

Alaska Trails Board Meeting Teleconference Minutes  
August 9, 2005

**1. Call to order:** at 12:06 PM.

Board Attendance: Jack Mosby (proxy for Pat Owens), Jack Campbell, Geoff Orth, Jim Vorderstrasse, Lindsay Winkler, Kristy Phlegar (AmeriCorps Volunteer), Bob Gorman

**2. Changes to agenda:** New Business: b: Foraker Dues, c. American Hiking Society Funding Grant, d. Funders Forum in Anchorage, e. Newsletter,

**3. Reading and approval July 12 minutes:** Geoff Orth moved, Jim Vorderstrasse seconded, Approved with correction to Geoff.

**4. Old Business.**

A. **Americorps Volunteer:** Christy Phelgar started July 18 and participated in the IMBA trail training followed by a week with a SAGA trail crew in Chugach State Park. She is off iced at the NPS office in Anchorage and is continuing work on the trail training curriculum. She has been working with IMBA and SAGA. Is currently reviewing manuals for suitability.

B. **COE in-lieu mitigation.** Jack M delivered the document to the US Army Corp in late May. Still waiting to see if they would require Alaska Trails to be the holder of future financial liability of projects. No response to date.

C. **IMBA Trail Training** - Over 100 folks participated at one of the following sites: Talkeetna (host: Denali Nordic Ski Club), Fairbanks (host: Fairbanks North Star Borough), MatSu Valley (Hosts: MatSu Borough and Valley Hiking and Biking Club), and Anchorage (host: Anchorage Singletrack Advocates) for the four trail training and consultations, and five presentations on Economic Benefits of Mountain Biking and Singletrack Mountain Biking. Thank you also to Paramount Cycles for providing the loaner bikes during the Trail Care Crew stay; to [www.alaskajerseys.com](http://www.alaskajerseys.com) for providing the bike jerseys; to Beaver Sports for hosting the Fairbanks slideshow space; to all the families that hosted Nat and Rachael, and to everyone for committing time and energy to make it happen. We had a successful series of events and we all hopefully learned more about building sustainable trails and will now put this knowledge into positive trail action. Special thanks to the NPS - RTCA program for their help coordinating the IMBA visit. We will look into repeating the training in the future.

D. **Fairbanks Statewide Trails Conference in April 06** - Alaska Trails has started planning for the April 5-8 (Wed-Sat) at the Wedgwood Hotel. Geoffrey, Lisa, and Jack, met July 14 with hosting Fairbanks North Star Borough staff (also with the Alaska Recreation and Park Association) to strategize on possible topics and coordination. Possible keynote speakers discussed might range from the Western Trail Builders Association to Park City, Utah trail dedication and housing development policies, and how they have helped the city. Possible topics might include trail

projects in the Fairbanks area at the local, state, and federal levels; trail connectivity; MatSu Borough trail dedication initiative and trail bond process; trail and health issues; trail training curriculum and possible first class at the beginning level; mountain biking trails; trail construction and maintenance funding sources; Tread Lightly! training; Universal Trail Assessment Program training; mechanized equipment for trail construction; an update on the changing Alaska trail easement procedures and requirements; working with the Mental Health Trust, University of Alaska, AK DNR, AK Railroad, Native Corporations, and others on trail easements; Alaska liability laws; competition trail requirements for summer and winter trail activities; Recreational and Snowmachine Trail Grant programs; a joint meeting of trail advisory groups from around the state; economic benefits of trails; signing that works across agency boundaries; multi use trails; building and maintaining trail in wet environments; equipment displays; and trail hardening materials to name a few. Geoff is willing to take on the lead for the conference for now, with back up from others. The next coordinating meeting will be in Anchorage Oct 1 with the ARPA board.

- E. **Liability and Director's Insurance** – Our agreement with SAGA for the AmeriCorps volunteer requires liability insurance that we will need by September. Geoff reported last month that an annual policy would run between \$1500 to \$2000. Paul Sandhofer indicated that there is existing regulation or law protecting the directors of non-profits. Jeff Orth will get some additional quotes for general liability insurance. Jack C is researching other laws and regs pertaining to nonprofit liability.

## 5. New business

- A. **Volunteers of Colorado Teleconference on Trail Training:** Update on August 2, 2005 teleconference- Lisa, Lindsay, Bob, and Kristy. Kristy has been coordinating with them for the use of their materials. How do we handle certification, i.e., training, records, performance. A Certificate of Performance was discussed. One future possibility is to add the certification to the Fire Card as a module. The intent is to certify the training, not as a qualification for a position. Also discussed was the need for a data base to keep track of the certificate holders. Also, we will assemble a list of contacts for her in the principal areas for developing a trail curriculum. Geoff will do Fairbanks, Jack M to do Southeast, Lisa to do South Central. Kristy to prepare a spreadsheet for the purpose and will send it out this week. Due back next Monday.
- B. **Foraker Dues** - Jack M to check on dues status.
- C. **American Hiking Society Grant** – From \$500 to 10,000. Applications due Nov. 1. Possible to get some money for our use. Kristy to look into possibilities.
- D. **Funders Forum in Anchorage – August 22 at the Anchorage Museum of History and Art from 3-5 PM.** Jack Campbell and Bob Gorman expressed an interest in attending. Jack M to call Foraker to see if any space can be made available. If someone goes they should take some of our pamphlets along for distribution.
- E. **Newsletter** – First newsletter by Sept. 1. Items for newsletter need to be submitted by Monday, August 29.

**F. Board Members missing meetings** – The By-Laws limit the number of meetings that can be missed. We might take a more proactive approach and try to find out why they cannot make the meetings. It was suggested that we have more face to face meetings. We can provide locations. Lisa offered the Park Service office as an in town location.

**G. Strategic Plan** – Kristy would like to have a more specific Strategic Plan with detailed and time bounded goals.

**H. October Meeting** – Tentatively plan an informal face to face meeting in Anchorage from 9 to 12 AM at NPS prior to the teleconference at noon on Oct. 11. We will plan on a board meeting at the conference in April.

**6. Trail News :**

**A.** DNR snowmachine grants are available – due Sept. 6. Funds would be available for snowmachine trails, safety, etc.

**Adjournment: 1:27 PM**

**Reminder:** Next Meeting-Sep 13 at noon.

Submitted by:

Jack Campbell, Secretary

**Actions Items**

- 1 Jack C to research existing liability laws and regulations pertaining to non-profit liability.
2. Developing contact list for Kristy – Jack M. to do SE, Geoff Fairbanks, Lisa H. Southcentral. Kristy to prepare a spreadsheet for use. Due back next Monday.
3. American Hiking Society Grant – Kristy to look into possibilities.
4. Jack M to call Foraker to see if there is any space available to board members to attend.
5. Newsletter items due Monday, August 29.