



## Oregon Recreation Trails Advisory Council

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# Minutes

Thursday, August 1, 2019  
9:00 AM – 5:00 PM  
Samaritan Community Hospital  
525 N Santiam Hwy  
Lebanon, OR 97355

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### Housekeeping

**Attendance:** Lauralee Svendsgaard, Coastal Representative  
Skyler Archibald, Coastal Representative  
Jim Thayer, District 1  
Joe Kresse, District 2 (Vice Chair)  
Robert Spurlock, District 3 (Chair)  
Rod Sell, District 4  
Del Scharffenberg, District 5

**OPRD Staff:** Jodi Bellefeuille, Michele Scalise, Daniel Killam, Jayme Jones

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**Other Attendees:** Lisa Sumption-OPRD, Ryan Sparks-OPRD, Ian Johnson-OPRD, Mike Law-OPRD, Robin Wilcox-OPRD, Katie Gauthier-OPRD, Dwane Schwindt- Build Lebanon Trail, Thad Nelson-Build Lebanon Trails, Gary Chapman-C2C Trail, Larry Weymouth-C2C Trail, Jeff McNamee-Salem Area Trail Alliance, Barry Coplon-Salem Area Trail Alliance, Danielle Post-Oregon Equestrian Trails, Rob Romanek-City of Salem, Brad Peterson-Willamette National Forest

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**Agenda Item:** April 2019 Minutes **(Action)**  
**Presented by:** Robert Spurlock

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April 2019 ORTAC meeting minutes were reviewed.

Motion to approve April 2019 minutes by Lauralee Svendsgaard, with the condition to correct an error.

Seconded by Del Scharffenberg .

Motion carried unanimously.

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## Public Presentations

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**Agenda Item:** Corvallis to Sea Trail **(Information)**  
**Presented by:** Gary Chapman

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Presentation about the Corvallis to Sea Trail included history of the trail, partnership accomplishments, volunteers, and current construction trail status.

### Questions/Comments:

What is your biggest need at this point and what is the next step?

- Our biggest need at this point is for three land owners to jump on board. All three landowners are under Hancock Forest Management. The worst part of the trail is North Beaver Creek Road and we would like to get off that road if we can and improve the shoulders in several places.

How often do your volunteers work and what is the average work age of your volunteers?

- Now working two days a week and average work age is 65.
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**Agenda Item:** Salem Area Trail Alliance **(Information)**  
**Presented by:** Jeff McNamee and Gary Coplon

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Presentation covered the Salem Area Trail Alliance including past and current trail projects that SATA has worked on in the Salem area, and efforts of getting more people on more trails in the greater Salem area.

### Questions/Comments:

How do you see your future work in terms of bringing diversity into your agenda and working with public transportation and transportation options?

- First, we have got to think about those urban spaces and how we can diversify groups like this. Geer Bike Park hits all the things you were talking about – it's something you can do with family and there is a bus stop nearby.
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**Agenda Item:** Oregon Equestrian Trails, Mid Valley Chapter **(Information)**  
**Presented by:** Danielle Post

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Oregon Equestrian Trails- Mid-Valley Chapter is a local nonprofit with volunteers that are maintaining trails and horse camps in Oregon. Projects cover local areas like McDonald Forest



and Bald Hill Park in Corvallis, as well as farther reaching areas like Sevenmile Horse camp and the Santiam Wagon Road in the Willamette National Forest, and Cultus Corral in the Deschutes National Forest.

**Questions/Comments:**

How far East do you go on the Santiam Wagon Road?

- We're designated to work from House Rock to Tombstone.

Do mountain bikers use the trail?

- Over the year I have not seen mountain bikers. We see hikers but the trail is not heavily used.

Are there any compatibilities issues between equines and llamas?

- Sometimes horses have never seen other animals before so it is a training opportunity.

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**Agenda Item:** Willamette National Forest

**(Information)**

**Presented by:** Brad Peterson

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Presentation covered Willamette National Forest, Detroit and Sweet Home Ranger Districts which covers over 475 miles of trails. Forest Service mission is to sustain the health, diversity, and productivity of the Nation's forest and grasslands to meet the needs of present and future generation. An overview of the 10 key areas of focus was provided along with challenges and solutions to achieve a sustainable recreation program.

**Questions/Comments:**

What is the South Santiam Forest Corridor and is it still an active project?

- Connection from the community of Sweet Home up into the forest. The challenge is connecting through different property ownership and obtaining the appropriate easements. Most of it is along the South Santiam River and it connects to State Parks land, Cascadia and a lot of timber land. It would be like the McKenzie River Trail in a lot of ways
- It has lost a bit of steam. Basically, figuring out a way through the private land has become a bit problematic.

In terms of your overall deferred maintenance is it increasing or decreasing?

- Increasing, if you are talking deferred maintenance for brushing that can explode if you let it go for a year too long. Tread maintenance and deferred maintenance it tends to bank up on you a little slower depending on a given trail. Our capacity is limited.

Is Jefferson Park in your portfolio?



- Yes, the Whitewater Trail just reopened. It had been closed for about a year and half as we were getting the hazard trees along the road access taking care of.

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**Agenda Item:** Willamette River Water Trail **(Information)**  
**Presented by:** Ryan Sparks

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The Willamette River Water Trail is the entire length of the Willamette River and is distinguished as one of only 20 National Water Trails in the U.S. The Willamette River Water Trail provides access and campsites for paddlers along the 187 miles of the mainstem Willamette River, as well as several miles of the Coast Fork Willamette, Middle Fork Willamette, and McKenzie River.

**Questions/Comments:**

Has there been any discussion about adding tributaries to the Willamette as part of that water trail?

- There are quite a few tributaries of the Willamette that are used as water trails but not part of the official designation.

Is State Parks considering adding paddle-in sites to the reservation system?

- Not yet. Reservations have both a plus and a minus. Trying to balance the people that are more spontaneous with other users that want a guaranteed campsite.

Comment: The Lower Columbia River Water Trail is a good example of a well signed water trail.

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## Agency Updates

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**Agenda Item:** Oregon State Parks Trails Report- Projects **(Information)**  
**Presented by:** Robin Wilcox

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New Recreation Trails Planner starts August 19.

Continuing to coordinate and expand the maintenance partnership with Trailkeepers of Oregon.

OPRD was awarded a FLAP Grant for Oregon Coast Trail planning work.

OPRD's recently passed budget included a Signature Trails Policy Option Package, which dedicates \$1.2M for the Oregon Coast Trail and \$1M for Historic Columbia River Highway State Trail support facilities.



Updates on projects:

- Humbug Mountain- opened up the view shed, trail improvements, new benches, and finishing a trail map
- Cape Lookout- restroom installed, parking lot paving and trail improvements
- Smith Rock- Improvements on Wolf Tree Trail
- Ecola to Indian Beach Trail- reestablishing the trail between Ecola Point and Indian Beach, anticipating it will be reopened by the end of October
- 12 Oregon Coast Trail counters were purchased for the Oregon Coast Trail, plan to install by November 2019.
- Maintenance on the Natural Bridges viewing platform.

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**Agenda Item:** Oregon's Historic Trails

**(Information)**

**Presented by:** Ian Johnson

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Overview of the Heritage Programs, 16 designated Oregon Historic Trails, National Register Nominations, Section 106, and advocacy opportunities.

**Questions/Comments:**

What is being done to make sure those 16 Oregon Historic Trails are not being looted?

- Federal land management agencies are obligated under the law to protect the sites where they cross their land, to what degree it depends on the resources they have. For sections on private land, there is a law that states you can't destroy an archeologic site.

Status of the Umatilla Chemical Depot?

- Most of Umatilla Chemical Depot land has been transferred to the Oregon National Guard, another portion to the Columbia Development Authority.

Does SHPO have concerns about the future of these historic trails and the ability to keep them intact?

- All historic and cultural resources are under some type of pressure right now.

Is SHPO going to fill in the gap to be a good place to go to find what the resources are, direct communities, and have that public outreach facility that OHTAC in the past had?

- We will continue to fulfill the regulatory function we always have to protect historic resources and we continue to do so with our survey inventory efforts.

Jim will follow up with Ian or Jodi with a more specific request for what data is being asked for from SHPO. Jim will take the lead on identifying an appropriate organization or group to hand the information to, such as Restore Oregon.

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**Agenda Item:** Oregon State Parks Trails Report- Rulemaking  
**Presented by:** Katie Gauthier

**(Information)**

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HB2083 did not pass, but was instead rolled into HB2592. Highlights of HB2592 include:

- Disconnects the bike/ped element from the Connect Oregon Fund and establishes a Multimodal Active Transportation Fund.
- Multimodal Active Transportation Fund provides grants for bicycle and pedestrian projects.
- Bike excise tax is transferred directly to the Multimodal Active Transportation Fund (note: additive to the 7%)
- Integrates HB 2083 language regarding \$4M of OPRD's lottery dollars for bicycle and pedestrian projects:
  - In cooperation with ODOT, OPRD shall allocate \$4M/biennium of lottery dollars allocated for recreation for bicycle and pedestrian transportation projects that meet recreation and transportation needs
  - Half of the \$4M shall go to grants for bike/ped transportation projects through the local and regional grant programs
  - Half of the \$4M shall go to funding bicycle/ped transportation projects on signature, scenic or recreation trails within the State of Oregon
  - Sunsets January 2, 2025
  - Repeals authority of ODOT to request reimbursement

Joe Kreese volunteered to join the Rulemaking Advisory Committee. Robert is also on the Committee.

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## Council Business Items & Program Updates

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**Agenda Item:** 2019 Doug Newman Award  
**Presented by:** Robert Spurlock

**(Action)**

2019 Doug Newman Award nominees were reviewed. Members used ranked choice voting to identify their top three choices.

Motion to nominate Becky Wolf by Skyler Archibald.  
Seconded by Jim Thayer.

Motion carried unanimously.

Lauralee Svendsgaard will coordinate the award presentation and contact potential presenters.

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**Agenda Item:** ORTAC Member Recruitment **(Information)**  
**Presented by:** Jodi Bellefeuille

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Recruitment to fill three upcoming vacancies is open through August 15, 2019.

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**Agenda Item:** Office of Outdoor Recreation Update **(Information)**  
**Presented by:** Jodi Bellefeuille

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Updates on the Governor's task Force on the Outdoors can be found at:  
<http://www.oregon.gov/orec/Pages/default.aspx>  
Any recommendations for the group to consider, please work through Jodi Bellefeuille.

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**Agenda Item:** Oregon Bicycle & Pedestrian Advisory Committee **(Information)**  
**Presented by:** Robert Spurlock

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The 2019 Association of Pedestrian and Bicycle Professionals Conference will be in Portland this year, August 25-28.

The Multimodal Active Transportation Fund (formerly known as Connect Oregon Ped/Bike) Rulemaking Advisory Committee is reconvening after a several month hiatus.

Legislative update: HB2083 did not pass, but was instead rolled into HB2592.

Governor Brown appointed a new Oregon Transportation Commission chair, Bob Van Brocklin. The Oregon Transportation Commission is still in the process of hiring a new ODOT director.

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**Agenda Item:** Oregon Trails Coalition and Oregon Trails Summit **(Information)**  
**Presented by:** Jodi Bellefeuille

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The Trails Summit agenda is being finalized and should be released in early August.

Oregon Trails Coalition has raised approximately \$23K of their \$25K sponsorship goal.

OTC welcomed three new advisory board members. View the list of advisory board members or apply to join: <https://www.oregontrailscoalition.org/advisory-board>

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**Agenda Item:** Scenic Bikeways Program  
**Presented by:** Jodi Bellefeuille

**(Information)**

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Kitty Weisman recently resigned from her position as Scenic Bikeways and Scenic Waterways Coordinator. OPRD executives are developing a transition plan for the program. The job announcement will be made available to ORTAC when it's released.

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**Agenda Item:** OPRD Grant Programs  
**Presented by:** Jodi Bellefeuille

**(Information)**

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**Recreational Trails Program:**

America's Transportation Infrastructure Act of 2019 was introduced in the U.S. Senate this week. The bipartisan bill includes a requirement to study the amount of funding allocated to RTP. It's expected to document that RTP receives 30% or less of the federal fuel tax collected for fuels used in non-highway recreational activities.

Applications for the 2019 grant cycle were due June 15. \$1.1M is available for non-motorized trail projects and grant requests totaled almost \$3M. An additional \$480K is available for motorized trail projects and \$1.5M was requested.

In spring 2019 congress enacted rescission, cancelling spending authority for RTP and other FHWA funds after September 30, 2019. OPRD had approximately \$580K of carryover funds that were planned to be made available in the 2019 grant cycle. With the approval of the RTP Committee and OPRD Commission, we're allocating funds to four projects that were below the 2018 funding threshold. Project list: Umatilla National Forest- Walla Walla Ranger District, City of Sutherlin, Yamhill Soil & Water Conservation District, and City of Corvallis.

**Local Government Grant Program:**

The Oregon Administrative Rules governing LGGP will be opened for rulemaking to respond to HB2592. \$2M will be set aside each biennium for trail projects, sun setting in 2025. More information will be provided at the meeting.

Approximately \$5.7M of funding was recommended for 2019 projects by the LGGP committee. The OPRD Commission will vote whether to approve the project list at their September meeting.

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**Agenda Item:** Regional & Scenic Trail Designation Management  
**Presented by:** Jodi Bellefeuille

**(Information)**

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2019 Five-Year Trail Reviews:

**Humbug Mountain Trail:** scheduled for Friday, August 9. Skyler, Rod, and Jodi are conducting the review.

**40 Mile Loop:** Robert, Jim, Del, and Jodi have reviewed portions of the trail. Information will be compiled later this year to provide to the relevant land managers.

**Willow Creek Canyon:** scheduled for Friday, September 13. Rod, Jim, and Lauralee plan to participate.

**City of Eugene's Ridgeline Trail Designation Proposal:** The next step in the designation process is for the City to submit a management plan for OPRD/ORTAC review and acceptance. The City plans to submit the management plan to OPRD in December, to be voted on by ORTAC in January 2020. If approved, a public meeting regarding the designation will be scheduled prior to submitting the proposal to the OPRD Commission for approval of the designation.

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Meeting adjourned at 4:38 p.m.

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**Council Site Visits**

Friday, August 2, 2019  
9:00 AM – 12:00 PM

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A bike ride tour of Build Lebanon Trails was completed.

Meeting Adjourned at 12:00 p.m.

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