

# ORTAC Meeting



**Minutes of the meeting:**   **Date:** Friday, October 6th, 2006  
  **Time:** 11:00am – 6:00pm  
  **Where:** McMenamins Grand Lodge  
  Forest Grove, OR

## **Council Members:**

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

## **OPRD Staff:**

Kyleen Stone, Assistant Director, Recreation and Planning – present  
Richard Walkoski, Recreation Division Manager - present  
Rocky Houston, State Trails Coordinator – present  
Jan Houck, Scenic Water Ways / Water Trails Coordinator – present  
Iris Riggs, Bike Recreation Coordinator – present

## **Other Present:**

Wendy Zurcher, Oregon Equestrian Trails  
Stephen Hatfield, FFP  
Tom Gambie, City of Forest Grove  
Michael Sykes, City of Forest Grove  
Mike Houck, Urban Greenspaces Institute  
Mel Huie, METRO Parks  
Steve Gulgren, THPRD  
John Barnes, ODF  
Tim Herms, Citizen

## **Open of Meeting** – Bruce Ronning

Welcome

Self-Introductions

## **August 18th-19th, 2006 Meeting minutes**

The minutes for day 1 had two misspelled words: Siuslaw National Forest and Audubon.

John Mare made motion to approve the corrected minutes.  
Terry Wheeler seconded the motion.

The motion was passed unanimously.

### **Oregon Coast Trail – Rocky Houston**

ORTAC carried the discussion of the Oregon Coast Trail from the August 18<sup>th</sup>-19<sup>th</sup>, 2006 meeting forward to the October meeting. A draft resolution was to be presented at this meeting and discussed. Bruce Ronning completed a draft resolution and presented it to the council.

OPRD indicated that they had received additional lottery funding from the September, 2006 e-board, which will allow for new way finding signs to be completed and 8-10 interpretative signs to be placed along the trail. The way finding signs will look like the new Oregon Coast Trail symbol found on the new Samuel Boardman Corridor Brochure. The hope is that it will stand out more from the existing trail symbol. The interpretative signs will follow the proto-type panels found in the Samuel Boardman Corridor. The panels highlight local elements and show the trail for a mile or two north and south of the panel. OPRD plans to have these both complete by July, 2007.

The new acquisition plan that the OPRD Commission has been working on has Coastal property and trails as top priorities. The plan submitted by Al LePage has been turned into a map, which shows all 50 gaps illustrated by the report. The discussion began to lead back to the planning elements to identify these gaps as implemental items.

The council decided that a resolution of this level of importance needed the full attendance of the council. They decided that a sub-committee was needed to develop a new draft resolution and a tele-conference around Thanksgiving was needed to approve a new resolution for the OPRD Commission meeting closest to December, 2006.

Ric Balfour made a motion to form a sub-committee to develop a resolution on the Oregon Coast Trail for the OPROD Commission meeting closest to December, 2006.

Terry Wheeler seconded the motion

The motion passed unanimously.

### **Scenic Bikeway Discussion – Rocky Houston**

OPRD has drafted a draft Oregon Administrative Rule (OAR) for Scenic Bikeways. The initial draft is for road biking / touring routes throughout Oregon. The routes would follow roads and/or bike paths and be designed for road bikes. OPRD is looking at having an additional mountain bike category with distinctive criteria for off-road biking routes.

OPRD is utilizing the existing recreational trails statute as the basis for the Scenic Bikeway OAR. The OAR that currently identifies the state designated trails would include as a separate section. The adoption of the Scenic Bikeways would require a public process and an adoption of the route as a state designated trail.

OPRD has been working with ODOT's Bike and Pedestrian program's staff and committee to get feedback on the drafting of the OAR. OPRD met with this group in August to discuss the concept and will be meeting again with them in October.

ORTAC members had a few questions about the designation process. The initial was whether the routes were recreational or transportation. OPRD indicated that they would utilize many transportation systems, but the goal of the Scenic Bikeways was purely recreational. Additionally, many routes could be utilizing off-roadway trails (such as the Bear Creek Greenway or Springwater Trail).

The second major question was how the Scenic Bikeways would be designated and ORTAC's roles in this process. The draft OAR had a committee who assisted OPRD and ODOT in the designation process. It consisted of several organizations, which did include ORTAC. An ORTAC member would sit on this committee. In addition, OPRD would inform ORTAC in advance of any routes they were aware of for feedback from ORTAC.

## Designating State Trails – Rocky Houston

Rocky has been researching the State Trail designation process for several months. Initially, it was thought that OPRD had a process established for designating trails. This is half correct. OPRD doesn't have a separate process established for designating state trails, but it does follow the Administrative Rule Making Process to designate state trails. Rocky handed out a copy of the process to ORTAC members.

Several procedural and philosophical questions were asked by ORTAC. The main questions were: What makes a state trail (scenic qualities, length, etc.); How do the meetings need to be set up (Oregon Coast Trail: every community or...). The council felt a OAR was needed to be drafted that would clarify the process and selection criteria for a State Designated Trail.

### Action Items:

- Get OPRD Commission to ORTAC Members
- Have ORTAC member(s) attend OPRD Commission Meetings
- Set tele-conference for ORTAC before Thanksgiving
- Get Agenda items from ORTAC members and complete a agenda item sheet that provides: summary of item/issue, action or information item, etc.
- Write Draft OAR for Designating State Trails
- Have spring meeting agenda focus on Statute/OAR discussions

## Public Comment

### Forest Grove – Mike Sykes

#### Future Development:

- Fernhill Wetlands Connector
- Southern Gales Creek Connector
- Gales Creek Terrace
- Northern Thatcher/David Hill Road
- Powerline Trail
- Sunset Drive Improvements

## Open Spaces Bond – Mike Houck

Natural Areas, Parks & Streams Bond Measure, Fall 2006

- \$227.4 million total package:
- \$168.4 million for regional target areas
- \$44 million local share
- \$15 million opportunity grant fund
- Cost to property tax payers is estimated at 22 cents per \$1,000 assessed value.

### **Mountain Biking/Free Ride Trails on ODF lands – John Barnes**

John Barnes is the Recreation Program Manager for Oregon Department of Forestry (ODF). John has been working with several mountain bike groups in the past couple of years to allow free riding trails to be built on ODF property. John handed out several IMBA articles on free riding that illustrated the growing trend in free riding and a list of resources to get more information on free riding. Essentially, free riding is mountain biking on man-made and natural technical features that are very challenging.

John worked with the clubs to create adopt-a-trail plans. These plans allow clubs to build trails on ODF land, as long as they build them to certain standards and work with ODF to ensure the trails are placed in areas that will have the least natural resources impacts. Currently, there are agreements for free riding area in the Tillamook Forest, Santiam Forest and at Black Rock Forest.

### **Tualatin Valley Parks & Recreation - Steve Gulgren**

Steve Gulgren presented a brief summary of the new Tualatin Valley Parks & Recreation Trail Plan. The trail plan is divided into regional and community trails and their needs. The plan identifies 32 miles of regional trails and 35 miles of community trails. The cost is between \$30 to \$60 million to develop all of the trails planned. The plan introduced trail design guidelines, which assists in the construction and maintenance standards for the trails.

### **METRO – Mel Huie**

Mel Huie presented the Metro Regional Trail Plan to the committee. He discussed the regional trails in the area and discussed how Metro is assisting the local jurisdictions with technical and fiscal assistance to move the trails forward. Mel also discussed how the green space bond would be used for trail related issues.

## **Good of the Order**

### **Rails-to-Trail Conservancy – Rocky Houston**

The Rails-to-Trails Conservancy has contacted OPRD and several members of ORTAC to discuss their involvement with assessing rail corridors in Oregon. They submitted a conceptual outline of how they would assess and inventory all current and abandoned rail corridors. ORTAC requested that a Rails-to-Trail's representative attend the next meeting (physically or telephonically) to hear more about their proposal.

## **Field Project Reviews**

### **City of Forest Grove**

The City of Forest Grove showed ORTAC their existing and future sites of their trail and park development. The city is growing at an increased rate, with little slowing in the near future. The planned trails would provide trail links around the city.

**Dinner meeting** - ORTAC met for dinner and discussed the presentations of the day and other business items; meeting adjourned at the conclusion of dinner.

# ORTAC Meeting



**Minutes of the meeting:**   **Date:** Saturday, October 7, 2006  
  **Time:** 8:30am – 4:30pm  
  **Where:** McMenamins Grand Lodge  
  Forest Grove, OR

## **Council Members:**

Ric Balfour, Congressional District 1 – present  
Bruce Ronning, Congressional District 2 – present  
Ernie Drapela, Congressional District 3 – absent  
Chuck Solin, Congressional District 4 (Coastal Rep) – absent  
Terry A Wheeler, Congressional District 5 – present  
Bruce Galloway, Congressional District 5 – absent  
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  
Iris Riggs, Bike Recreation Coordinator – present

## **Other Present:**

1 present (did not sign in)

## **Open of Meeting** – Bruce Ronning

Welcome

## **Public Comment**

A local citizen attended to hear about local bike trail and commuting discussions. He did not sign in.

## **Good of the Order**

## **Press Releases**

ORTAC members discussed being involved more with getting local media involved in writing articles about ORTAC's meetings to increase public attendance at their meetings.

**Action:** Email ORTAC members Press releases.

## 2007 Meetings:

ORTAC members discussed having the following dates and potential agenda items:

- Salem – January
  - January Agenda
    - Set aside 2 hours for goal setting / strategic planning
      - Member's personal goals
      - ORTAC's goals
      - How OPRD best helped by ORTAC?
        - What are OPRD's main Objectives?
    - Agenda setting
      - Process
      - What items
    - 2 Day meeting
    - Get a review of OPRD projects
    - ORTAC member updates/comments
    - USFS-BLM Presentation on what the State of their Oregon trails is.
- Eugene – April/Early May
- Bend – July / August
- Gresham – November

Note: August is the Rails-to-Trails conference in Portland.

## Field Project Reviews

### Tillamook State Forest

ORTAC members met Oregon Department of Forestry representative to look at new mountain bike trails being constructed in the Tillamook State Forest. A local user's group who is building the trails met ORTAC as well. The trail will be a technical free ride trail.

## **City of Vernonia**

ORTAC members toured the City of Vernonia's current trail system and future trail projects. The Banks-Vernonia State Trail connects to the west end of Vernonia. The city has extended the trail to go all the way to the southeast end of town. The trail terminates at an old mill site, which Vernonia has turned into a park. The city is developing a mountain bike/skills park on a section of this site. Columbia County acquired an old rail road/logging road known as the Crown Zellarbach road. It extends from Scappoose to a just a couple of miles east of Vernonia. The city and the county are working to connect the trail to the Banks-Vernonia State Trail. This would then provide over 40 miles of linear trail.

## **LL Stub Stewart State Park**

ORTAC members toured LL Stub Stewart State Park. The park will have over 17 miles of multi-use trails. In addition, mountain bikers are working with OPRD to develop another 6 to 15 miles of single-track. The park has over 3 miles of Banks-Vernonia State Trail going through it. The park is scheduled to open in the late spring/early summer of 2007.

## **Banks-Vernonia State Trail – Tolke Gap**

The Banks-Vernonia State Trail had two gaps in it, where reversionary clauses placed small sections of property into the original land holder's hands. OPRD was able to acquire the Tolke Gap in the spring of 2006. Currently, OPRD is working to develop this section of trail to allow a contiguous trail. The project will be completed over the next 18 months or so.

## **Banks-Vernonia State Trail – Banks Trailhead**

Washington County and OPRD have partnered to complete the final gap in the Banks-Vernonia State Trail. A grant was awarded by ODOT for Enhancement funds to be used to develop a trail head and improve a half mile of trail and trestle. OPRD is currently working to acquire the remaining gap in the trail, which lies next to this project site. Washington County will be re-aligning Sellers Rd at the same time.

The field project reviews ended at 4:30 PM.