

**Sisters Trails Alliance  
Meeting Minutes  
Friday, December 3, 2010**

**NEXT MEETING:** 8:00 a.m. January 7th at SPRD

**PRESENT:** Tracy Stout, John Rahm, Chuck Humphreys, Gene Trahern, Ann Marland, Jerry Norquist, Phyllis Lewis, Ken Serkownek, Kim McCarrel, Jeff Sims, Donna Timmerman

Meeting called to order at 8:00 a.m.

**Meeting Minutes**

The meeting minutes for November, 2010, were approved.

**Treasurer's Report**

Chuck reported a cash balance as of end of November of \$20,551.80, which excludes the \$835.33 remaining in the Middle School account. This figure includes all bills associated with the Sisters Mountain Bike Festival.

**Nominations and Elections**

Ballots for the elections of new Advisory Committee members were mailed out November 29 and are due back on December 15.

**Newsletter**

December 15<sup>th</sup> is the deadline to submit articles to Gary for the Winter Newsletter.

**Thinning Projects**

Gene learned from the Forest Service that we need to communicate with the Sale Administrator of thinning and logging projects to designate trees we don't want removed.

Road closures associated with the thinning projects were also discussed. No one was sure where they were, so Jeff will check with Kirk at the Sisters RD to find out what they were talking about.

**National Forest Foundation Meeting**

Gene reported the Forest Service is currently doing internal planning and held this meeting to learn what other groups will be asking of the Forest Service in the next year. They are offering incentives to volunteers who help with trail work. Volunteering for 16 hours earns a 1 year trailhead parking permit and a hat. For 8 hours, volunteers get a 1 day trailhead parking permit.

We have submitted a grant for an Environmental Analysis covering the Crossroads to High School trail, additions to the Peterson Ridge trail system, and a trail from Sisters to Camp Sherman. This request was rejected because it covered too much. However, the Forest Service has scheduled time to do an EA for us. There will be a meeting December 7<sup>th</sup> at 4:00 PM at the Sisters Forest Service office to go over our plans for the trails needing EAs and to determine how much we can include in the request.

We were urged to collect usage data on the trails to show the positive impact of these trails on the economy of the community. Phyllis will contact Bend to also learn how they get estimates on the impact of events.

Ken will check with Erin at the Chamber to see if we can jointly develop a survey for lodging groups that will show us what visitors are doing during their stays here in Sisters.

### **Tail Plan Update**

Jeff is writing the updates now. Kim, Gene, John, and Phyllis volunteered to review the draft copy. Jeff will email us a list showing the ranking of trails that will be in the plan.

### **Jen's Garden Dinner**

Ken reported that the dinner is set for March 12 which is a Saturday and will include 3 wines, 4 courses and gratuity. Jen's Garden will pay for and prepare the food. We will buy the wine, hopefully at cost, and supply 3 servers and 1 clean up person. The bike shops have agreed to sell tickets. The cost will be \$80 per person. We can only serve 28 people due to space limitations.

### **Sisters Mountain Bike Festival**

Ken and Chuck distributed a proposed budget for the 2011 festival showing 2 options – 1 for 75 projected participants, and 1 for 100 participants. Registration fees are \$90 for 2 days, \$50 for 1 day, and 50% of that for kids. These prices are at the high end compared to other organized rides but doable. To reduce costs, we'll ask restaurants to provide vouchers for 2 for 1 meals, dollars off, etc., and we'll provide more expansive snacks at aid stations but no lunches. We'll work toward getting more sponsors by including their names on the web site, in all the ads, and on posters which gives them more advertising.

John will check with the organizer of the Fat Tire event in Bend for ideas and advice.

Kim moved we allocate \$1000 toward the SMBF for expenses coming up soon. Gene seconded, and the motion passed.

## **Maps**

This subcommittee is struggling with many decisions: color or black and white; laminated or not; have PRT on a separate map or all trails on one map; sell some maps; provide some free maps; which are free; use Adventure maps; have sponsor ads on maps or not..... Jeff will email when the group will meet again.

Meeting adjourned at 9:40 a.m.

*Meeting minutes taken by Donna Timmerman, Sisters Trails Alliance*