

Minutes from SBMTV Board meeting Thursday 6/10/2004

In attendance: Chuck, Chris, Tosh, Ken, Paul, Dorothey, John, Ben, Erika, Matt

Approval of May Minutes

Jesusita Trail Day Review:

- We were able to clear the entire backside of the trail.
- We worked with George Herbst, the SB City archeologist to help avoid disturbing possible historic sites.
- Blackie delivered cold drinks to all volunteers via horseback.
- Lots of positive dialogue went on between volunteer hiker and bikers.

Romero Trail Care:

- The board decided it would be best to start trail work from the top of the saddle.
- Information is going out early on the website and via fliers for this event.
- Board decided July 17th was the best date for the event even though it conflicted with the Arroyo Hondo event. We will make arrangements for next years Arroyo Hondo event.

Other Project Reports: Funding, Bells, school, etc:

- We currently have \$634 in the bank.
- We need to raise money. Please send-funding ideas to Chuck.
- Bob Meeker from Specialized is going to provide funding to our bell program
- More bells have been purchased; Matt will assemble them next week.

FTWG "Vision" proposal:

Last Friday 6/4 was the first Front Country Working Group meeting in over a year. Over the past couple of months, a small coalition (Ray Ford, Kalon Kelly, Otis Calef, Chuck Anderson, and myself) came together to try and find a common ground against the SC/Safetrails group. At this meeting, the coalition commandeered (finally!) the meeting from facilitator, skipped over another year of useless bantering and backwards stepping, and presented a "vision" for the front country trails and more. At first there was a good deal of tension at this butt-in, but amazingly all the members of the meeting agreed to the contents of the "vision" proposal. Now we can actually start working towards a better community based trail system. The vision is posted below.

TRAIL WORKING GROUP PROPOSAL

THE VISION

The development of an interconnected trail system that contains trails where design allows for mixed use of all user groups along with some trails reserved for the use of specific user groups.

THE MISSION

To develop both short- and long-term solutions that provide a means for eliminating the safety and environmental concerns of the various trail user groups along with the development of a trails alliance composed of local individuals, organizations and agencies to develop a trails master plan for the front country.

BASIC PRINCIPLES

* The issues relating to the front country trails include safety and environmental concerns, trail conditions, trail access issues and the long-term ability of our community to maintain and protect our trails.

* These concerns require we work together to develop interim measures, long-range solutions and the organizational support to enable us to care for our trails and expand our trail network.

* Interim solutions the TWG proposes to the agencies should be made within the framework of the long-range solutions and be supportive of them.

* The current trail user groups (hikers, mountain bikers, and equestrians) are all legitimate users of the front country trails and as such deserve to have continued access to trails and other routes in the SY Mountains. We should work together to develop new and existing routes in the Santa Ynez Mountains to meet the needs of and address the concerns of this trail user community.

* Hikers, mountain bikers, equestrian groups and other trail users have a legitimate right to an expectation of safety and have trails set aside for their use. As new trail access is developed to meet trail user needs, it can be expected that we negotiate to limit the access of some trails to address safety concerns.

INTERIM / LONG-RANGE POSSIBILITIES

* Create a trails alliance composed of the leading outdoor & environmental groups, with the public agencies to develop a Front Country/Santa Ynez Mountain Master Plan. Propose a two year schedule for the development of the MP that will include planning, mapping, and funding of the new trail system. At the end of this time period it will be the goal of the Trails Alliance to break ground on new trail(s).

* Develop a trail sign and education program with small bird-house type signs at the top of the front country trails and larger kiosk-type signboards at the bottoms. Develop educational and informational brochures, trail information flyers and signs and a "rules of the road" for trail users. Establish clear trail etiquette guidelines for all groups.

* Develop a volunteer "trail host" program, with volunteers at trailheads and on the trails to act as "trail stewards" to help ensure our trails are protected and people get educated.

* Adopt a two year "demo" odd-even plan for mountain bikes, meaning that mountain bikes may only use front country trails on either the even or odd days of the year. At the end of the demo plan, a review of the plan's effectiveness on user conflict and safety issues will be used to help develop the long range trail management policies of the

Master Plan.

- SBMTV agreed to move forward with this proposal

IMBA Summit Report:

- Chuck discussed his IMBA conference
- One idea that came up was to put together a regional event with CORBA and CCMB.

Other items:

- We need logos for all of our sponsors for banners and the website.