with an exhibit and brochures. REI presented DNR with a check for \$500 for use on the OT. Furthermore, Duane and Judy Woltjen were there from the Ozark Highlands Trail promoting the Arkansas section. Duane was unable to attend the meeting so Deb read his written report. Also Deb reported that the tax in the St. Louis area was voted in and the Meramec Greenway is well on its way to becoming a reality. This will really help tie in the eastern end of the OT to the St. Louis Area.

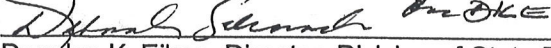
CONSERVATION FEDERATION OF MO (Niki Aberle)

Niki reported that she is working on an award/incentive system for the outstanding volunteers. Also, her grant allows her to continue volunteer coordination until December 2002. She is planning to reinvent the OTT Workshop to include an extra day of actual work on the OT.

NEXT MEETING:

The next Ozark Trail Council meeting will be held on April 27, 2002 at Meramec State Park at 10:00 a.m. in the Visitor Center

Prepared by: _____ Niki Aberle

Approved by:  _____
Douglas K. Eiken, Director, Division of State Parks
Chairman, Ozark Trail Council