

CRAHTAC

County Riding and Hiking Trails Advisory Committee
Monday, March 12, 2018 3:00 pm. South County Operations Yard Conference Room
4568 Calle Real Building E, Santa Barbara CA

MINUTES OF MEETING

Committee Members Present

District 1	District 2	District 3	District 4	District 5
Shiela Snow	Jack Bish	David Hosking		Frank Freitas
	Otis Calef			Barry Stotts
	Dan Gira			
	Ray Ford			

Members Absent

Archie Mitchell, Ruth Schuyler, Luis Escobar

Members Excused

Art Najera, Kalon Kelly, Kristi Hundt, Mike Hecker, Curt Cragg, Dan Gira and Kevin Snow

Staff Advisors and Visitors

Claude Garciacelay – SB County Parks

Meeting was called to order by Secretary Jack Bish at 3:00

Approval of Minutes

Minutes of 11/13/17 meeting approved (Snow/Freitas).

Public Comment/Announcements/Correspondence

None.

US Forest Service Update

Ray Ford noted that John “Pancho” Smith, the LPNF Service District Ranger, has authorized LPFA to work on assessment of trails, but there are no specifics at this time. No Forest Service representation.

County Update

None

ACTION ITEMS

Ray Ford proposed a motion to add Action Item 357: Thomas Fire/Debris Flow Trail Recovery to the list. Seconded by Shiela Snow. Approved.

In light of the extensive trail damage due to the Thomas Fire and subsequent debris flow, the action items were only discussed if a member had an update.

258: Coastal Trail/Juan Bautista de Anza National Historic Trail

There is a current issue with the Surfrider Foundation over the design of the pedestrian bridge proposed for the Eagle Canyon area. The current plan is to put a pipe bridge for utilities in the area that can be decked later at a

lower cost to allow pedestrian access. If the current plan is changed, then it could result in larger costs and delays to the project due to the need to put in a dedicated pedestrian bridge and obtain new permits. There are communications underway to mediate the situation.

333: Baron Ranch Trail

The bridge plans are in. It is ready for the bid process.

357: Thomas Fire/Debris Flow Trail Recovery

Ray Ford and a few others have been authorized to survey the trails to determine the extent of the damage. Once these surveys are complete, a plan will be created in order to determine how to begin recovery operations in order to reopen the trails. In order to facilitate this work, there are discussion underway to create an umbrella group to help organize all of the volunteer organizations (LPFA, Trails Council, MTF, SBMTV, etc.) and the affected agencies (County, City and Forest Service). Based on Ray's initial survey work, Romero Canyon will most likely be worked on first for a variety of reasons including the damage, the presence of a loop trail and access to the back country.

There are FEMA maps which should be sent out to the committee that includes trail damage with photos. Based on this work \$1.3 million for requested from FEMA for recovery operations. These maps were put together by Ray Ford and Mark Wilkinson.

Trail status was discussed starting from the western side of the area moving eastward.

West Fork of Colds Springs Trail:

The top half of the trail did not burn. From the Tangerine Falls turnoff down, there is lots of sluff damage that needs clearing. There is one section with extensive damage with a very thin trail between a large drop off and an interior rock section that will require significant work.

East Fork of Colds Springs Trail:

At the lower portion of the trail, the vegetation is gone to about 30 feet above the creek bed. The first 50 yards of the trail is gone. There is a question as to where the trailhead can be currently placed. Due to the topography, it may need to be rerouted to the historic western side of the creek. Prior to the debris flow, there were plans to put a bridge over the creek to replace the current concrete apron. As this moved forward, the trailhead would again need to be rerouted due to the elevation of the proposed bridge. The start of the trail could be incorporated in the bridge with crib walls to support the trail placing it back on the eastern side of the creek. Further up the trail, there are some portions of the lower trail that are intact, while others have been destroyed due to the bends in the creek. The upper portion of the trail is in better shape with lots of sluff, but can be repaired.

Hot Springs Trail:

The first 250 yards are in decent shape with mud on the trail, but no damage to the road. The next area of the trail is gone along with fencing and other improvements. At the creek crossing, the west side trail to the Edison road is full of rubble and is gone in places. The canyon itself is about 8 feet deeper with sheer walls. The old pipes are torn up and in places wrapped around trees.

McMenemy Trail:

There is extensive erosion on the trail with rocks and debris. This trail can be fixed.

Saddlerock Trail:

The trail is now mostly steep barren rock.

East Side of McMenemy Trail:

This section of trail has burned but has no major rain damage. It is rutted and pot holed, but in better shape than other trails in the area. There have been discussions of a possible re-route in this area with the landowner. They would like to have the trail moved further to the north. In the past, the work was not feasible due to brush cover and the difficulties on planning a new route. The fire has cleared the area, so this might now be possible. After a survey, the Forest Service could look at the project.

San Ysidro Trail:

The lower road portion of the trail was hammered with steep erosion drop offs to the creek bed and boulders. The bridge is gone along with a few of the surrounding houses. Lots of washed out sections on the single track with very thin trail beds with steep drops. There is a lot of loose debris on the trail. The upgrades on the step section are gone. The upper section is impassable.

Buena Vista Trail:

The steps up are okay. The canyon section of the trail is gone. The canyon is easy to walk up. The switchbacks to Romero due not have any major damage, but no vegetation and can only get worse. However, the damage will be mostly debris and sluff and can be fixed.

Romero Trail:

In the lower canyon to the bridge, the road is heavily damaged and the bridge is gone. The road has been bulldozed to the east and west from the initial split by SCE to access the powerlines in both directions. The canyon trail is blown out with debris on the trail. There are now more sections of trail with heavy exposure of approximately 20 foot drops. All of the creek crossings need work. The canyon is at least 5 feet deeper, more in places. The upper canyon trail is hard to see and has sluffed off. The old road from the end of the Edison road to the top would take about 8 days to clear.

Franklin Trail:

Bottom of Phase I to the crest burned. The north side also burned. The lower part of the trail is okay. The County has already reopened this portion to Rancho Monte Alegre. Through Rancho Monte Alegre, SCE has plowed the road for power line access. Phase III completely burned. This is the last 2.7 miles of the trail with approximately 2,000 feet of elevation gain. In this area, there are extreme drop offs and debris on the trail. The trail will be surveyed after the MTF sections.

New Business

Discussions pertaining to a North County Coastal Trail have begun between Joan Hartman and the Trails Council.

Announcements

None.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:30 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Jack Bish