

Meeting Minutes (DRAFT)
ATC 2nd Quarter meeting
4-2-09

Meeting at Fayetteville Municipal Building called to order 10:00

Self introductions of those attending. A large contingent of NW Arkansas trail enthusiasts in attendance in addition to regularly attending members.

Jim Gifford, Loretta Melancon – ATC Vice Chair, and Terry Eastin will work together on updating ATC by-laws.

Sarah Jones – ATC Chair, gave update on Arkansas Trails Day to be held April 18 at Lake Sylvia Campground and invited trails groups to attend and reserve a booth by the following Friday. Jim Gifford suggested posting a master list of events.

Bert Turner reported on Gillam Park event that will include mycologists, biological geologists interpreting the unique flora and geology at the site. Terry Eastin suggested sending a media release through ADPT.

Bert also reported on two roughly 600' trails that constructed for birders to get closer to the water on Central Arkansas Water property which was a cooperative project involving volunteers, Arkansas Audubon and CAW.

Terry Eastin talked about the trails bill that would provide 1 million dollars per year for the next 2 years for construction of 'Watchable Wildlife' trails to be funded through proceeds from natural gas wells on AG&FC property. She began working with the sponsor in February 2008 and received 150 letters of support and is supported by the Governor and Scott Henderson, Director of AG&FC. Whether the proceeds from natural gas wells are under the control of AG&FC is currently being challenged in court and funding will not be available until that issue is settled.

Bert Turner agreed to chair a committee to solicit suggestions for trails to be included in the Arkansas Trails System list both to be included and removed from the current list. Jacque Alexander and Rick Brumley agreed to serve on that committee. Terry Eastin suggested that the ADPT should hire a part-time person to compile the list.

Terry Eastin suggested that the ATC to advertise trail funding sources (AHTD and ADPT) and solicit projects to be funded. Terry suggested that ADPT contract an ATC executive director funded with administration money resulting from the Watchable Wildlife funding from AG&FC.

Sarah Jones – ATC Chair, announced for Tim Oosterhaus that a ribbon-cutting of a recently completed portion of the LOViT trail will be held on the following day.

Al Knox of Hobbs State Park – Conservation Area announced the opening of another 7 miles of trail at the park and that the new visitor’s center will be dedicated May 7.

A representative from the Ozark Highlands Trail Association announced that the OHT was cleared of downed trees and limbs from the winter ice storm except for approx. 5 miles from Lake Ft. Smith to Clear Creek. Approximately 40 sawyers worked to clear the trail. For more information see www.hikearkansas.com

Kris McMillan reported that the OT is in perhaps the best condition ever due to many hours of work from members of FoOT.

Summary reports were provided by new attendees on the following:

- Lake Sequoia Trail
- Johnson Clear Creek Trail
- City of Rogers trails system
- Buffalo Trail

Bill Bastress, RTP coordinator for AHTD, reported on the current state of the RTP and AHTD’s website.

Terry Eastin reported that she was approached by the Arkansas Recreation and Parks Association suggesting that ATC may wish to combine its state trails symposium with ARPA’s annual state conference+ in February. Terry suggested that ATC provide sessions on the subjects of trail funding, outreach and education.

Meeting was adjourned at 12:00