

**Arizona Trail Association Board of Directors  
Meeting Minutes  
August 18, 2018  
10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.  
The Nature Conservancy Hart Prairie Preserve**

**Board Members present: Rob Mason, Ambika Balasubramaniyan, Steve Anderson, Phyllis Ralley, David Benson, Jan Hancock, C.W. Payne, Susan Lagerman, Denis Ryan, Kent Taylor**

**Board Members absent: Ben Murphy, Fred Gaudet**

**ATA Staff Members: Matt Nelson**

**Visitors: Peter John Runge, NAU; Patricia Foster, member; Robert Foster, member; Larry Snead, former Board Member.**

ITEM	ITEM DESCRIPTION	ACTION STEPS
1	<p>Steve Kinback of The Nature Conservancy welcomed us to Hart Prairie Preserve and shared some local history.</p> <p>Steve Anderson called the meeting to order at 10:09 a.m. and welcomed everyone. He called for approval of last meeting's minutes. Rob mentioned a change on Budget Item #6 then moved to approve with change, Kent seconded. Approval unanimous.</p>	
2	<p><b>Trail Operations Report – Matthew Nelson (see attached)</b> Shawn was absent due to the birth of a grandchild so Matthew gave highlights of his report.</p> <p>Forest closure and lack of funds shut down all summer projects. Fortunately many have been rescheduled for the fall.</p> <p>There has been in work in Grand Canyon National Park to maintain and improve the AZT between Kaibab Trailhead on the North Rim to the Forest/Park boundary. AZCC, with Zach's supervision, is to spend six weeks there.</p> <p>We've applied for a grant for water collectors in areas of the trail devoid of water. Jan mentioned potential resistance from ranchers because "the smell of water attracts cows" but Matthew said this is a sealed system that overflows into a trough for wildlife and cattle unless land managers choose to exclude cattle from the wildlife water source.</p> <p>New Superior area trails plan will include 35 miles of trails near Picketpost Mountain, with a link to Superior High School.</p> <p>Matt discussed the dangerous situation on Harshaw Road near Patagonia. Haul trucks from a mine are making it unsafe for travel even by passenger car. All entities deny responsibility for the road. There is an 18-mile re-route planned</p>	<p>Letter to Tonto NF Supervisor.</p>

	<p>using USFS and private lands.</p> <p>Rosemont Copper increased their commitment to \$685,000 for trail construction, trailheads, gates, signs, fences, water source and other voluntary mitigation measures, which will be given to the ATA once they have all key permits in hand.</p> <p>A discussion of cleaning the sand from underpass on Highway 77, which has to be done at least twice a year, led to an idea of contacting a Sand and Gravel company to possibly do the work in exchange for keeping the sand and/or underwrite the cost of a contractor doing this annually. ADOT has committed to doing it annually each November, but that's not enough to keep the trail open and accessible under the highway.</p> <p>Susan moved and David seconded a motion that Matthew send a letter to the Tonto National Forest Supervisor about a fence that was built across the trail using barbed wire and living trees for posts. This fence, installed by a ranching lessee, is the result of lack of communication between Recreation and Range Management Staff on the Forest, and the ATA does not want to see this happen in other areas.</p>	
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<p><b>3</b></p>	<p><b>Financial Report – Matthew Nelson (see attached)</b>  With government monies being reduced and fundraising becoming a challenge, the Board needs to step up to help raise money. Ambika suggested a Go Fund Me campaign.</p> <p>We had a drop in corporate donations due to a glitch in the automated renewal mailings through our new website.</p> <p>Matthew plans a September end-of-year outreach and Phyllis is to look into the Facebook birthday campaign she held this year. She is to ask Debbie how much of the \$260 donated actually made it to the ATA and when.</p> <p>Jan reported on the State Parks Directors meeting in Sedona this fall.</p> <p>New books:  “Wanderlove”, by Mike Cavaroc and Rodo Sofranac’s “A Red Tail Tale on the Arizona Trail” and Phyllis spoke of “Trail Tales” by Paul Kautz about the animals he encountered along the Arizona Trail during his hike. Sirena Dufault is writing a Day Hiking Guide coming out in 2019.</p> <p>The Land and Water Conservation (LWCF) is set to expire on September 30, 2018. Matthew reported announced that the Wilderness Society will pay for any Board Member to participate in their Washington DC trip in September to advocate for support of LWCF. They will pay airfare and room for anyone interested. Susan offered to travel and represent the ATA.</p> <p>Tonto National Forest Service is seeking comments on “Roadless Areas.” Backcountry Horsemen have been very vocal on this.</p> <p>Matthew is working on attaining a five-year routine maintenance agreement for trail work to expedite the approval process which is currently taking too long and is alienating our volunteers.</p> <p>Matthew reported on the Seed of Stewardship and Gear Girls programs and the amazing work that Treven and Sabrina have been doing.</p> <p>Matthew invited everyone to Arizona Trail Day in Flagstaff on September 8 in Buffalo Park in Flagstaff.</p> <p>Matthew announced that Freeport McMoRan is drilling three test holes and there are six mining operations that are currently impacting or stand to impact the Arizona Trail.</p> <p>LUNCH BREAK</p>	<p><b>Results of Phyllis’s FB fundraising campaign.</b></p> <p><b>Submit comments on Tonto NF Roadless Areas.</b></p>
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4	<p><b>Archiving AZT and ATA History at NAU Cline Library – Peter John Runge</b>  Peter gave us an overview of what is involved in archiving our records and Rob reported on his tour of the Archives on Friday.  A sub-committee was established to review all the details: Jan Hancock, Susan Lagerman, Tom Coulson (was drafted, subject to contacting him), Steve Anderson, Phyllis Ralley and Ambika Balasubramaniyan.  The Committee will meet and report back at the October meeting in Oracle.  Rob mentioned it was Michael Carr who initiated the discussion with Peter Runge.</p>	<p><b>Report at next board meeting</b>  .</p>
5	<p><b>Open Discussion on ATA Programs, Operations, Goals and Reports</b>  Discussion of Board’s role in fundraising.  We need to tap into our aging members and Leave-a-Legacy was mentioned.  Phyllis said she intends to tap her doctors from her recent visit to the Arizona Heart Hospital.</p>	
6	<p><b>Other Business</b>  Matthew shared his recent Hopi Grand Canyon music and video project. A CD and DVD are available through <a href="http://www.ongtupqa.com">www.ongtupqa.com</a>.</p>	
7	<p><b>Future Meetings &amp; Important Dates</b>  October 20 – Board Meeting at Triangle L Ranch in Oracle  February 2 – ATA Annual Meeting, location to be announced</p>	
8	<p><b>Adjourn</b>  There being no further business, Susan moved to adjourn and David seconded at 2:22 pm. The motion passed.</p>	
	<p>Respectfully submitted by Phyllis Ralley</p>	
	<p>Additional Attached Reports:  Fundraising Report  GIS Director’s Report  Membership Report  Social Media Report  Volunteer Program Report  Youth Program Report  Trail Operations Report</p>	