

Maine Appalachian Trail Club
January 12, 2013
University of Maine at Augusta

Present: President, Lester Kenway; Vice President, Tony Barrett; Recording Secretary, Janice Clain; Corresponding Secretary, Dick Doucette; Treasurer, Elsa Sanborn; Directors, Dennis Andrews, Rebecca Clark, Bob Cummings, Craig Dickstein, Laura Flight, Bruce Grant, Dan Simonds, Don Stack; District Overseers, Ron Dobra, Dick Fecteau, Tom Gorrill, Rick Ste. Croix; Overseer of Lands, Dave Field; Club Coordinator, Holly Sheehan; ATC New England Regional Director, Hawk Metheny; Guests, Steve Clark, Carole Haas, David and Ardie Hacker, Tom Lewis, Stan Moody, Alicia Nichols, Ray Ronan, Alison Scheiderer, Priscilla Siemer, Steve Swatling, Susan Tompkins, Milt Wright.

Absent:

President Lester Kenway called the meeting to order at 9:05. He explained that the all-day January format was established to provide a combination of business meeting and a variety of discussions. The day was planned for discussion topics in the morning and a business meeting after lunch.

Local Management Plan: Dave Field gave an update for the Local Management Plan. Dave sent all board members copies of changes to the LMP, and only one commented. He explained that the National Park Service suggests we abbreviate the appendix. Dave likes that historical record, so is reluctant to remove anything. He has shortened references in the appendix with on-line sources.

Dave referred in particular to the policy on boat storage. The National Park Service suggests MATC treat boats on park service land as the state does. Dave sent a draft for the LMP based on state's boat storage policy, and he had just received input from the state regarding storage of boats on its lands. It allows boat storage on remote ponds if the owner posts personal identification on the boat, making it a permitting issue. The state also has a policy on abandoned property; if not identified, it will be removed. Wardens are supposed to check for illegally stored boats, but it's not a top priority. Dave has recommended MATC go to a permitting system, but he admitted that we have no jurisdiction; we can only report violations to the National Park Service.

Dan Simonds commented that the Eddy Pond situation was well handled and brought agreement among "neighbors." He worried that MATC will create bad feelings if it enforces too strictly. Dave said Corridor Monitors should check for compliance, but admitted that we really can't do much to enforce compliance

Hawk Metheny noted that the issue of abandoned boats on NPS property is unique to Maine so there's no NPS policy. He recommends MATC adopt state policy and integrate it into its LMP, as it would be too difficult for NPS to create a policy. The first step is to identify abandoned boats and then consider how to remove them.

Dave suggests a National Park Service document with an official logo, to place on abandoned boats. Hawk recommends a reporting procedure for Corridor Monitors, with

a mechanism to include the notice in the Corridor Monitor Report, which would create an inventory of abandoned boats, and then devise a plan for removal. Dave noted that the club has already voted to compile a database of abandoned property and LMP changes and post them on the web site.

Ron Dobra commented that the directory in the LMP is not up to date. Dave said it's very difficult to keep it current. He updates the list of Corridor Monitors and reviews the list of maintainers once a year for the annual meeting. According to club by-laws, the Recording Secretary keeps the list of maintainers and Stan Moody has also created a password protected listing on the web site. Dave is willing to remove the directory.

Dave said documents on environmental compliance have been removed from the LMP by recommendation of a lawyer. Hawk favors a list of dates for review of environmental compliance, somewhat as a checklist. He has such a check list to send to Dave.

Hawk said all LMP changes will be listed on the ATC web site and will solicit public comments.

Tony Barrett and Hawk complimented Dave for his work on the Local Management Plan and for the update process.

Accessibility: Laura Flight reviewed a lengthy summary of the policies on accessibility that she had distributed prior to the meeting. The purpose of the discussion was to educate the board on the history and legalities of the issue.

The question of accessibility arose with the 1968 Architectural Barriers Act. It was broadened by the 1973 Rehabilitation Act, which did include one small piece that reaffirmed wilderness preservation. The 1990 Americans with Disabilities Act set guidelines and developed standards for backwoods facilities that were never accepted.

Laura reported that the Campsite Committee has an accessible privy design; they just need to decide when and how to adopt it. She explained that there is no retroactive liability; the act only applies for new structures, therefore, when we build a new lean-to or privy, we need to comply. We don't have to use the new design if we are just moving an already existing privy.

Bruce Grant expressed his concern that anyone getting to a remote site would likely not have a standard wheelchair, and using a privy design for a standard wheelchair would not accommodate them. Laura pointed out that the general public frequently interchanges the terms disability and wheelchair accessible. The law clarifies that using the trail is a choice, and using the privy is not. Dick Fecteau observed that, even if a privy is not wheelchair accessible, having a little more space and a grab bar would help anyone who has a disability. Stan Moody pointed out that there's an exemption for a single occupancy structure. Dan Simonds noted that a good faith effort is worth as much as complete compliance.

Laura explained that this has been a bottom up issue; we brought it to ATC, which has not shown great concern for the issue. Hawk added that meeting the accessibility standard for a lean-to is not difficult, requiring only an access point, not the whole lean-to.

The Campsite Committee met in December to come up with a design to meet maximums and minimums. Laura has materials bought with Grants to Clubs for a Kennebec River privy, which was not installed for lack of NEPA approval.

On the question of accessible privies, we don't have a choice; the committee is not looking for approval, it's just providing information, though the financial piece may need approval when they decide on a final design. The Campsite Committee is aware that the new design does require significantly more and different materials, and it hopes to make these as transportable kits; they will organize construction, but then the maintainer will maintain the facility. Lester added that this change may require more training for maintainers. Steve Clark observed that it may also require educating the permit grantors of benefits.

The Campsite Committee recommends that anytime we have to replace a privy, we consider a mouldering privy. It's part of the MATC's five year plan. We want to put new privies at the Kennebec River, at Logan Brook and at Carl Newhall. Using a mouldering privy design may increase initial maintenance, but will prove economical over the life span of the privy.

On the question of esthetics and a larger environmental footprint, Laura explained that the character of the trail should prevail and that the new design could be more comfortable than what we have now, even if it takes more space. Bruce said the mouldering privy at Cloud Pond is advantageous, and he affirmed that they work and we should expand the number. The Green Mountain Club uses them successfully; information is available and we should use it. Laura added that the design the Campsite Committee is examining is a combination of ones used in Region 9 and from the Green Mountain Club.

Steve Clark communicated a proposal for a new section of accessible trail, which will need a motion from an Executive Committee member to begin the approval process. This is a topic for a business meeting, not for discussion for this session. Lester said he and Holly have been in an uncomfortable position at Trail Design meetings, where we have been criticized for our lack of wheelchair accessible trail. He suggested that Steve's proposal may cost 16-20 thousand dollars, but would be worth the financial consideration for the positive public relations it would bring the club.

Public Relations Campaign: Susan Tompkins presented an update on the public relations campaign, which was recommended by Fund Raising Counsel, Alicia Nichols, and which is being conducted by Vreeland Marketing and Rising Tide PR. She gave a brief overview of public relations, including the definition; the practice of managing a flow of information between an organization and the public. This PR campaign has focused on two areas; the digital, including updating the club website and accessing social media, and traditional public relations, bringing the club, its purpose and its activities to the attention of the general public. Vreeland Marketing has handled the first area, and Rising Tide the second.

Vreeland Marketing is making sure that MATC's message on social media outlets is available and attractive to the public. The club now has more than 1100 followers on Twitter. One of our photos on the first Facebook feed "went viral"; the winning photo

was picked up by REI.com and widely viewed on social media. The club's social media profile continues to improve.

Susan defined earned media as that passed through a reporter or editor. She has worked directly on this aspect. She began in the summer publicizing club events and members locally, in Maine, and then expanded the base by placing paid advertising in national publications, hoping to get outlets interested in highlighting the activities of the club. Through the winter she is planning further outreach to those who control publications. She emphasized that all the factors overlap and interact.

Craig Dickstein commented that the web site looks good on first sight for new people, but for those who have been used to using it, it is harder to navigate and to find items they need. Bruce Grant suggested a member portal for those who want to use the site regularly for mundane information. Susan added that her organization originally updated the site for new people, and that sections for members stayed about the same. Dave Theoharides made the change to Word Press. Susan and others remarked that Dave is very good about making changes when pointed out.

Laura Flight recommended that the work trip schedule label should be changed to announcements, as it's not just work trips. Her concern for the website is the lack of photos, personal stories and personality. Susan said her firm is aware of the photo issue, which is next on its plan.

Craig Dickstein recommended an effort at content management and reminded that those who post information should remove it when outdated. Stan Moody advised that we make the people in charge of posting content responsible for it; information will be more current if we allow the content owner to make changes to the web site. This might need an approval process. He suggested a technical manager, which is more accurately the job that the web master currently does. Bruce concurred that there are really two jobs here, web master and editor. Ron Dobra volunteered to serve as editor / content monitor, reviewing the site to keep information up to date and then reporting to Dave for action to be taken.

Lester recommended that the club formalize a Communications Committee, add people, and designate a chair.

Lester reminded that the club made an attempt to publish the MAINEtainer on the web site. He said that we need to follow through with that means to publicize the club.

Hawk reported that ATC is in the early stages of including club profiles in the AT Journeys magazine, which has 44,000 print and on-line subscribers. He has suggested rotating features by region. Susan has spoken to the magazine editor about an article on trail work for the September issue.

Community Outreach: Bruce Grant reported on Community Outreach. The recommendation to establish trail communities is now a reality, with both Monson and Rangeley designated in the past season. A Millinocket application is underway, and others, such as Andover, Greenville, Brownville, Stratton and Eustis, have expressed interest. Bruce has contacted key people in those communities.

A goal of community outreach is to improve communications up and down the trail and between trail communities, including information on conditions and on hiker practices. The focus of trail communities, which have only been in place for two years, is still in the development stage. ATC is putting together a packet to provide to towns we approach. Bruce further recommended establishing communications protocols so they can move forward rather than laterally.

The ATC sponsors the Trail to Every Classroom (TTEC) program. Unfortunately, most of the towns interested in trail towns don't have a school. Foxcroft Academy is trying to establish an outing club. Greenville and Rangeley already have projects in place.

Bruce announced that ATC wants to hold a workshop in April for TTEC, to enhance community outreach. It is looking for partners and wants to give trail communities more of a buy in, to improve communities' visibility and foster tourism. He suggests that we do an inventory of assets, and then identify a project or two to involve community members, which will raise awareness to ATC and MATC.

Hawk said the workshop in April is funded by grant money. ATC has an overview of a program, with tips on how to take advantage of resources, and reach out to tourism interests. He said the program is building now, but they need input for the agenda.

Membership: Ron Dobra led a discussion of the membership structure of the club. He spoke of problems with the membership lists. There are five categories of membership; individual, family, organization, complimentary, and life. From a poll he sent to maintainers in his district, Ron realized that club members lack a clear understanding of club membership. He pointed out a membership booklet, which includes a lot of useful information, and which is given to new members and posted on the web site, but may be difficult to find.

Ron referred to the Local Management Plan, which specifies basic skills training available through an Education Committee. The club offers chainsaw safety training and has, in recent years, organized a yearly maintainer gathering.

Lester noted that we have a Membership Services Committee, with a description of committee duties. Melanie Coombs agreed to take on the role of Membership Committee Chair last year, then was out of service for a period of time, and is again able to take on an active role. To date, we have not been able to find anyone to work with her on the committee.

Lester recognized that we don't have accurate information on membership in MATC. Susan Tompkins explained that she was given a list of 603 addresses, of which only 150 were invalid. She also has prepared a member survey, which would go out the following week. It lists twelve or thirteen questions, asking for general information from members.

Ron's concern for the question of membership arose from of his experiences with posting work trips and having few volunteers participate. He recommends an active membership, with a different category for those who support the club but may not want to work. Other Trail organizations, such as the Georgia Appalachian Trail Club, require

participation in at least three projects within a year to maintain membership. Other attendees at this meeting agreed that a distinction between active and supporting members might be beneficial, but were concerned that such a change would require extensive monitoring. Lester pointed out that 30% of MATC members live outside the state, so are not available for work projects. Stan Moody quoted statistics that indicate that 340 people participated in work trips in 2012. Dan Simonds observed that dues payments are often linked with donations, so figures may not be clearly distinguish between active and supporting members.

Bruce Grant suggested a youth membership. Dave Field observed that the two newest corridor monitors brought a dozen students from the Maine School of Science and Math to work on the Trail near the Crawford Pond section. Susan remarked that register box cards show numbers of youth groups using the Trail and suggests reaching out to those organizations with a trail trip category rather than work trip. Holly said she has a list of 80 youth groups who registered with the club and it would be easy to contact them.

Hawk Metheny noted that Maine has next to the highest number of members in ATC.

All agreed that any changes to the membership structure would require a by-laws change, which can be voted by Executive Committee members.

The business meeting convened at 1:01.

Secretary's Report: Janice Clain presented the Secretary's Report for the November 2 meeting. Dave Field called for a correction on page 7; Mount Blue should be changed to Old Blue. He also announced that the cataloging of the Avery Collection, which the Executive Committee voted to support, has been delayed. Lester called for a correction of the numbers of bad e-mail addresses; of 603 addresses taken from the club website, 150 were invalid. He added that the list posted on the club web site is for those interested in getting news from the club, not necessarily for those who are active members. He also commented that when he e-mailed maintainers last year, fifty addresses came back as invalid, and this year only ten did.

Elsa called for a correction to the item regarding profits from the 75th Anniversary celebration, all of which went to MATLT.

Bruce Grant placed a motion, seconded by Bob Cummings, to accept the Secretary's report as amended. The motion was approved.

Treasurer's Report: Elsa Sanborn presented the Treasurer's Report as distributed on line. With no questions or comments, Dave Field placed a motion, seconded by Rebecca Clark, to approve the Treasurer's Report. The motion was accepted.

New England Region Update: Hawk Metheny presented an update from ATC. He said Wendy Janssen has been appointed as the new supervisor of the Appalachian Scenic Trail Office. There have been some changes in terminology and personnel titles.

The official designation is not longer APTO, and is now, like other national parks, APPA, the first four letters of the park name.

ATC will again fund two two-day sawyer workshop trainings. It will also grant \$50,000 for repair and rehab to treadway if the funds become available.

Alison Scheiderer, who was in Harpers Ferry as boundary manager for the entire trail, will be program manager for all boundaries in New England and will be based in New Hampshire. There will be a new person in the mid-Atlantic area. Alison commented that Maine has more boundary than any other state; ATC has not given much time to Maine for boundary work in the past, and this will improve.

Referring to the proposal for a new ATC staff position in Maine, Hawk announced that the position was funded and will be in place in 2013. The person will report to him, as Regional Director, then report to ATC. The position is that of ATC employee, with a portion funded by NPS. Hawk presented a display to clarify the distribution of programs to be covered by this position. These include: boundary stewardship, support to volunteers; encroachment follow up; footpath design and construction; administration; trail protection and threat mitigation; land protection; outreach; volunteer and club support; education; resource management; cooperative management; crossings and obstacles; visitor management; the trail crew program; overnight site management.

In answer to a question regarding skills, such as trail construction, Hawk answered that they will look for someone with skills to train members, but that no final decisions on priorities have been established. There are several options for the location of the office, including Skowhegan and Farmington, both within an hour of Augusta for political considerations.

Hawk said ATC is asking for a handful of volunteers to help on an interview panel, and Lester volunteered.

Budget: Tom Lewis presented the proposed budget for 2013-2014. The initial budget cites \$222,500 in income and \$235,750 in expenditures. Some funds from operations have been spent on wind power opposition and on the capital campaign.

Funding for the Trail Crew and for CARE has been steady. Tom added that we've had a good year for procuring grant funding.

Tom remarked that, as we move into the capital campaign, the balance sheet will be more visible to the public. He recommended a stronger "war chest," and added that Alicia is working on securing private funding.

The Finance Committee will bring back a final budget for the March meeting.

Ron Dobra questioned funding for new privy structures and Tom replied that the Finance Committee will have to go back and examine this item. He added that we didn't spend \$10,000 budgeted last year. Laura Flight said the Campsite Committee has submitted requests for projects,

Maine Trail Crew Center Update: Lester began the update on the Maine Trail Center. He explained that interest arose when the Trail Crew had to move in 2007, and the idea of a permanent base camp began with discussion at the Annual Meeting, held that year in Orono. In 2010 the club negotiated a lease with Somerset Woods Trust. As

SWT wanted to encourage quick action, they offered a 100 year lease with 30 years at no cost. Lester complimented Tony Barrett for his role in securing the terms of the lease.

In 2010-2011 the Base Camp Committee investigated building design and engaged Richard Renner Architects to devise a building plan and an estimate for costs. We next retained the services of Fund Raising Counsel Alicia Nichols to help prepare the capital campaign to fund the project. Based on results from a feasibility study she conducted, Alicia recommended that the club improve its "brand recognition" and raise its visibility. To that end, in June of 2012, MATC engaged Vreeland Marketing and Rising Tide PR to carry out a public relations campaign.

Susan Tompkins presented an overall report on action and progress to date

Susan explained the Mailchimp program, which allows the club to see who comments on and who interacts with MATC. The firm has revitalized the club's Facebook presence, which provides a means to foster communications from the club and among users. Our information has gotten into sites for other organizations, which broadens our outreach and provides further positive publicity. Susan referred to the Facebook photo contest as an example; Dick Welsh, who lives in Connecticut, was one of the winners, which indicates that publicity for the club is growing outside Maine.

Lester noted that the Vreeland contract is coming to an end at the end of January. He commended the agency for its partnership.

Alicia Nichols spoke of the work she has been doing on behalf of the club. She reminded that she presented the feasibility study a year ago, and that it showed that we needed to build awareness to the work of the club. She praised the progress made in a year. Grant funders now recognize our work, which leads to more grants. Utilizing social media has also broadened awareness to the club, its mission and its work. We have established Friends of the Appalachian Trail in Maine, which will reach out to people in Maine and elsewhere who value the Trail and want to protect it. That group has met three times, and is building a foundation for what the group will do. The first event is a free public presentation by Carey Kish of his trail photos. The committee will plan its next event at a meeting on February 28. Alicia prefers to keep Friends events low-cost and to maintain a sharp focus on MATC.

In addition, Alicia has identified seven major grants for \$125,000, mainly to cover expenses of the capital campaign itself. Alicia is writing grants with a specific purpose and focus. She is working with Holly to be sure there are not conflicts with her work.

Lester reported difficulties with the landlord at the present Trail Crew base camp. We have agreed to rent there for only one more year at 50% increase in rent. Dick Fecteau asked if can we start something on the trail center site for a temporary base camp after the Garland lease ends and before construction on the Skowhegan permanent facility begins. He suggested something temporary, to fill in the sixteen month gap. Lester said they haven't yet investigated that possibility.

Updates and Old Business:

Date Correction: The date for the spring Executive Committee meeting should be May 3, not May 4.

Maintainer Gathering: The Maintainer Gathering will take place February 23. It will highlight best practices, offer door prizes, and will include a pot luck lunch and an opportunity for snow shoeing after lunch. Attendees don't have to be maintainers. After discussion of last year's combination maintainer gathering and winter social, it was decided to make it a single event.

Club Coordinator Report: Holly Sheehan presented an update on her work as Club Coordinator. She has already secured \$40,000 in grants for the Trail Crew and CARE, with applications pending for an additional \$40,000. She has focused on grant writing for 2013. As she has had some early awards, she will shift to work with Alicia.

Overseer Reports: Dave Field gave his report as Overseer of Lands. He had just finished the annual report for Corridor Monitors. He has only ten openings, recycles, and there are no more sections that have never been assigned. Alison Scheiderer helped clear boundary sections with her own crew and she recruited volunteers from the American Hiking Society to do further boundary work.

Dave hopes to schedule another boundary clearing work trip in August. He is still waiting for permission from the Park Service to tear down a few buildings.

Rick Ste. Croix said his annual report on the season in the Katahdin District would appear in the next newsletter. He still has two openings.

Ron Dobra, reporting on the White Cap District, signaled the work of Dave and Ardie Hacker. They have retired from maintaining the section they have had since 1995, and their assistant will take over. The Reinsboroughs will split their section, so there will be an opening.

Ron spoke of plans for a bridge crossing at Goodall Stream. Lester has surveyed the location and the permitting process is underway. Ron hopes to build the bridge this spring.

A committee planned to meet on Monday, January 14, in Dover-Foxcroft, to discuss the Wilson Falls trail.

Craig Dickstein said he is still transitioning to the Overseer position in the Kennebec District. He has been dealing with snow mobile encroachment to West Carry Pond and was putting up signs. He said the Corridor Monitor in that section was working with law enforcement on the issue.

Dick Fecteau and Tom Gorrill had no news from the Bigelow and Baldpate Districts.

Wind Power Committee: Tom Lewis reported on the workings of the Wind Power Committee. A bill sponsored by Terry Hayes in the House and Tom Saviello in the Senate has been submitted to the upcoming legislative session. The bill will be heard in the Energy and Utilities Committee.

MATC has narrowed the scope of its legislation, and seeks to increase building restrictions for scenic consideration from 8 miles to 15 miles. The proposed legislation seeks to force the Department of Environmental Protection to consider the cumulative impact of sites that are visible at great distance and from heights. Tom advised that the bill's sponsors may need members to attend public hearing sessions to show support and provide input.

Eleven major projects are now on line and at least ten are in proposal stages. There has been a one year extension of the terms of projects through the fiscal cliff process. First Wind has submitted a proposal for a wind power site in Bingham. They seek to develop several ridge tops in the Bingham, Kingsbury, Mayfield region. This could potentially be the biggest site to date. The company has planned its proposal for beyond the 8 mile zone, so they don't have to present for consideration for impact on the AT. The Wind Power Committee is working with Hawk on this case.

Hawk Metheny said the bill we're promoting parallels recommendations of OEIS (Office of Energy Independence and Security). He added that wind developers claim that wind power benefits the economies of communities. Bruce Grant commented that some of the communities involved have tried to resist, but have found that the company offers were high and offers of mitigation too good to oppose.

Tom said First Wind is putting together a protection package for Moxie Bald Pond, which it will present to MATC for Executive Committee approval, but Tom thought they're not offering enough to sway us to compromise. Bruce remarked that they will have to construct new transmission lines as those in existence can't carry enough.

Tony Barrett added that the Highlands and Sisk proposals are now out of the cue.

Newsletter: Bob Cummings spoke of the MAINEtainer newsletter which, he said, is still evolving. The LMP calls for editions in January, March, May, July and October. Bob calls for submission deadlines by the 15th of each month. He recommends a discussion of the newsletter, and said his goal has always been to make the newsletter as inexpensive as possible. He recommends the Executive Committee examine the format and schedule, and asks for suggestions from anyone.

Development Committee Change: Dave Field recommended the following change for the charge for Development Committee, to align with current practices: that the committee maintain a donor list and assume responsibility for the annual appeal. Dave placed that recommendation in the form of a motion, seconded by Elsa Sanborn, and the Executive Committee voted to accept the change.

Steve Clark spoke on the Arnold Trail, which asks for a connector trail of about two hundred yards from the AT to the Old West Carry Pond Tote Road, which falls within the Trail corridor. The Arnold Expedition Society is trying to reestablish the Arnold Trail, which was in place long before the AT and that follows parts of the original AT. Steve emphasized that this doesn't add a side trail that we would have to maintain. If the Executive Committee approves, the submission goes to the RPC, and then may

go on to ATC / NPS. Because of the particular location, it will call for a full archeological survey. Dave Field recommended bundling, including the Pioneer Trail, Arnold Trail and Little Wilson Falls trail in one request.

The Executive Committee indicated it is in favor of allowing this piece of trail as mapped out. It will now go to New England Regional Partnership Committee.

Earth Caching: Dick Welsh has approached MATC to ask about an earth cache, which uses GPS to locate a particular geologic feature. His first choice for a site is Piazza Rock, which is already a heavy use site. NPS is the landowner and doesn't permit geo caching or earth caching. Lester contacted Todd Remally to see if MATC can make an exception in this case. Todd warns that, while there is less impact than with geo caching, earth caching can significantly increase traffic, which is still an impact. Earth caching gives a GPS siting but no trail, so encourages off trail activity.

Tony Barrett has researched the practice. He said there have been problems with earth caching because people mark a site by GPS but don't designate trails, and it brings droves of people to a particular spot. Virtual earth caching allows for information through hand held devices and encourages young people to get out on the trail.

Dave Field remarked that Acadia National Park does allow earth caching; Hawk noted that there are guidance documents, and clarified that NPS prohibits geo caching but not earth caching. He said there's a 24 hour time limit for GPS on park lands. The ATC web site lists guidelines for both geo and earth caching.

Becky Clark offered her opinion that, if information on the activity is readily available, we may want to control it and limit it to sites with the least impact.

Lester said he will be willing to bring this topic back for discussion later.

Meeting Format: Lester asked if there is any interest in holding an Executive Committee meeting by conference call. He is concerned about the use of time and is looking for steps we can take to improve the way we do business. He feels that Executive Committee meetings could be more informative if they weren't logged down with agenda items. Craig observed that people at conference calls are less likely to be engaged in the meeting action. Others remarked that meetings are all about listening to stories. Dan spoke of video conferencing, but noted that it isn't feasible for a group this large. Gotomeeting.com or Webex may be good for sharing committee information, but not for the entire Executive Committee.

Lester suggests better use of committees and bundling charges. Dave Field endorses committee work and more efficient presentations, but said that having the chance to meet face-to-face is valuable. He recommended more efficient use of the time allotted for meeting. Ray Ronan added that a physical meeting is a good opportunity to exchange materials and equipment when necessary.

Lester recommended that we fill out committees with people not on the Executive Committee. He suggested smaller groups that would meet between full board meetings, to address routine matters. He recommends that committees or individuals distribute written reports well enough in advance and then lead just a brief discussion

at the meeting, as happened at this meeting with the accessibility topic and the Arnold Trail consideration. He also suggests more frequent meetings of smaller groups.

Bruce Grant recommends electronic media that allow people to participate without the travel time; we might deal with one specific item on a conference call. Laura recommends we be brief in presenting committee reports. Ron said setting a time limit for meetings tends to enhance efficiency. Stan Moody recommends that any committee reports on the agenda have documents and a motion in advance, and then restrict the meeting to action. He also recommends that we stick to the agenda.

With discussions and presentations completed, Dick Fecteau placed a motion, seconded by Dennis Andrews, to adjourn this meeting. The meeting ended at 3:52 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Janice Clain
Recording Secretary