

ORTAB Meeting December 2, 2008 (1830)

Attendees:

Bill Luck	Andy Morrison	Jennifer Kohout
Andre Kaeppele (minutes)	Jeff Budd	Susie Byersdorfer

Absent:

Erling Westlien	Molly Chythlook	Bill Lundsford
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Bill: 6:30 pm Opened meeting, introductions made, Introduced Andre, ask for any additions to agenda. Recognized Susie as Chair and Erling as Co-Chair of the Board.

Jeff: Suggested that he may be able to recruit volunteers to the Board from the SE region.

Susie: Suggests discussing Seat vacancies as part of agenda, feels vacancies should have been announced earlier.

All: Suggest securing dates for future meetings as agenda topic.

Andy: Suggests discussing lack of motorized applications and what to do with remaining motorized funds.

Susie: In response to the seat vacancies, Susie agrees to fill in the interim. However her term is technically expired and therefore there is an urgent need to fill her seat. There was some discussion that Shelly may fill this seat.

Jennifer: **Has agreed to another term.**

Erling: **Has indicated to Bill that he will sit for another term.**

Bill: Proposes next meeting to take place on Thursday January 15th.

All: Expressed interest in keeping meeting to a single day as opposed to two, even if the single meeting is longer than average.

All: **Agree that Friday January 16th is a preferable date for the next meeting. Monday January 12th will be used as an alternate date if needed.**

Bill: Indicates that last year 4 motorized trail applications were submitted, while 2 were approved. This year there was only 1 motorized application. Bill would like the board to offer suggestions for using leftover motorized funds. Traditionally about %50 of all RT funds are allocated to public projects and %50 are allocated to State Parks. Bill would like to see this trend continue by using motorized funds outside of the agency.

Susie: Indicates that one of the difficulties in soliciting motorized applications is that motorized users are generally independent, and don't realize the opportunities which exist for funding. The application process may also be more difficult for motorized users due to their lack of organization, and the general complex scope and high cost of motorized trails.

- Bill: Suggests contacting vendors of motorized goods, and having them distribute application instructions to interested customers. Also, Sno-TRAC would appreciate some additional funding to alleviate increasing costs for fuel and insurance.
- Susie: Indicates that the underlying problem is that motorized folks aren't informed of the opportunities available to them. She suggests the trails program provide ORTAB members with informational packets they can distribute to the motorized public.
- Bill: Suggests that rural communities may be a good target for spurring interest and soliciting applications due to their high use and reliance on motorized trails. Bill also indicates that the trails program has created one page handouts summarizing the grant programs.
- All: Indicate this may be a useful tool for garnering interest.
- Bill: **Has agreed to send all board members the Rec Trails Grant Program Summary electronically.**
- Andy: Asks what the funding breakdown is for the grant program
- Bill: **Responds that last year \$576,000 were available, 30% for motorized, 30% non-motorized, and 40% diversified. Last year there were 25 projects requesting \$681,000 in funds. This year there are 32 projects requesting \$1,177,000 in funds.**
- Andy: Suggests that Federal Agencies such as the BLM or USFS may be good agencies to contact regarding motorized projects.
- Bill: **Agrees with Andy's suggestions and will try to contact BLM, USFS, and/or Alaska Trails prior to the next meeting to request suggestions.**
- Susie: Is concerned that Sno-TRAC consistently receives excess motorized trail funding, despite the fact that they have their own grant program. She would like to see funding allocations be adjusted to meet funding demands.
- Bill: Explains that the federal fuel tax provides funding for the Rec Trails Program, and therefore the funding allocations are structured in a way that can (unfortunately) not be adjusted.
- Bill: A final agenda item to consider is the Hessler-Norris and Deceptions Highlands Trail Mapping Project. It would be more cost effective to amend their previous (last years) application to include this years project rather than fund two separate projects. This is because the mapping services required can be accomplished at the same time for both projects due to their proximity to one another. This would decrease overall transport, mobilization, and demobilization costs.
- Bill: **Will send E-copy of Agenda to Board Members.**
- Would like to request that the board take a look at the State Trails Program website and suggest improvements or submit photos of trail use for display.**
- Bill: Final Comments - Thanks to Susie for all of her participation and for continued service.
- MEETING ADJOURNED 7:45 pm