

Diablo Trust Recreation Working Group
Meeting Notes
October 4, 2021
Via Zoom

Participants:

	Present		Present		Present
Rebecca Antle	N	Patrice Horstman	Y	Bob Prosser	N
Kirk Astroth	Y	Tim Holt	Y	Spencer Prosser	N
Cheryl Barlow	Y	Diana Kessler	N	Nate Ragan	N
Judy Begay	Y	Todd Madeskza	Y	Kari Roberg	N
Deana Bindley	Y	Matt McGrath	N	Steve Rosenstock	N
Lisa Bolton	N	Kit Metzger	N	Becki Ross	Y
Danielle Boulais	Y	Mandy Metzger	Y	Amy Tinderholt	Y
Matt Eberhardt,	Y	Nicholas Mustoe	Y	Linda Wadleigh	Y
Michaela Gold	Y	Rob Nelson	Y	Tempy Wessel	N
Heather Green	Y	Cynthia Nemeth	N	Stephen Williams	Y
Carol Harder	Y	Ellen Parish	Y	Gerrit Boeck	Y

Ellen opened the meeting at 11:00 with a welcome to the participants.

Reports from breakout groups from the recent Recreation Summit were next.

Funding committee: Rob: The group met Friday and is open to new members. The group has five themes: education, trash management, enforcement, road management and safety. Education is short term focus. Their first item is to identify grants available from AZ State Parks and identify which grants will be most beneficial for this group regarding education. This group will be a utility player for other groups. A variety of grant dollars are available now: <https://azstateparks.com/grants> and /workshops. Eleven grants are open now.

Ellen: Next step is to connect funding group with other committees.

Matt E: There are heritage and environmental education grants available – up to \$50,000/project. Educational materials for vendors: Also recreational trails program up to \$10,000/project. Also they are working with AZ Game and Fish and planning on a re-print of OHV user guide to go to rental companies and others. Do other groups have a need to print materials or to develop meet and greet materials? If so, we are open to new ideas.

Ellen: May be time to have a meeting with all groups re: funding.

Policy committee: Carol Harder: The group is having its second call this Wednesday. She said the County Supervisors just finished a meeting in which there was an OHV related agenda item and how counties could come up with a state-wide cohesive

strategy. Todd: Supervisors did not adopt the OHV related proposal because they felt it needed more work. Patrice: The AZ Supervisor's Association looked at Donna Michael's (Yavapai County) proposal re: OHVs. Donna also attended Recreation Summit. There is interest but they felt more work is needed on the proposal because it is a statewide issue and it is complex because there are multiple jurisdictions and related enforcement issues. Her proposal was tabled for more work and input. This is a statewide issue not county.

Kirk A: Network on AZ Trails: Background: Thank you to Carol H for inviting me to this meeting. I am one of steering committee members of the Network on AZ Trails. About 1.5 years ago, there was a summit to address statewide outdoor recreation issues plus a follow-up virtual summit. They had a speaker (Tom Adams) who talked about the Outdoor Recreation Office in Utah. During the last legislative session, they formed SCORE (statewide collation for outdoor recreation engagement) and have since created a concurrent resolution which is a feel good-resolution which had widespread support during the last legislative session and had unanimous support in house and senate. On transmittal day, the resolution went to the other legislative chamber however the language was changed and Kirk's group did not support those changes. Consequently, the resolution did not get brought to the floor so the resolution died due to controversy and because legislature attention was focused on the state budget. The basis was to establish the importance and benefits of outdoor recreation and would be the foundation for Office of Outdoor Recreation in a next step. Some re-write is needed but will be introduced into the next session. This is the first step towards getting an Office of Outdoor Recreation established which is what he is now working on. They are working on a potential location for this office in Arizona and will be interviewing staff in other mainly western states to see successes and failures and to create a draft of a bill and to create a white paper as to why this new Office makes sense. He would like to have the Diablo Trust on list of supporters for the concurrent resolution. His group does not advocate that this office be part of state government or part of governor's office because priorities shift depending on political vagaries. They prefer that this new office be lodged in an existing state agency. They will likely wait until a new governor is elected and until the 2024 legislative session because Governor Ducey won't support this. They are not proposing to abrogate private property rights. They want to coordinate Arizona's outdoor recreation policy among agencies and between public and private sectors. They want to be all things recreation across jurisdictions with a focus on economic development especially in rural areas and to focus on new businesses, workforce development and expanding existing businesses.

Stephen W.: When you spoke to other states about their own offices, were their offices akin to a Chamber of Commerce and promoting tourism vs. overwhelming abuse to natural resources? Response: The purpose of this office is not attracting large numbers of people to say the Grand Canyon or just large numbers of tourists. They want to emphasize local control and infrastructure development; help local communities get grants to help with education and access. Not recruiting more tourists but coordinating a uniform state-wide outdoor policy. Every state has experienced an explosion in outdoor recreation. Ellen: there are many messages out there from different agencies.

Kirk: Other states with successful models have advisory groups that bring strong perspectives from the most important constituencies – usually about 10 on these groups. With this, the respective state offices were not operating in a vacuum.

Ellen: Was there a consensus about where to put the department? Response: The Office of Economic Development was most common in some states but Arizona doesn't have one. AZ needs to find another place. Some Arizona choices: AZ Department of Tourism, AZ Game and Fish Dept., AZ State Parks and Trails, and the Governor's Office (but they have discounted this based on what they learned from other states).

Ellen: Not all little communities want help because they don't want more people. They want to stay rural and don't want to attract an influx of people.

Kirk: This office would help people who ask for help. Research has shown that communities who had amenities or expanded or enhanced infrastructure did better during economic downturns. Can offer assistance with grant-writing. This will be up to local communities.

Tim H: You mentioned consistency in outdoor recreation policy as one of the goals. In other states with lots of federal lands, was there consistency across federal lands in particular in regards to travel management? Response: I will have to go back and look at my notes. Looking at work with AZ Trail, Brian Poturalski has provided good coordination across jurisdictions and has provided good communication. I am less familiar with tribal lands.

Judy B.: At the recent supervisor's meeting in Prescott, we talked about this topic. There a lot of things in play with outdoor recreation. Policies in other states might help with our situation here. We need help with economic development.

Ellen: Patrice, are counties in line with and in conversation with the needs of their respective law enforcement?

Patrice: Yes. This is a huge issue, especially for Coconino County Sheriff's Dept. (as well as statewide and especially for rural counties) which has issues with coverage, staffing, multiple enforcement agencies, and multiple jurisdictions. County sheriff department does not have jurisdiction on federal lands. Forest Service law enforcement stretched very thin. We are in discussion. There is no way the County Sheriff Department will be the enforcement agency for federal and state lands. We all agree it is a problem.

Ellen: Are you in discussion with these other agencies?

Patrice: Yes, that is why we are involved with the Diablo Trust and this working group. There are two supervisors on this call. There needs to be a statewide group of stakeholders. This is the beginning of a coalition. The individual counties cannot do it

alone. We need to get all the stakeholders at the table and we need to convince legislators.

Judy B.: Enforcement and funding for staffing are big issues. There is only one officer that covers a huge area. It will take partners working together to make this work and to head in a direction that will work for the people we serve.

Ellen to Matt E: Can law enforcement apply for funds or can other agencies apply on behalf of law enforcement? Response: Funds can be used for equipment, equipment packages for vehicles, staffing, and overtime pay up to \$30,000. Ellen: \$30,000 is hardly enough to live in N. AZ. Matt: Grants can be awarded for up to \$750,000 for up to 2.5 years for seasonal, education, and ranger type of positions.

Gerrit: We are looking internally at that grant, including the required match which is a hurdle for us right now. Clarification: AZ Game and Fish can enforce state law on federal lands...mainly a staffing and manpower issue. Can't devote staff to proactive patrols but could be more proactive with additional funding for extra positions. We do respond to serious accidents on a regular basis during the summer.

Kirk: Some issues that we are talking about here could be handled in the Office in Outdoor Recreation. We are interested in having Diablo Trust on list of supporters for next legislative session. Need to have something to the legislative council but mid November in order to be included in next session.

Ellen: We will bring this up at our next meeting.

Tim H: Note that law enforcement funds are not available for permanent positions. The agency may have to let that person go or pick up the cost if they plan to keep that person for a permanent position. Mostly OHV administrative positions with the Forest Service. No state peace officer has been funded from these grants.

Matt E: These law enforcement specific funds just for overtime. The agency will have to pick up the costs for full time employees. Basically the funds are to be able to show need to upper management for the person for 2 years and then the agency needs to decide what to do next.

Todd: One time grants don't go for enforcement issues and sheriffs don't want them because they will need to go ask for more money

Ellen: I was wondering if we could get a person temporarily funded so get some one started, show success, then hopefully garner additional funds. Other committees that formed from the Recreation Summit are getting ready to meet. Our next Recreation Working Group meeting is October 18 on zoom (note: this meeting was later cancelled). The Arizona Trails meeting follows this call. Thank you everybody for your continued efforts and stay in touch.

The meeting adjourned at noon.