

Mount Hood Chapter, PCTA Caretaker Meeting Minutes

January 8, 2020, 6:45 pm

Location: Clackamas REI

Attended: Bob Arkes, Jane Arkes, Jerry Bentz, Robert Caldwell, Jennifer Calvery, Thomas Calvery, Bill Canavan, Roberta May, Ron Goodwin, Terry Hill, Peter Hoffman, Leif Hovin, Frank Jahn, Diane Kelso, Kim Kovacs, Tim Lagasse, Susan McDonnell, Rosemary Prescott, Steve Queen, Hilary Renshaw, Rick Schmidt, Tamara Sheets, Brooke Stevinson, Susan Tracy, Ruth Weston, Becky Wolf, Dana Hendricks (PCTA), Michael DeCramer (formerly Hanley...PCTA)

Notes: Kim Kovacs

Welcome

- **Welcome:** Michael DeCramer (formerly Hanley), PCTA's North Cascades Regional Representative
- **Announcements:** There are a couple of changes in the Caretaker meeting agenda. We'll be putting the chair report first, and whenever we have something from the Leadership Team (Steve's trying to transition from calling it the Leadership Committee to the Leadership Team) we'll have that upfront as well. Also, we're going to be doing trail tips, and this month we have Ruth.

Chapter Chair Report

- PDX tool cache status.
 - The new location for the PDX cache is still in flux, but it's trending toward erecting a 14'x22' tool shed in the parking lot at the Mazamas' headquarters at 44th & Stark. PCTA is looking at the funding, and we'll still need to look at shelving and other storage structures. It will be large and we'll be able to share it with the Mazamas. It'll have power. Rick asked who Leif had worked with; Rick had tried for a long time to get the Mazamas to work with PCTA. Leif cited a change in roles at the Mazamas. According to Dana, Jeff Hawkins had been on one of Susan McDonnell's crews at Eagle Creek, and it inspired him to help. Leif believes this will also foster a good relationship with them. They have tools that they don't use often, and we may be able to use those at some point. Once everything is in place, we'll be able to use it to store the kitchen gear and the tabling materials as well. Additionally, there's a potential for an "attic" where we'd store tools that are seldom used.
 - We will recruit for a tool cache host after a permanent location is established.
- Tool reservation system.
 - Low tech approach:
 1. Ensure that projects are on the Google Calendar.
 2. Check for projects before and after yours, and coordinate tool requirements with those crew leaders.
 3. Be considerate.
 - Bill needs access to the Google Calendar.
 - Leif said to make sure to put your upcoming trail party on the calendar that gets passed around the room or let him know later, and he'd enter the information. Tami asked the best way to do that, and Leif said to send an email with something like "Add to Calendar" in the subject line.
 - Steve passed around the calendar through May, and asked that people put their events in – with their name. He'll enter the events into the Google calendar, that's part of what he does after every caretaker meeting. Leif said it's especially important for large events.
 - Tami suggested adding colors, for example a different color for when kitchen gear is used. Leif said that should be assumed for any multi-day events. Roberta added that although you can color-code in Google, by the time it gets transferred the colors are gone.
 - Dana said we've got new kitchen gear coming, plus there's kitchen gear in Stevenson, so we should be able to support two overnights at once.
 - Steve will work on getting Sasquatch and Skyline crews on the calendar.
- We need new crew leaders in the pipeline. It seems like there's a lot of work being done by just a few people. Keep an eye out for those who are interested and show some talent, and then shoot their names to Bill. Bill added that people aren't very good at self-inviting, so if you see someone with leadership potential ask them if they're interested. Steve emphasized that they're not making a commitment, merely gauging interest.

- Jennifer Calvary is our new event coordinator.
- Susan McDonnell has been added to the leadership team.
- The Columbia Cascades Region's northern boundary has changed. Dana's boundary is moving north to between Mount Adams and Goat Rocks and the chapter's boundary will coincide with Dana's northern boundary. Road 5603 between Cowlitz and Mount Adams ranger districts will be the dividing line. Technically the Mount Adams district ends at the wilderness boundary, which is two miles south of the road, but the Mount Adams folks work to the road because it makes sense, so we will as well.

Round the Room

- Steve Queen – Kayla has been an ACL, but got a new job in Seattle and won't be with us anymore.
- Leif Hoven – Just getting back into the swing of things after the holidays. Hoping for more snow.
- Dana Hendricks – She's feeling better, but their car got rear-ended/totaled when coming back from Seattle, so things could be better. Everyone is okay.
- Jennifer Calvary – The date of the annual celebration will be 2/29 at the Pearson Air Museum, noon to 3:00 PM. She'll send out an announcement.
- Thomas Calvary – Nothing to report.
- Frank Jahn – He's been trying to get out with Susan but the weather hasn't been cooperating. He's going to Florida for a month in a couple of weeks.
- Michael DeCramer (Hanley) – They had a good meeting at Gifford Pinchot yesterday. He said he was sad he wouldn't be working with us, but that it makes sense to have Dana take over the territory.
- Tami Sheets – Nothing to report.
- Jane Arkes – Nothing to report, but they had a good holiday.
- Bob Arkes – He's going to miss Michael.
- Susan McDonnell – She's continued to be busy:
 - Went on the Tamanous Trail with Frank in late November.
 - Project on Little Eagle Creek with cleaning out culverts, doing some raking and rebenching.
 - Herman Creek .
 - Teakettle with Susan.
 - One Eagle Creek project on the 23rd, a bunch of rebenching between Tish Creek and Fern Creek.
 - Tried to have an Eagle Creek party this week but had to cancel due to torrential rain.
 - Leif asked if she has more coming up, and she replied that she did (L: rain or crews? S: "Both!")
- Susan Tracy – She also had a busy month last month:
 - Scouting on Teakettle section early in December.
 - Out moving rocks with Frank at Herman Creek – It was a large rock pile that took the entire day to move.
 - 16th – Had first work party with Susan's help on Teakettle to work on tread. They did about 1200' of rehab and another 300'-400' of clearing.
 - 23rd – She and her wife joined Susan at Eagle Creek.
 - She's committed to a string of future dates at Eagle Creek.
 - She wants to do at least one more work party at Teakettle late this month or mid-February.
- Ron Goodwin
 - January 1 – Big rain storm at Multnomah Falls which caused a lot of rockfall on the road and on peoples' windshields. There was a big backup, people stuck in traffic for over an hour.
 - Zo, the ranger out there, ran the loop the next day and found a tree down across the switchback on Wahkeena and a rockslide there as well. He'll work on that but will wait until it slows down a bit. He's got two weeks of wilderness EMT training coming up.
 - Also on the 1st someone found a grass widow at Catherine Creek. It's a couple of weeks earlier than normal, but it was 62 degrees that day.
 - Edan had sent out two people to clear out a log on the middle/lower trail. Seeing a forest service crew in the middle of winter is unusual.
 - It was almost an hour wait to get into the Multnomah Falls parking lot. They're supposed to have a bus that stops out there, but he sent two women out to catch it but the bus left without them. They didn't know what to do; Uber wouldn't come out that far. A guy in the gift shop overheard and volunteered to take them. Bus is run by a private company, not ODOT; they don't show up on holidays, either.
- Jerry Bentz – Nothing to report.

- Ruth Weston – Her Achilles tendon is better. Her house is almost sold. Her friend has a 2-year-old husky-German shepherd mix that needs fostering for a few weeks. She just had a baby and doesn't have time to give it the attention it needs.
- Becky Wolf – Nothing to report, but glad to be fairly healthy again.
- Peter Hoffman – He and Diane were on Frank's rake-a-thon. Just before New Year's did a hike up Teakettle and saw the nice work Susan had done there. Ran into a couple of other hikers who commented on how nice the trail looked. There's a 12" log across the trail that they couldn't move; he moved a couple of smaller logs he found.
- Terry Hill – He's got some tools that aren't usable for trail work any longer. If no one wants them he'll throw them out. They're usable, but not for trail work. Leif said that at some point you just need to dispose of them.
- Bill Canavan – Nothing on his section, but he does have information about Brooke's section. He was at a meeting at which Dean mentioned that they're expecting a bridge to fail this year. They're trying to find \$150,000 to fix it, but it may fail before they can get a replacement in. There will be a section that'll be hard to ford for a year or two. This is on the Muddy Fork (northern end of Mount Adams Wilderness). The creek is no longer going under the whole bridge and it's undermining the bank on one side. They're going to need to install a 45-50' bridge. Brooke asked for clarification, whether it's in that rocky place. Bill said yes, that they keep armoring it but they're still expecting it to fail.
- Roberta May – She went out on a few crews that others have mentioned. As of today, rcobb@pcta.org doesn't work; don't use it.
- Robert Caldwell – He was out on four crews, once with Frank, with Susan on Teakettle, and two with Sue Malone on her Three Corner Rock section. Mostly, though, he's been working on a Trail Tools Manual. There are four copies, one to be put at each of the cache locations, that has a picture and brief description of each tool. Steve will post a copy on the web site. Robert hopes it'll solve some of the confusion. Please let him know if you see anything that can be improved.
- Rick Schmidt – Nothing to report.
- Brooke Stevinson – She apparently has a bridge on her section that's about to go out. (See Bill's report.)
- Tim Lagasse – His wife said it's snowing at their place, but it's not sticking.
- Steve Queen
 - Asked Frank if he spoke about his projects? Frank didn't – he spoke about going on vacation. Led the rake-a-thon on his section, where they raked leaves and worked on drainage. Led a crew on Herman Creek primarily to rid ourselves of the rockslide there while Roberta took a group up and worked on tread. Scouted Gillette Lake.
 - Usually passes around the Trail Status Report but since it's the first of the year there's no status yet.
 - Earlier today Steve got a gut punch and could feel his organs move. He said all he could think of was Bob, and that he would have to be life-flighted somewhere.

Review any near misses that weren't discussed already.

- Leif spoke about concerns about a dead tree near his property, which survived a wind storm even though the top of a live tree didn't. You just can't predict these things. So remember to look up when you're on the trail!

Trail Tip

- Ruth – Wound care. There are two different kinds, and things in the first aid kit that'll help:
 - Abrasions. You should have an irrigation syringe in your first aid kit. Find the cleanest water you can and fill the syringe. The nice thing is you don't have to touch the person (for those of you with boundary issues). Squirt the water as hard as you can until all the dirt and rocks are washed out, which could take many attempts. Wash it, dry it, put a big bandage on it.
 - Deep cuts, like a sawing injury, where things are really bad. There's a new substance that helps to stop bleeding called CELOX. It's a packet filled with a blood-clotting powder. You have to hold open the wound and dump the packet into it. She demoed, using an arm-shaped pumpkin loaf, chocolate syrup and cake sprinkles.
 - There was discussion about when and why to use this second solution. Ruth suggested trying a bandage first, but if it's still saturating it after five minutes to go with the clotting solution (and to check your watch, as it'll seem like an eternity). Steve asked why not use it right away? Leif said it'll burn very badly, since it works by cauterizing the wound, so if gauze is working, stick with that. Pace mentioned that we're advised to never remove the bandage after it's been applied, put more on instead; the consensus was that yes, that's the proper protocol, and CELOX should only be a last-ditch effort.

Reports

Columbia Cascades Regional Rep (Dana)

- Mid-Oregon has scheduled their Wilderness First Aid two-day course at Scio. There are 20 spaces available, and after their folks sign up there may be slots left over, if you want to get in. It also includes CPR. It'll be February 22-23.
- There will be a meeting January 16 regarding PGE building new trails adjacent to the PCT at Timothy Lake.

North Cascades Regional Rep (Michael)

- Already hit on the major points of the Gifford Pinchot meeting yesterday (chair report).
- Dean's been working on trying to get the money for the Mount Adams Muddy Fork bridge for about six months. Hopefully they'll come up with it.
- Some staffing changes are happening. Robin Rose, recreation staff officer for many years at the Gifford Pinchot, retired at the end of December. They're hoping to have a new person in that role in the spring. They're also waiting on a new forest supervisor for the Gifford Pinchot.
- Environmental assessment came up yesterday. Helicopter training all over the state of Washington. The PCTA objected to it on grounds that it would go over the PCT and negatively impact the wilderness experience. It was consequently shifted west of Mount Saint Helens to avoid wilderness areas.
- New boundary at 5603 (Potato Hill) – He appreciates everyone understanding surrounding the confusion over the northern boundary. Moving forward there's no reason we can't continue to do projects in the area. We should still be able to camp at Midway Meadows. White Pass chapter has a steward for that area but we just need to communicate about cross boundary projects.
- Once again mentioned he appreciated working with our group and we'll be well-served by Dana.
- Pace – asked about the Muddy Fork bridge. Who'd do it – contractors, forest service or volunteers? Michael said it'll be a big steel stringer bridge. Dean's put several in like it at the Dark Divide. Backcountry Horsemen of Washington helped with some of them, but they do often use contractors.
- PCTA has come into a large number of Mountain House meals (someone donated about \$20,000 worth of it). There's an entire room filled with them in Sacramento. Jennifer suggested giving it out at the volunteer appreciation event.
- Got married. He'll be changing his last name to DeCramer to match hers.

Outreach and Events (Jennifer)

- Annual Celebration update. Dana's been a great help in getting in touch with folks at the Forest Service. Any suggestions for what you'd like to see at the event this year? She's looking for speakers.

Volunteer Coordinator (Rosemary)

- Eagle Creek crews are filling up quickly. She's been fielding lots of calls and emails about it. Kim suggested sending them to TKO (also doing work in the burn area) and WTA (working on the other side of the Gorge).

Trail Skills College (Tammy)

- Early registration opens 3/16, open registration 3/23.

Training and Safety (Dana)

- Advanced skills training. They decided it's been a struggle to find good sites, and consequently won't be holding it at Wind River. They will now focus on finding projects and scheduling advanced skill training around the individual projects throughout the year and brand them as training.
- Leif added that they're trying to tie this in with the saw program as well. Tami asked if the saw training will be announced earlier? Leif said it'll be announced/open for registration the same time TSC is. The training will be the first week of April. There won't be training at Estacada this year.

Tools (Terry)

- Discussed the changes to the tolls at the Bridge of the Gods in Cascade Locks. The toll will rise to \$2.00 per car, and tickets will no longer be valid. If you are a frequent crosser you can now by a Breezeby transponder, which attaches to your windshield and allows auto reload of fees. It'll be good for both Bridge of the Gods and the Hood River bridge. You can turn unused tickets in at Cascade Locks.

Saw Program (Leif)

- There's a meeting coming up to talk about the changes the Forest Service has implemented. He'll find out more details at the end of the month.

Budget (Little Brown)

- We don't have a budget yet. Last year it took until March to hear what money will be available. We spent all the money in our budget for 2019.

Crew Leader Development (Pace and Little Brown)

- We're currently losing more people than we're gaining.

Stats (Pace)

- For the end of year calculations, we have just over 18,000 total hours. It's slightly below 2016 and 2017 but we're up on total trail hours. He believes that people may not be reporting admin hours. He asked that the group pay attention to specialized hours as well. There are no specialized hours for scouting, but crew leaders should be reporting specific time as crew leaders, on trail plus prep time. Also, please be sure to include the section name in the title so he doesn't have to read through the details to find it. This isn't the same as the trailhead name. Leif asked about specialized hours for training. Pace said that instructors and co-leaders/assistants do get specialized hours, students do not. Tim asked if horse packing counts as specialized hours. Pace said yes, but not if you're just a rider.

Final Comments and Discussion Items

- Ruth said to please do not leave confidential information in the first aid kit.
- Steve asked that someone volunteer to give the trail tip in February. No one did immediately and he asked people to let him know if they're interested. And if not, he may have to appoint someone.

Past Events

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

Trail Work and Scouting

1. **November 22:** Gillette Lake Section scouting: Frank Jahn
2. **November 23:** BOG Oregon Side: Rock work near the Pinnacle: Roberta Cobb
3. **November 29:** Road 2000 Nov 19 brushing work: Sue Melone
4. **November 29:** Lower Eagle Creek Scouting: Susan McDonnell
5. **November 30:** Tamanous Trail/Gillette Lake Section of PCT Raking and Drainage: Frank Jahn
6. **December 2:** Lower Eagle Creek Treadwork: Susan McDonnell & Susan Tracy
7. **December 7:** Teakettle Spring Section PCT - Scouting: Susan Tracy
8. **December 10:** Herman Creek Rock Slide Removal: Frank Jahn
9. **December 16:** Teakettle Spring Section Treadwork: Susan Tracy & Susan McDonnell
10. **December 22:** Lower Eagle Creek scouting: Susan McDonnell
11. **December 23:** Lower Eagle Creek treadwork: Susan McDonnell, Roberta May (Cobb)
12. **December 26:** Three Corner Rock drainage: Sue Melone

Other Events

1. **November 22, 9:30 AM to 12:30 PM:** MHN/PCTA Annual Coordination Meeting at Estacada ranger station. Scheduled to attend: Dana Hendricks, Robert Caldwell, Dan Dahlke, Ron Goodwin, Leif Hovin, Chris Keil, Susan McDonnell, Angie Panter, David Roe, Susan Tracy, Becky Wolf
2. **January 7, 10 AM to 12:30 PM:** GPNF/PCTA Winter Meeting at GPNF Headquarters in Vancouver

Future Events

1. **January 16, 1:00 PM to 3:00 PM in Estacada:** Discussion with USFS/PGE/PCTA for new trails at Timothy Lake at Estacada ranger station
2. **February 12, 6:45 PM:** Caretaker Meeting at REI

Notes

- **14 Vacancies:** 1) Potato Hill; 2) Grand Meadows; 3) Steamboat Lake; 4) Twin Buttes; 5) Panther Creek; 6) Wind River; 7) Birkenfeld Mountain; 8) Table Mountain; 9) Teakettle Springs; 10) Timberline - South; 11) Gorge Trail 400; 12) Lower Eagle Creek Trail 440; 13) Upper Eagle Creek Trail 440; 14) Indian Springs Trail 435
- **1 Reservation:** 1) Benson Plateau (reserved for Susan Tracy)
- **Columbia Dispatch:** Dispatch 7:30 am to 4:30 pm, Monday to Friday, waccc@firenet.gov, 360-891-5140. Remember to submit a TCP to your agency partner, your dispatcher or alternate dispatcher, Dana, and Leif.