

ORTAC Meeting



Minutes of the meeting: **Date:** Friday, August 18th, 2006
 Time: 1:00pm – 6:00pm
 Where: Newport Recreation Center
 Newport, OR

Council Members:

Ric Balfour, Congressional District 1 – present
Bruce Ronning, Congressional District 2 – present
Ernie Drapela, Congressional District 3 – present
Chuck Solin, Congressional District 4 (Coastal Rep) – present
Terry A Wheeler, Congressional District 5 – absent
Bruce Galloway, Congressional District 5 – present
C. John Mare, Congressional District 5 (Coastal Rep) – present

OPRD Staff:

Rocky Houston, State Trails Coordinator – present
Jan Houck, Scenic Water Ways / Water Trails Coordinator – present

Other Present:

Larry Barnes – Newport Parks & Recreation
Jennifer Wade – USFS Siuslaw NF
Al LePage – National Coast Trail Association

Open of Meeting – Ernie Drapela

Welcome
Self-Introductions

May 19th – 20th , 2006 Meeting minutes

Ernie Drapela made motion to approve minutes.
John Mare seconded the motion.
The motion was passed unanimously.

Business Cards -Rocky Houston

ORTAC members were presented with business cards.

Public Comment

Siuslaw National Forest – Jennifer Wade

Jennifer Wade is a Recreation Planner for the Siuslaw National Forest. The forest has 190 miles of trails that offer opportunities for hikers, paddlers, OHV riding, mountain biking, horseback riding and dog mushing. They have a \$2.5 million budget for their recreation program. 54% of the budget is in recreational fees, 31% is in appropriated funds and the final 15% is from partnerships. They have 2.6 million site-visits per year.

Jennifer reviewed recent projects that the Siuslaw National Forest had implemented. They include an ADA upgrade to the Captain Cook Trail at Cape Perpetua; the completion of a Lagoon Boardwalk and Stagecoach trail; Whispering Spruce Trail; and the Horsfall Viewing Deck and Boardwalk.

Jennifer indicated that their current projects of interest are the routine maintenance of the trail, moving of Horse Creek North trailhead, the Kentucky Falls bridge replacement, the Raising of the Bluebill trail bridge, the improving Hebo Lake trail and fishing access and the improving of the Siltcoos water trail access at Lodgepool.

They are working on trail proposals for the Corvallis to Sea Trail and the Riley Ranch OHV Trail.

City of Newport – Larry Barnes

The City of Newport just completed Phase 1 of the Ocean to Bay Trail. The first phase starts at Agate Beach State Park and goes under Hwy 101 through wetlands and connects with a City of Newport Park. Larry worked on the project from the beginning.

The second phase of the Ocean to Bay Trail will follow a creek and connect to the City's swimming pool and a local school. They are currently underway in developing plans to complete this section. They had applied for RTP funds in March of 2006, but were unable to secure funds this time around.

Oregon Coast Trail – Al LePage, National Coast Trail Association

Ernie Drapela started this section of public comment with a history of the Oregon Coast Trail. Sam Dicken is the modern day father of the Oregon Coast Trail. His publication *Pioneer Trails of the Oregon Coast* and efforts to get Oregon Parks and Recreation to consider the trail in the 1960s and 1970s allowed the realization of the trail today.

Al elaborated that the first section of the Oregon Coast Trail was dedicated in mid-1970s. It allowed a contiguous trail from the Columbia River to the Tillamook Bay, a total of 64.4 miles of trail. In 1988, Pete Bond (former State Trails Coordinator) proclaimed the entire Oregon Coast Trail "Hikable".

Al just completed last year an assessment of the Oregon Coast Trail entitled *Oregon Coast Trail: Missing links, Priorities & Solutions*. The report identifies 50 gaps in the Oregon Coast Trail. These are places where the trail leaves the beach or off-road trail and traverses on the shoulder of HWY 101.

Al requested that ORTAC consider making a resolution or plan and presenting it to the OPRD Commission to have the Oregon Coast Trail completed within the next 10 years.

ORTAC decided to table the item for further discussion at Saturday's meeting.

Good of the Order

RTP Scoring Criteria – Rocky Houston

On June 26, 2006 an RTP Sub-committee met to review the RTP Scoring Criteria and potential changes. They reviewed and established new scoring criteria for:

- Close to home scoring criteria
- Local needs & Benefits
- Non-Motorized Trail connectivity
- Staff Scoring
- Sustainability
- Equestrian Trails
- 2007 Process & Timelines

Rocky reviewed the changes that were made to the RTP Scoring Criteria for RTP Grants. The changes were based off of concerns raised by applicants, RTP Committee members and ORPD staff. ORTAC recommended tabling this topic for more detailed discussion at Saturday's meeting.

Field Project Reviews

Coast to Bay Trail - City of Newport

ORTAC began at Agate Beach and hiked the trail to its current terminus. ORTAC completed a windshield tour of the potential alignment of the Phase 2 project.

South Beach State Park – ADA Boardwalk – Rocky Houston

OPRD completed a new ADA boardwalk from an existing paved trail out over the fore dune to a viewing deck. The boardwalk was completed in May 2006.

Oregon Coast Trail Gaps – Newport to Waldport

ORTAC members completed a windshield tour of gaps in route to Yachats. Further discussion and field review will be completed during Saturday's meeting.

6:00 PM ORTAC met for dinner; meeting adjourned.

ORTAC Meeting



Minutes of the meeting: **Date: Saturday, August 19th, 2006**
 Time: 8:30am – 5:00pm
 Where: Waldport Community Center
 Waldport, OR

Council Members:

Ric Balfour, Congressional District 1 – present
Bruce Ronning, Congressional District 2 – present
Ernie Drapela, Congressional District 3 – present
Chuck Solin, Congressional District 4 (Coastal Rep) – present
Terry A Wheeler, Congressional District 5 – absent
Bruce Galloway, Congressional District 5 – present
C. John Mare, Congressional District 5 (Coastal Rep) – present

OPRD Staff:

Rocky Houston, State Trails Coordinator – present
Jan Houck, Scenic Water Ways / Water Trails Coordinator – present

Other Present:

Joanne Kittel, Amanda's Trail
Leah Hopkins, South Lincoln County News
Paul Engelmeyer, Audobon

Open of Meeting – Ernie Drapela

Welcome
Self-Introductions

Public Comment

City of Yachats/ Amanda Trail Linkage – John Mare & Joanne Kittel

John Mare was asked to speak on behalf of the City of Yachats. John began with providing a brief background of the Oregon Coast Trail as it goes through Yachats. The 804 Trail was a County highway that connected Yachats to Waldport. It was along the beach and ocean front of Yachats. It was turned into a trail and is the alignment of the Oregon Coast Trail.

The city is currently put together a trails group called "Trail Heads". They are looking at the alignment and improvement of the Oregon Coast Trail from Smelt Sands State Recreation Area, through Yachats and connecting to the Amanda's Trail portion of the Oregon Coast Trail south of Yachats.

Joanne Kittel then spoke about the Amanda's Trail. She began the process to open up the trail in 1990. She worked with OPRD to build the trail and provide an easement to OPRD for public Access. It was dedicated in 1998. She called it the Amanda's Trail in memory of an Indian woman who was blind. Amanda was forced to walk from the Coos Bay area to the Indian encampment in Yachats. Notes from an Army diary state that she kept falling down and left a trail of blood.

Currently, Joanne and many others has built a new 150' of trail. This new alignment will enhance the safety of access off of HWY 101. They still need another 800' of trail to bypass a sharp, unsafe corner of HWY 101. Then the Oregon Coast Trail could access a residential street called Windy Way and go into Yachats.

City of Waldport – John Mare

John Mare was asked to present for the City of Waldport, since city staff was unable to attend the meeting. John indicated that the city is currently working on two trail projects. The first is the Lint Slough Trail. It is currently on dikes owned by ODFW. The dikes are being moved and the trail needs to be moved.

The second project is the Crest Line Park. There is an OPRD grant that is allowing for the development of the park. There is currently an old trail in place, but a safer and more sustainable trail needs to be built. This would link the park with a park downtown and to some ball fields.

Port of Alsea – John Mare

John Mare is a Port Commissioner. The Port has submitted a technical support grant from National Park Services. The grant would assist in planning a water trail in the Alsea Bay. The Port has also helped support a High School project called the Kayak Shack. It allows local high school students work at the Kayak Shack, develop a business model, etc. They rent Kayaks to tourists during the summer. The project has been good for tourism and for the students.

Alsea Bay – Important Birding Area Designation / Audubon – Paul Engelmeyer

Paul Engelmeyer is the Coastal IBA Coordinator for the Audubon. He discussed his work around Alsea Bay. The USFS has recently acquired property along the northern shore to preserve the natural habitat and view shed of the bay.

Good of the Order

RTP Scoring Criteria- Rocky Houston

Discussion ensued about the RTP Scoring Criteria and the proposed changes to the scoring criteria. Concerns were raised around the intent of the scoring criteria, the implementation of the trails plan, the training of RTP committee members, etc. ORTAC recommended that OPRD submit a track-changes version of the scoring criteria for RTP committee members and re-request input from the RTP Grant committee.

Oregon Coast Trail – Rocky Houston

ORTAC reviewed several items surrounding the Oregon Coast Trail and the Gap Assessment completed by the National Coast Trail Association. The group concluded that the document was an inventory document. It did not provide the necessary information required to implement the completion of the gaps.

ORTAC concluded that the Oregon Coast Trail is important and there is a need to emphasize on re-confirming their commitment to the completion of the Oregon Coast Trail. It was discussed that ORTAC draft a resolution, bring it back to the October meeting and then present it to the OPRD Commission.

Motion – ORTAC will present a resolution on the Oregon Coast Trail to the OPRD Commission at their December 2006 meeting.

- Bruce Ronning made the motion
- Bruce Galloway seconded the motion
- The motion passed unanimously

Rails-To-Trails Conference – Ernie Drapela

The National Rails-To-Trails Conference will be in Portland in 2007. The date is August 8-10th, 2007. More information can be found at www.railtrails.org. Ernie discussed potential trails that we could highlight for the national attendees. An idea to highlight the conference on an OPRD website was brought up.

Oregon State Fair – Trail Panels – Rocky Houston

Rocky presented proofs of the Trail Panels that OPRD will have at the Oregon State Fair this year. The OPRD site in the Natural Resource Area of the State Fair will highlight trails on September 2nd, 2006. These panels will highlight the different trail opportunities available around Oregon.

Rolling Agenda Items – ORTAC members

ORTAC members discussed having more input into the agenda for the meetings. Historically members brought agenda items to the Chair.

Next Meeting: October 6-7, 2006 in Forest Grove.

Motion: Adjourn

- Ernie Drapela made the motion
- Chuck Solin seconded the motion
- The motion passed unanimously

Field Project Review

Alsea Bay

ORTAC looked at the Lint Trail first. They then went to the docks at Alsea Bay and looked at the current facilities and the potential for a water trail. They met with the staff of the Kayak Shack. The staff then looked at the OPRD Interpretive Center and the park along HWY 101 in Waldport.

Oregon Coast Trail

ORTAC drove along the Oregon Coast Trail from Waldport to south of Cape Perpetua. Stops were made at several locations. The Oregon Coast Trail is along

the beach south of Waldport until it reaches Yachats. The trail then goes along the 804 trail, goes along HWY 101 to cross the Yachats River and then follows HWY 101 until it reaches the Amanda's Trail. It then goes up and over Cape Perpetua and south on USFS property. Trail re-alignment issues were discussed, as well as several other issues that create navigation issues for hikers.

The field project reviews ended at 4:30 PM.