

Mount Hood Chapter, PCTA Caretaker Meeting Minutes

February 13, 2019, 6:45 pm

Location: Clackamas REI

Attended: Bob, Jane, Pace, Thomas, Bill, Roberta, Kelley, Ron, Rob, Terry, JohnH, Leif, Chris, Kim, Tim, Sue, SteveP, Rosemary, SteveQ, Underbucker, Tammy, Ruth, Noelle, Tom Wiemann.

Notes: Kim Kovacs

Welcome

- **Absent:** Peter and Diane, Brooke, Tami
- **Announcements:** The government is now open, but the annual celebration was been postponed due to weather.

Round the Room

Work has been drastically reduced due to the government shutdown and weather.

- Peter and Diane (via email). We have recently (just before the big snow) hiked a couple sections in Washington near Wind River. We are slowly planning to day-hike (over the next year or two) as many sections as we can within the Mt. Hood chapter, so we become more familiar with it.
- Ron Goodwin. Multnomah Falls is still running and the road is plowed, however ODOT hasn't plowed the parking lot so people are parking illegally in the road. The sheriff's department is writing lots of tickets. People are better off to just keep going, but most don't. Mist Falls, just west of Multnomah, has iced over and people are climbing it even though it's only been frozen for two days (some Canadians who were interviewed said they wouldn't climb anything frozen less than two weeks).
- Robert Caldwell (Pace). Had a crew out on February 2 on Sedum Ridge. There was a drain that had gotten clogged with old tree rounds. They removed the debris and repaired the drain. They also patched up the trail which had become damaged. They had sunshine in spite of the predicted rainy day, and got done early.
- Roberta Cobb. "Illegal" logging was reported off Moody Street on the PCT and Trail 400, but it turned out that the Port of Cascade Locks was doing a logging project. She felt that not much trail work would be done in the Gorge for a while due to heavy snow. Leif added that the snow will cause damaged trees to break higher up, and will also result in a lot of downed limbs, so there will be lots of clean-up to do once the snow melts.
- Tammy Turner. Had a tabling event at the downtown REI associated with a thru hiking basics class held by Casey Jones. She got 4-5 people signed up while there. Michele Wier now has an email account and is on MailChimp; she's almost ready to take over. Tammy leaves in 25 days.
- John Hoffnagle. Yesterday the Senate voted to permanently reauthorize the Land and Water Conservation Fund, approving it by a 92-8 margin. The House is expected to pass it as well. It protects land in Oregon and Washington; in fact, every state is getting something out of this bill, which partially explains why it passed.
- Leif Hovin: No event on Saturday; hoping to get something scheduled for March. Stay tuned!

Reports

Columbia Cascades Regional Rep (Dana via email)

- Hawaii was great. Two feet of snow is quite a contrast. Here's to hoping we can get back on the trail soon.

North Cascades Regional Rep (Michael via email)

- Greetings everyone, we got a foot and a half of snow at my house over the last week in Seattle. It's melting now, but I'm definitely ready for Spring. I don't have too much to report. We have a meeting with the Gifford Pinchot National Forest scheduled for Tuesday at 10 AM. I sent an agenda out today. Feel free to contact me if there are other things you would like us to cover. There is of course a chance that the government may shutdown again before Tuesday. We will cross that bridge if we come it. Thank you all for your patience and flexibility. There was some good news on the national politics front. Many of you have probably seen that the Senate passed a permanent reauthorization of the Land and Water Conservation Fund yesterday on a vote of 92 to 8. PCTA has

been lobbying for LWCF for years. We have high hopes that the House will pass it as well and the bill will be signed into law. Anyway, I'm looking forward to seeing some of you on Tuesday. I hope folks have a great holiday weekend.

Chair (Leif)

- We need to get through the next two agency meetings, with CRGNSA and Gifford Pinchot, before plans can be made. There seems to be some personnel issues going on that are impacting decisions.
 - Roberta: Dawn's last day will be March 7, that she'll be going to Puerto Rico for two years, bringing their trail maintenance up to standards, including logging with crosscut saws. They're not sure who will take over. Eden will be covering as he has done in the past.

Partnership Crews (Leif)

- No report.

Leadership Committee Meeting (Steve)

- Jen Tripp says that logout count (with chainsaw vs. crosscut) will be added to the online report.
- Project reporting reminders
 - Feet of tread rehab is only that which meets spec. The total of all reports in that section can't come to more than the total mileage of the section. 1:1
 - To and From is where you start and finish work, NOT where you start hiking in.
 - The "miles of trail logged out" should only be entered if the day is devoted to doing logouts; if there is any maintenance done as well, the whole trail party is noted under "miles of trail maintenance".
 - If you do maintenance and logout, it's maintenance.
 - If you do only logout, it's logout.
 - If you bring a trail up to spec, it's recorded as feet of rehab AND miles of trail maintenance. Work is generally considered rehab when no work has been done on a trail in a long time (years); it should be so bad that it's difficult to walk through the area because of heavy brush.
 - Pace is trying to capture better data, getting down to the section by section level to get a more complete picture of the work.
 - Pace requested that when reporting, specify the section name followed by what was done (e.g., "Muddy Fork – Logout" or "Muddy Fork - Maintenance."). This will make it easier for him to categorize.
 - Chris Keil asked how work trips working on multiple sections should be handled. Pace said that you should use the main section where the work took place, or, ideally, file separate reports, one for each section.
 - The group was reminded that no work should be done when scouting. If you take someone with you it can be considered a project, but if you're solo, no work can be reported. A TCP is needed even for scouting.
- Bill continuing to develop the crew leader development program.

Advanced Skills Training (Roberta)

- Training will take place at Wind River on March 23-24, 2019. There will be two tracks:
 - Wilderness First Aid practice, held by Ruth. There will be room for 12 people. The group will practice lots of scenarios. She asked for incident write-ups to use as examples during the training – how the situation worked out, what you did, etc. They will also practice things like paperwork (CA1 and the SOAP form) and calling Columbia Dispatch. There will be no certification associated with this event; it will be practice only. If you look at the number of volunteer hours vs. the number of accidents, we have a great record, and it's good to practice these skills so that we can maintain that good record. Leif said he will bring Injury Packets to the next caretaker meeting.
 - The other track will be "Tread Perfection," led by Roberta and Dana. Part of the training will be in the classroom, part on the trail. There will be a fun (unofficial) certification at the end of this track: "Drainage Geek". Roberta plans to cover "everything about the dirt under our feet."
- We'll have the bunkhouse and PNW house available for overnight stays.
- Caretakers will be sent an invitation from EventBrite
- We'll gather for a potluck Friday night, the other meals will be provided.
- There was some discussion as to whether there'd be interest in a presentation Saturday night.

Gorge Trails Recovery Team (Roberta)

- There will be a meeting next Thursday. It was originally scheduled for December but got postponed due to the government shutdown. No work is planned for now.

Volunteer Coordinator (Rosemary)

- We had to cancel two events due to the snow. She's also been having ISP issues, and asked that if you're trying to contact her and haven't heard back in two days, please call.

Trail Skills College (Tammy)

- TSC is moving forward and everyone is doing what they're supposed to do. There will be a meeting next Thursday, which will be her last one, and then Michele Wier will take over. Everyone should have gotten their email regarding early registration, which starts February 26.

Outreach and Events (Tammy)

- There will be an event happening next Saturday; Terry and Bill will table for Tammy.
- June 8 is Get Outdoors day, and Michele has been introduced to the person in charge.
- REI has three or four more events they would like PCTA to table at; Michele will handle this.
- Tammy is gone until at least October and maybe November.

Tools (Terry)

- Roberta got new tools from Chris' neighbor that need to be added to the inventory.
- We received tabling equipment from Sacramento and Tammy brought it over to Roberta's. We got a popup tent with the PCTA logo on it, a stand-up map, and a flag with PCTA logo on it.
- Pace brought in new straps that can be used for carrying crosscut saws as recommended by Dolly Chapman. Terry would like to build a few sets, and have three or four at each cache. He may do that yet this winter.
- Terry thanked Tom on the tool team. He helped design a cabinet for the trailer to carry the chainsaws in. He also said that he's great at tool repair in addition to being active on the trail.
- David spoke about a purchase of 22 crosscut saws from a person closing out his inventory. Although purchased through Sacramento, most will stay in Oregon. Once they're refurbished he'll hand them out.

Training and Safety (Dana)

- Davide Roe: In conjunction with the Wind River Saw Certification event April 26-28, I have been asked to conduct an early saw safety refresher course. The objective of this class is to provide currently-certified sawyers who cannot attend Wind River with the formal classroom safety review required prior to recertification. Once completed, the sawyer can then schedule a field evaluation in conjunction with a logout project.
 - Prerequisites to attending this class:
 - A current National Saw Certification Card
 - Crosscut saw, chainsaw or both
 - A, B or C skill level
 - Current first aid and CPR certification cards
 - Will do it before the next caretaker meeting:
 - Wednesday, March 13, 3-6 PM at REI Clackamas (prior to Caretakers Meeting)
 - Attendees will leave the class with a signed evaluation and copies of their CPR and First Aid cards, that they'll hand to an instructor in the field. They'll need to follow up with the skills portion by the end of 2019, but since most logouts occur early in the season there shouldn't be a big gap. Most people prefer the skills certification to take place in the field.

Saw Program (Leif)

- There's more activity surrounding the saw program, with three areas of concentration: Policy; Training; and Recruitment. The epicenter is here at Mount Hood, but other regional folks are getting more involved. Leif will double-check to see if there's anything truly new in the training materials. There may be some minor differences, but if there's nothing major he'd like to use last year's training for another year.

- Roberta asked if a new JHA had been approved and David said it had. There are just two now: one for maintenance, one for scouting.
- The trail maintenance JHA was approved by Region 5, but it's valid for Region 6, as long as it's restricted to the PCT and feeder/alternate trails.
- A JHA is a "job" hazard analysis, not a "tool" hazard analysis, so some of the tool-specific information will be covered in the tailgate safety talk. We're also supposed to have a one-page overview we can provide to less-experienced trail leaders.

Budget (Little Brown)

- There's a new person working on the budget, Erin Lane. Bill had no new financial numbers.

Crew Leader Development (Pace and Little Brown)

- There's now a process in place outlining the steps needed to advance ACLs to Crew Leaders. It isn't a standard document distributed to everyone, but it can be requested. It guides training and creates a succession plan. Leif is still working on identifying mentors/skills. Once mentors are identified a meeting will be held to discuss next steps.

Stats (Pace)

- No crews, three that were scheduled were cancelled due to shutdown. Just one outreach event, a TSC meeting and admin reports.

	Jan 2019	Jan 2018	Jan 2017	Jan 2016
Total Volunteer Hours	334	816	261	833
Specialized hours	0	66	27	150
Number of Trail Crews	0	6	0	3
Miles Logged out	0	3	0	4
Miles Maintained	0	6	0	3
Feet of Rehab/Recon	0	2,497	0	30
Volunteer hours by Category				
Trail Maint - crews & scouting	0	400	3	213
Trail Maint - support	308	290	238	477
Trail Skills Training	23	126	20	139
Outreach Events	4	0	0	4
	334	816	261	833

Discussion Items

- Tammy said that Ryan Ojerio is still looking for instructors for Trail Skills College. She feels he has a really good mentoring system in place, and also needs assistant instructors (although there won't be a lead and an ACL; everyone will be equal).
- Steve asked if the trail to the top of Multnomah Falls is open. Ron said yes, but Trail 400 is not open near Oneonta, and neither is Wahclella, nor Eagle Creek.
- Forest Service parking passes are being mailed and people should get them this week. Let Leif know if you haven't gotten yours by the end of next week.

Past Events

This is a brief accounting of projects that occurred since the previous caretaker meeting. For a full(er) accounting of projects, visit <http://mthood.longtrails.com/projectreports/project-reports-2019.pdf>.

Trail Work

1. **January 18-19:** Tread Work near Herman Pinnacles: Frank
Canceled due to government shutdown.
2. **February 2:** Sedum Ridge Section drainage: Pace
Sedum Ridge Section of PCT 0.5 miles north of Road 2070
3. **February 5:** Herman Bridge Trail: Pace and Susan
Canceled due to weather
4. **February 12:** Herman Bridge Trail: Pace and Susan

Non-trail Events

1. **January 19-21:** Crosscut Sharpening: Dolly Chapman
2. **January 22-24:** Crosscut Sharpening (AST): Dolly Chapman
3. **January 30:** Thru Hike Basic tabling event at REI: Tammy
Downtown Portland REI.
4. **February 9:** Annual Celebration
Canceled due to weather (to be rescheduled).

Future Events

1. **March 13:** Caretaker Meeting at Clackamas REI
2. **March 22-23:** Advanced Skills Training
3. **April 12-14:** Trail Skills College
4. **April 26-28:** Wind River Saw Certification

Notes

- **8 Vacancies:** 1) Grand Meadows; 2) Steamboat Lake; 3) Twin Buttes; 4) Birkenfeld Mountain; 5) Table Mountain; 6) Lower Eagle Creek; 7) Upper Eagle Creek; 8) Indian Springs Trail 435
- **2 Reservations:** 1) Three Corner Rock North (Sue Malone); 2) Middle Eagle Creek (Susan McDonnell)
- **Columbia Dispatch:** Dispatch 7:30 am to 4:30 pm, Monday through Friday, beginning October 1, 2018, waccc@firenet.gov, 360-891-5140. Remember to submit a TCP to your agency partner, your dispatcher or alternate dispatcher, Dana, and Leif.