

AGENDA

OZARK TRAIL COUNCIL MEETING

OCTOBER 3, 1991

- I. INTRODUCTIONS
- II. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING
- III. STATUS REPORTS
- IV. OZARK TRAIL DAY
- V. NEXT MEETING DATE

MINUTES OF THE
MISSOURI OZARK TRAIL COUNCIL MEETING
October 3, 1991

PARTICIPANTS

Barbara Muhlack	Sierra Club, Ozark Chapter
Richard Chenoweth	U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
Ramon D. Gass	MO. Dept. Conservation
Frank Bloemke	St. Louis Council B.S. A.
Charles Davidson	Conservation Federation
Nick Donze	Missouri Park & Recreation Association
Darsan Wang	Mark Twain National Forest
Mark Rowland	MO. Department of Corrections
Debbie Schnack	DNR Trail Coordinator

The October 3, 1991 meeting of the Ozark Trail Council convened at approximately 1:15 am at the St. Charles Convention Bureau and Visitor Center. The meeting was called to order by Debbie Schnack, who was representing Council Chairman, Wayne Gross.

Following the introductions, the minutes of the last meeting of October May 18, 1991 were approved as written.

STATUS REPORTS

Sierra Club: Barb reported that the club has held one outing on the Courtois Creek Section and has other outings planned in October and December. They also plan to do maintenance on the Pioneer Forest in November. She also noted that she had received a call from a group at Washington University that might be interested in doing some trail work. Barb will either incorporate them into a planned outing or direct them to Debbie if they want to assume responsibility for their own project.

Corps of Engineers (COE): Dick stated that the COE has approximately ten miles of trail cut on their property but they are planning to reroute a 1/4 mile section near Joe Bill Bluff on to a county road so that it will be accessible to equestrians. Dick asked if the council could negotiate for an easement. Debbie indicated an individual agency would need to negotiate because the council did not have that authority. If for some reason the COE was not able to negotiate with the County, a state agency may be able to assist. The COE proposed in FY92 to develop the trail five miles to the south but funds and staff have been drastically cut. They will seek to construct the trail with volunteers. Dick noted that information for the map for this section was 99% complete and awaiting approval by his supervisors. He also reported that the entire trail should be signed by the end of the month.

Missouri Department of Conservation (MDC): Ramon reported that he had flagged

half of the trail in the Huzzah Wildlife area beginning from the north and that he would probably have the rest of the trail flagged in two weeks. The trail will be going through the Narrows area. He indicated that present funding may allow construction of the trail in the near future. There is a possibility that Osage Expeditions may be doing some of the trail construction work. The DOC has received permission from a private landowner to develop a 1 3/4 mile segment of trail between Taum Sauk Mountain and Russell Mountain. The trail eliminates the need to use highway CC. The trail has been flagged and approximately 1/4 of it has been constructed. Ramon reported that the property owners between Ketcherside Mountain and where the trail ends at Cloride Road have still not responded to his letters. These landowners are along Little Creek and different from the landowners previously contacted. Ramon still intends to complete the condition survey on the entire Ozark Trail but plans to wait for cooler weather. He and Gerry Viau were on the trail September 9 and 10 from Huzzah Creek - Highway 32, and it was extremely warm.

Boy Scouts of America (BSA): Frank has no report to make in reference to the trail but did comment on some confusion that one of the troops had experienced at the scout camp on Taum Sauk Mountain. Apparently new signs defining the camping area have been installed, since the troop visited the area, therefore correcting the problem. Another concern dealt with renovations to the shelter in the camp. Debbie informed the group that DNR plans a new primitive camp on its property and that the scouts may want to consider using that area before investing money in the existing structure. Frank also expressed a concern about the old buses on the trail. Debbie indicated that DNR would investigate removal of the buses but that the new trail planned on the area would not be passing the old buses.

Conservation Federation: Charlie indicated that the federation to this point has been involved primarily by lending encouragement and support but that it might be possible to get more involved with actual work groups. He suggested working through the Hiking, Camping and Water Sport Committee.

Missouri Parks and Recreation Association (MPRA): Nick echoed the possibility of getting MPRA more actively involved. He believes there is a resource which could be tapped for volunteer trail projects.

Osage Expeditions:: Mark reported that his group probably averages about 120 miles of hiking per year and much of that is on the Ozark trail. He specifically tries to use the trail during lite use periods. He noted that uniformity of trail construction and signing did vary between agencies and could be seen when crossing boundaries. However, he did not consider any of the construction bad just a little more prone to future erosion problems. He does consider signing an important element which should be consistent. Mark offered to provide feed back on trail conditions as he hikes the various sections. Debbie will provide him with the standard trail assessment sheets so all reports will be consistent. Mark complemented Jim Roles on the fine layout work and trail construction that was done on the Eleven Point River Section. Mark indicated that Osage Expedition could assist with individual trail maintenance and construction projects but could not commit to long term maintenance agreements.

United States Forest Service (USFS): Darsan reported that the USFS had been looking at a possible trail route through the Willow Spring Ranger District.

Missouri Department of Natural Resources (DNR): Debbie indicated that DNR had employed maintenance crews to work on the Taum Sauk Section both in the spring and this fall. She reported that she did plan to reroute the trail from Taum Sauk Mountain down to Mina Sauk Falls sometime during the winter. Debbie pointed out that several articles had been written about the trail one appeared in the Missouri Conservationist magazine and the other in the Backpacker magazine. There were many information requests as a result of the articles.

OZARK TRAIL DAY

All the details of Ozark Trail Day were discussed including registration, transportation, parking, and individual assignments. Ramon and Darsan both stated that transportation for the hikers had been secured for their respective hikes. Debbie reported that the outfitters would once again be displaying their outdoor equipment at the event and this year they would be located on the same side of the parking lot as the tent. This year the committee decided not to provide any type of evening program so the activities will end when the last hiking group returns. Debbie asked that everyone working the registration and leading the early hikers be at the tent by 9:00 am.

TRAIL REGISTRATION

After some discussion, it was decided that DNR's trail registration cards should be modified by changing the title to Ozark Trail Council so all agencies could use the same card to count users. It was also recommendation that all agencies send attendance data (not cards) to Debbie so that trail use could be compiled.

NEXT MEETING

It was decided that the next meeting of the Ozark Trail Council would be held at the Fort Davidson Visitor Center on May 9, 1992 at 10:00 am. (date changed to May 2, 1992)

The meeting adjourned at approximately 2:30 p.m.

Prepared by:

Deborah Schnack
Deborah Schnack

Approved by:

Wayne E. Gross
Wayne E. Gross