

Mount Hood Chapter, PCTA Caretaker Meeting Minutes

April 8, 2020, 6:45 pm

Location: Microsoft Teams Remote

Attended: Robert Caldwell, Jennifer Calvery, Thomas Calvery, Dan Dahlke, Rob Heyman, Terry Hill, Peter Hoffman, Leif Hoven, Graham Hulbert, Frank Jahn, Renee Janssen, Todd Janssen, Chris Keil, Diane Kelso, Kim Kovacs, Stacey Lee, Roberta May, Susan McDonnell, Sue Melone, Kim Owen, Rosemary Prescott, Steve Queen, David Roe, Brooke Stevenson, Susan Tracy, Tammy Turner, Ruth Weston, Becky Wolf

Notes: Kim Kovacs

First remote caretaker meeting due to the coronavirus pandemic

Welcome

- The meeting started at 6:49. Steve welcomed the group to the Mount Hood Chapter's first virtual meeting. There were 26 connections at the start of the meeting, which is a relatively heavy load for Microsoft Teams (in the end, it performed well). He asked the group to mute themselves if they weren't speaking, and he mentioned that he doesn't multitask well, so please be patient with him.
- No trail tips this month.
- Listed off everyone that he thought was on the call to confirm that his list of attendees was accurate.
- Welcome to Graham Hulbert, who hopes to become a Caretaker. This is his first meeting.

Chapter Chair Report

- Leif welcomed the group. He said that it's new and different, but it's a chance to connect. There are lots of things happening in the background, organizations working behind the scenes.
- There's an extension for expiring sawyer certificates in the works, more on that later.
- The weather's making everyone eager to get out, but even hiking's been curtailed.
- Regarding the tool shed, the current conditions have slowed progress on that, so for the current season it'll be status quo.
- Roberta is stepping down from her leadership role. She wants to concentrate on leading crews on her section. Thank you for your longevity of amazing service.
- There are roles and opportunities available; talk to Leadership if you're interested in stepping up.

Round the Room

- Steve will call on people since there's no "circle." Let us know how you're doing; obviously there hasn't been a lot of trail work going on in March.
- Robert Caldwell – He's just staying home. He's thankful he's not living in town. He's still healthy, and he's getting stuff done around the house.
- Thomas Calvery – They're also staying at home. His First Aid class was rescheduled for June, and a logout is planned on his section for early May, but we'll see.
- Jennifer Calvery – Her company has switched over to acquiring PPE and they're also making hand sanitizer. She's been working a lot.
- Dan Dahlke – Dan's working from home some, working downtown some. He's working with the Forest Service on a planned logout of Timothy Lake in mid-May, but it depends on what the Forest Service has to say. All projects are on hold until they let us back in.
- Tim Lagasse (e-mail read by Steve) – Tim said the weather was too nice to be inside, so he's been spraying weeds on his property. He's ready to go when allowed back in. He and Sarah are working from home.
- Rob Heyman – He said it's good to be back. He's working from home and looking forward to getting back out. He's got a new position he's trying to learn without any training, so it's been interesting. He's doing some design and preliminary engineering, focusing on utility rights-of-way, and dealing with relocations once a project goes through.
- Terry Hill – Learned today that Kate Brown says schools are closed through the end of the year, which will likely apply to all public areas as well. He has four grandchildren he's helping out with, who are around a lot, lots of laundry, lots of vacuuming, but they live in Happy Valley which has a nice park; he can get in a five-mile walk

anytime he wants. He's been doing a lot of walking at the Salish Ponds as well. His neighbor Chris Birch (another tool team member) has been going with him. They did trail work for two hours at the ponds with Reinhardts. He's healthy, studies nutrition every morning (2-3 hours), learned a lot about the COVID virus. He doesn't mind being home.

- Peter Hoffman & Diane Kelso – (Showed up wearing PCTA bandanas as masks.) They haven't been out on the trail, but have a six-mile walk they can do from the house to stay in shape. They've mostly been doing farm work. They cut about four cords of firewood, burning weeds in the orchard, and trimmed about 500' of hedge.
- Leif Hovin – Hanging out and putting in a whole lot of time at his computer; just working from home and laying low.
- Frank Jahn – Kudos to Steve for putting this together. He's hanging in there. He lives alone, and is trying to get outside as much as possible. He spent a week hiking the Coast just before things shut down. He's been taking drives up the Gorge and hiked The Dalles waterfront trail, which is still open. He's spent more time working in his yard than in the last five years that he's lived there. Staying busy but eager to get back on the trail, both for hiking and doing trail work.
- Chris Keil – Still gainfully unemployed, so he's got lots of time on his hands at this point. He got an offer from HP but it got pulled because of the shutdown. He's been taking walks with his dog. Did some quasi-outdoor work today, finally cut in a garden, which he's been meaning to do for the last 10 years.
- Kim Kovacs – Just before the shutdown, had a couple of meetings with Bill Canavan, who will be helping her with becoming the Caretaker for the Wind River section. He went over the paperwork, and hiked the section with her and her husband, Tom. Once we're allowed back out she plans to do more serious scouting, and will be asking for help. Like everyone else, she's doing yard work and going for walks; she lives near the Salish Ponds, too, so gets there often.
- Roberta May – The shutdown happened Friday, got a call from Dana at 4:00 PM Friday that her Sunday crew with Sue Melone had been cancelled. She's also cancelled the Timothy Lake crew; even if we could get back on the trail May 1, that doesn't give her enough time to plan the project. Still holding the advanced skill training on June 1-2-3 (rock wall building); still hoping that'll happen, and that's the only thing on her docket for the PCTA. She's thankful she has 5 acres of land to work on. She's got lots to do; she spent the winter getting rid of a lot of blackberry, and as a result she's seeing osoberry growing up and salmonberry in bloom, which was completely hidden by the blackberries last summer. Got the barn done and she's hoping to adopt a second goat this weekend for her other goat Yeti, so he has a companion.
- Susan McDonnell – The same day the PCTA shut down she became unemployed, so she's had a lot of time on her hands. She's been doing lots of things in her yard and doing a little bit of hiking in her neighborhood with her husband, including some hiking in Forest Park. She's pretty much sticking to home. She's thankful she has a third of an acre, it gets her out at least. She's living with five other people, including a daughter who's in quarantine because of possible exposure in Nevada when she was doing research in a very small town. She spent five nights in hotels and then came home. She lives in her bedroom and has a bathroom, and it's been fairly amusing to take her food, leaving the tray outside her room. So not a lot going on. She's going to volunteer for Tualatin Hills Parks and Rec, her former employer. She'll have the opportunity to do trail work as a volunteer at Cooper Mountain. As soon as we're allowed back in she's ready.
- Sue Melone – She used to have to travel 50% for her job, and now doesn't have to; she's loving working from home, and Birch, her dog, is loving it as well. She's been crazy-busy, working something like 70 hours a week, but she enjoys her job so it's been OK. She lives near the Trolley Trail, so she and Birch get out for about three miles a day. She's thankful to have a good workout situation in her garage that she's had for years and years, so she's able to stay in shape. She was supposed to have a crew out on March 26 that got cancelled. Frank and Pace had scouted and done some trimming, so the trail was looking good, but it'll be looking shaggy again soon. She's disappointed that saw school is cancelled. She asked that if people know of places to go outside, that they share.
- Kim Owen – He and Pam spent March in Arizona and California before the shutdown, but had to head home once the public lands were closed. They've been enjoying the wildflowers in Mosier from the road. Did sneak in a work party (legally) for the Nature Conservancy up at Tom McCall in concert with Bill Hawley who helped them construct some really great steps, as well as with TKO, which was, as usual, interesting. Most people don't realize that he and Pam have been foster parents for the Grand Meadows stretch, just south of Bob Arkes's section, part of Tyler's old section. Will set up a work party in that area as soon as it becomes legal. For sawing, if people need to become recertified for crosscut, he'll try to make himself available to hold small classes, at least give a lecture so people can recertify once things are opened back up. Drop him a line if interested and he'll see what he can put together for late June or July. Otherwise just hanging out, doing work at home, enjoying it, doing a lot of biking, too.

- Rosemary Prescott – She was in Las Vegas during March, so wasn't at the last meeting. While the whole world was starting to shut down she was at a concert. She works for New Season's, so she's working a lot. Working mostly at home, but is an extrovert, so she's going insane. She's going for runs, purposely trying to get lost so she learns her neighborhood. Did 8.5 miles Sunday with her dog. She's learning what it's like to live inside.
- Steve Queen – He's one of the lucky ones who's still working. He's not an extrovert, so working from home is actually pretty darned good for him. He's always hated working from home, mostly because he needed the interaction with the technical side of things. But he brought all the technology home, set up his home office, and amazingly it's really worked out well. He's way more productive at home than he thought he'd be, certainly more productive than when he's done it in the past. He and Vanessa have been geocaching on the weekends; it's a great activity that allows for social distancing. Two of their friends wanted to get married; Vanessa is able to marry people, so they went to Salem to officiate. They put up mason bees last night; they haven't hatched yet. Also finally put food in the squirrel feeder he's been ignoring for the past ten years. Emotionally it's been up and down, but it's evening out. His kids are doing well; his son's in Eugene, his daughter's in El Paso. They hate being locked down; his daughter can't go into the lab at UTEP.
- Vanessa Mohler – Teaches second grade and has been exposed to the world of Distance Learning – building the plane while flying it. It's been an excruciatingly painful/beautiful experience. She is Facebook/phone calling coworkers so she can low-tech/high-tech them through how to do everything they need to do, since she's also the technology person for her building. She misses her students like crazy, and they keep asking when they can go back to school. She's supporting a lot of parents emotionally, because they're not used to interacting with their kids all day, every day. She's supporting a lot of people by giving out the mental health phone number, and letting them know to call her if they can't get a hold of anyone else, since no one has to go through this alone. As teachers they're all working through this together. She said it's a wild, bumpy place right now, but she's also seeing a lot of interesting and cool things from her students. They're doing things at home that they never could do in the classroom (bridges, rock gardens). They're doing all these magical things at home with their parents and bonding. These are the kids that when they become adults will help build a much better world.
- Todd Janssen – They have two 13-year-old boys and have had some fun times over the past few days. They moved into a new house not long ago, and it's a chance to do trail building in their house – they put about 200' of new trail in, put in some stairs and retaining walls, and got three chickens. They work from home normally, and it's going pretty well.
- Renee Janssen - They put on events, which have been cancelled at least for now. They're pushing out what they can to the fall, and having to cancel some outright. It's disappointing, not only to them but to the people who run their races as well. It's a strange time right now, but they're trying to hold on to the positive.
- Graham Hulbert – Not too much going on. He came down with all the symptoms of COVID the first week of March but wasn't tested since he didn't need to be hospitalized. He had a fever for a week, got better, and then overdid it and the virus got into his lungs. It took him out for a month. He feels better now but his lungs still hurt and he still can't exert much. He quit his job in January so he could volunteer more, try to get a job with a nonprofit, and travel (he planned to rent his house out and live in his van). He's hoping to become a Caretaker for the Timberline area, or the adjacent part of it to Frog Lake – but he'll go wherever he's needed.
- Stacey Lee – Had their mid-Oregon chapter annual meeting via Webinar. It went well, and there are exciting plans in the works, but of course they're all on hold now. She's still registered for the Allingham Trail Skills College. She also registered for Thomas's trail crew in May, if it happens (she's not holding her breath). Like Chris, she's still gainfully unemployed, so she's spending a lot of time interviewing and applying for jobs. She's hearing "this is on hold" a lot. She moved into her house about a year ago, so has lots of home projects to keep her busy. She lives along a public right-of-way in SW Portland that's maintained by Southwest Trails. There's a lot of ivy, so she's been pulling that, and she's been working on a pollinator garden along that trail as well, with others. She's trying to get outside to exercise, so still doing a bit of running. Her trail race in August isn't cancelled – yet. Social distancing hasn't been easy since so many people are out there exercising as well. She's been working on getting her garage gym in shape. She's trying to get into a routine, since it's easy to get lazy about things right now.
- David Roe – There's only one event scheduled, a chainsaw logout from Frog Lake to Upper Twin Lake. It was scheduled for May 16, but since Mount Hood isn't scheduled to open until May 8, and since there's at least a 50% chance that'll be extended, he's up in the air as to whether or not that'll happen. Since we're having problems recertifying sawyers, he's going to post logouts to the sawyer distribution list before putting it on Eventbrite. Those people can show up an hour early, and David will give them updates to the current policies and procedures, and then get them recertified on the trail. There's also a possibility that the Forest Service will extend certifications by 12 months; he's expected to have the final word next Tuesday. That would help us a lot, especially since we're getting such a late start this year. In the meantime he's just working on the farm and in the saw shop.

- Becky Wolf – She’s staying at home, self-isolating. She lives alone, and is tired of talking to the walls. She has plenty to do on her farm, especially since the weather’s nice.
- Susan Tracy – She’s not working and so has lots of free time, spends time hiking the neighborhoods in Vancouver and running. Her wife’s at home working so she doesn’t have to worry about her. It’s pretty quiet, the world has slowed down a lot. She’s looking forward to getting back out.
- Brooke – She could not unmute. We missed you Brooke!
- Ruth Weston – One of the fortunate ones still going to work every day. Her people haven’t been affected personally by the virus, but they’re trapped in their assisted living facilities and are going crazy. It’s a little taxing, but they’re still seeing people in the clinics. Not as much bingo going on, not a lot of people playing “Country Roads” every day, so good and bad.
- Tammy Turner – She’s managing to not kill her partner or her dog, so she thinks she’s doing pretty well, although it’s difficult getting stuck inside. She has a bum hip – she has bursitis and can’t walk. Her saddest day was Sunday, when John Prine died. Yesterday she did a 2.5 hour phone call with “Rewilding the Gorge” at Dana’s request (since Dana is on vacation). It was interesting, but long, and not much was decided. They were originally working on a stewardship program in the Gorge, but it became a conversation about COVID-19 and what we’re going to do going forward. She’s not working, since no one’s travelling so she can’t go stay with anyone’s dogs.

Review any near misses that weren’t discussed already.

Trail Tip

- None for April
- Roberta - Tread reconstruction
- Steve - Water and gravity...what water wants

Reports

Regional Rep (Dana)

- On vacation.

Volunteer Coordinator (Rosemary)

- Nothing to report.

Outreach and Events (Jennifer)

- Nothing to report.

Trail Skills College (Tammy)

- Cancelled and probably won’t get rescheduled. They have a meeting on the 24th to talk about what they’ll do going forward.

Training and Safety (Dana)

- On vacation.

Tools (Terry)

- John Arp is stepping back from his role as tool host in Stevenson. Terry has offered to take over looking over that cache. Leif thanked Terry for his support, and said he was grateful for Jon’s work on it. It looks great and it’s ready to go.
- Kim Owen contacted the Forest Service, and as of March there are no planned frequency changes on the radios, so we should be good to go for the upcoming season. Let him know if there are problems. As far as he knows, all except one radio are up to date.

Saw Program (Leif)

- They had a call talking about education. They may try to do online training, stay tuned. There's a meeting with the Forest Service, so if there is an extension that's where it'll be announced. We may try to do some saw training once we get the green light. He hopes to use the open sections of the PCT for certifications. He did see that the American Heart Association is extending their certifications for 120 days.

Budget (Little Brown)

Bill wasn't on the call, and may be on his way to hike the CDT. Susan is filling in for him. She said they do have a budget now, but she doesn't understand the data yet. Kim Owen offered to help; he was the budget person before Bill.

Crew Leader Development (Pace and Little Brown)

- No report.

Stats (Pace)

- We're behind last year due to the closures. We only have 369 hours, compared to 1000 at this point last year. Obviously it'll be a slow year.

	Mar 2020	Mar 2019	Mar 2018	Mar 2017	YTD Mar 2020	YTD Mar 2019	YTD Mar 2018	YTD Mar 2017
Total Volunteer Hours	369	1,022	3,286	898	1,501	1,661	5,230	1,840
Specialized hours	53	223	668	119	240	263	807	233
Number of Trail Crews	3	5	17	7	12	6	29	11
Miles Logged out	3	9	6	11	7	9	8	13
Logs cleared, crosscut					10			
Logs cleared, chainsaw	18				69			
Miles Maintained	4	10	10	11	13	10	21	15
Feet of Rehab/Recon	650	1,623	9,650	850	1,970	1,723	14,032	850
Volunteer hours by Category								
Trail Maint - crews & scouting	209	418	1,799	545	930	469	2,713	879
Trail Maint - support	140	237	330	266	443	752	925	829
Trail Skills Training	21	360	1,135		54	397	1,483	36
Outreach Events		7	22	87	74	44	110	97
	<u>369</u>	<u>1,022</u>	<u>3,286</u>	<u>898</u>	<u>1,501</u>	<u>1,661</u>	<u>5,230</u>	<u>1,840</u>

Final Comments and Discussion Items

Steve thanked everyone for coming. He said that he was worried how our first remote meeting would go, but it went really well.

Meeting ended at 8:00 PM.

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. **None** due to pandemic response

Other Events

1. **None** due to pandemic response

Future Events

1. **May 13, 6:45 PM:** TBD

Notes

- **11 PCT Vacancies:** ➤ Grand Meadows, ➤ Steamboat Lake, ➤ Twin Buttes, ➤ Panther Creek, ➤ Wind River, ➤ Birkenfeld Mountain, ➤ Table Mountain, ➤ Teakettle Springs, ➤ Timberline - South, ➤ Twin Lakes, ➤ Little Crater Lake
- **4 Non-PCT Vacancies:** ➤ Gorge Trail 400, ➤ Lower Eagle Creek Trail 440, ➤ Upper Eagle Creek Trail 440, ➤ Indian Springs Trail 435
- **1 Reservation:** ➤ Benson Plateau (Susan Tracy)
- **2 Fosterings:** ➤ Birkenfeld Mountain (Thomas Calvary), ➤ Teakettle Springs (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.