

SUNFLOWER RAIL-TRAILS CONSERVANCY

Board of Directors Meeting

March 3, 2012

The meeting was called to order by President Ross at 11:00 a.m.. Present were Coan, C. O'Neal, Peterson, Ross, Stein, and Weiner. Also present were Scott Allen with KRTC, Western Sky Trail representative Jon Klugh, SRTC member Ed Lincoln, Steve Hitchcock of Baldwin City and Larry & Melinda Venn of Derby. The October 2011, minutes were unanimously approved upon a motion by Stein/Peterson. Allen presented the background and status of HB 2735 which is to be heard by the House Transportation Committee. It was written by the farm bureau. Klugh said it was designed to halt trail development. Coan questioned its constitutionality. Members were urged to submit written testimony to Allen if they couldn't testify. Allen reported that at least three knowledgeable people said it wouldn't get out of committee this year.

The next order of business was the Railbanking Initiative. Weiner presented the PST Extension project. Thrive Allen County received a \$23,000 grant from the Sunflower Foundation and \$25,000 from the Heath Foundation of Greater Kansas City. They have one year to complete 4.5 miles. The County may provide funds for the remaining two miles. The City of Iola should complete its section in April. Ross pointed out the importance of connectivity. Lincoln said that the beauty of this project is that the State, City, and County all involved.

Klugh then provided an update on the Western Sky Trail. He reported that an Eagle Scout was denied access to two miles for the survey. There is significant opposition and his organization hasn't had a meeting for several months. Ross then presented the Great Osage Trail (Wellington-Oxford) project status. The sale of the corridor within the city of Oxford is the holdup. The railroad is trying to clear this up. Lincoln said, if necessary, streets in that small town can be used to access the trail. Stein then presented the Quivira Trail (Lyons-Beaver). He filed the deeds and obtained contact information for possible organizers. Lincoln said he has two contacts who are community leaders. He will work on getting an organizational meeting going.

Stein then reported on the Short Grass Prairie Trail (Englewood to Coats). He is going to focus on a six-mile stretch between Coldwater and Protection because that is currently where the interest is. He will organize a group in that region. Lincoln suggested that SRTC acquire the Englewood-Protection deed and combine it with the Protection to Coats segment to be the Shortgrass Prairie Trail managed by Stein's group. The Spirit Wind Trail (Jetmore-Hanston) was then presented. Stein said that a woman is moving to Jetmore and wants to set up a bike shop and is very interested in the trail project. He suggested that when a local group is able, that it share in costs and reimburse SRTC for at least part of the legal fees for railbanking and insurance.

Coan reported on outstanding grant proposals and those to be sent out. The Treasurer's Report was then given by C. O'Neal. There has been only one expense this quarter-- \$87.75 to the Pratt Tribune for a public notice. Revenues totaled \$1,100 (including \$1,000 gift from John Moore) leaving a balance of \$1,531.60. Coan reported that he had submitted the 990-N and was ready to submit the Kansas Annual Report.

The state rail-trail plan was then briefly talked about. Next, Coan presented the revised Good Neighbor Policy. Upon Lincoln's recommendation, the Good Neighbor Policy was shortened and simplified. Ross said we still need a primer or manual. Klugh would like a guide explaining the things learned and how things were handled. The Kansas Sampler (May 5-6 in Liberal) was then discussed. Stein is working on getting 20+ t-shirts. C. O'Neal, Stein and Ross will work on the handout.

Trail reports were then given. Peterson reported that the City of Marquette has received a \$25,000 Sunflower Foundation Grant for the Three Bridges Trail. He is hopeful the City Council will approve the \$25,000 match. A grant-writer will submit a \$25,000 grant application to the Kansas Health Foundation. C. O'Neal then gave a brief report on the Blue River Rail Trail. Finally, Stein made a \$1,000 challenge grant offer. If the Conservancy raises \$1,000 in donations, memberships, or grants by December 31, 2012, he will match it.

There will be an unofficial meeting at the Kansas Sampler on May 5 or 6. The next official meeting will be June 2 in Iola. There being no further business, the meeting was duly adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Clark H. Coan
Secretary
Corporate Secretary

Sunflower Rail-Trails Conservancy

Board of Directors Meeting

June 2, 2012

Directors in Attendance: Coan, Peterson, Ross, and Stein. Also in attendance were directors ex officio Ed Lincoln and Peggy Stein.

The meeting was called to order at 12:30 p.m. by President Ross in Iola.

I. Quarterly Review.

a. Board Meeting Minutes.

The minutes of the March 3, 2012, Board meeting were reviewed.

Motion: Stein/Peterson moved to approve the minutes.

Approved: The motion carried unanimously.

b. Treasurer's Report.

The Treasurer's Report was not received in time for the meeting.

II. Challenge grant.

a. Stein presented again his \$1,000 Challenge Grant. All donations and memberships received by January 1, 2013, but after the challenge was issued at the March 3, 2012 board meeting will count. Organizational memberships could be \$300. Coan suggested that each board member contribute \$100.

b. **Motion:** A motion by Stein/Coan was made to accept Richard Stein's \$1,000 Challenge Grant.

Approved: The motion carried unanimously.

III. Insurance.

a. Coan stated we need to get \$2 million in liability insurance and asked for a volunteer to check this out. Ross agreed to check it out and get a quotation on the premium.

IV. Quivira Trail.

a. Lincoln presented the results of a survey he and Ross conducted of the Lyons-Beaver trail. It is unclear where the ROW begins in Lyons. In Barton County farmers have planted wheat on the ROW. There are lots of trees in the ROW. There is virtually no population except in Lyons. A community group needs to take responsibility for all of the buildings in Holyrood in exchange for use of the warehouse. They need to trim trees and remove the dilapidated building.

b. **Decision:** The general consensus is to hold on to the trail but only do minimal development work around Lyons and Holyrood. If a local group can't be formed to develop the trail, then we will consider abandoning the ROW. Lincoln will work on this.

V. Western Sky Trail Memo of Understanding.

a. Coan presented a draft memorandum of Understanding for the Western Sky Trail. After discussion it was decided to get an attorney to draft a Management Agreement which could be used for all trails. Coan and Lincoln will work on this. Both Lincoln and Ross have possible pro bono attorney ideas.

VI. Proposal to Assume Custodianship of Other Trails.

a. Discussion next centered around having SRTC adopt other trails such as the SGPT (Englewood-Protection). It was agreed this would seem appropriate and Stein will talk to the Iowa Trails Council about this.

VII. Trail Reports.

a. **Three Bridges Trail.** Peterson reported that he needs \$8,000 by November to get the full amount of the \$25,000 Sunflower Foundation match.

b. **Augusta-Andover Trail.** Lincoln said that the cities are on board with their sections and he is trying to get them to adopt the ROW in the middle of the corridor.

c. **Prairie Sunset Trail.** Ross reported that the bridge memorializing Cecile is essentially done.

d. **Short Grass Prairie Trail.** Stein reported that there is a group interested in developing the trail to Coldwater Lake.

e. **Flint Hills Nature Trail.** Coan reported that there are three long-distance sections now open and complete: 23 miles between Council Grove-Admire; 11 miles between US 75 and Quenemo; and 16 miles between Ottawa and Osawatomie.

VIII. Proposal to Combine with Prairie Travelers.

a. Lincoln then presented his proposal to combine SRTC with Prairie Travelers, Inc. as equal partners. There would be economies of scale: one attorney, one CPA, one insurance policy, one website with checkoff box for trail etc. Divisions could be formed with Friends of the Trail groups who could be represented on the new board. There would be a stronger structure for trails in Kansas and more longevity. A bigger, stronger organization would attract more people, especially talented people and possibly funders. The public face or branding would have higher exposure. Coan said he's open to the idea. Ross said the proposal still has to be presented to the whole PT board.

Motion: Coan/Peterson moved to invite the PT board to the next meeting to explore this proposal further.

Approved: The motion carried unanimously.

IX. Action Points.

- a. Obtain insurance premium quotation (Ross)
- b. Talk to the Holyrood Booster Club about the Holyrood buildings (Lincoln)
- c. Work to form Quivira Trail group (Lincoln)
- d. Furnish a draft Management Agreement to attorney (Coan, Lincoln)
- e. Talk to Iowa Trails Council about transferring Englewood-Protection (Stein)

The next meeting will be held August 4 in Hillsboro. There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 3:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by,

Clark H. Coan
Corporate Secretary

Sunflower Rail-Trails Conservancy

Board of Directors Meeting

August 4, 2012

Directors in Attendance: Coan, Kuzubowski, Peterson, Ross, Stein and Weiner. Also in attendance were directors ex officio Ed Lincoln and guests Joye Walker, Mark Hall, Teresa Huffman, and Ardi Striet.

The meeting was called to order at 11:15 a.m. by President Ross in Hillsboro.

I. Quarterly Review.

a. Board Meeting Minutes.

The minutes of the June 2, 2012, Board meeting were reviewed.

Motion: Stein/Weiner moved to approve the minutes.

Approved: The motion carried unanimously.

b. Treasurer's Report.

The Treasurer's Report was not reviewed.

II. Sunflower SF Trail Update.

- a. Joye Walker and Ardi Striet provided an update on the trail. The City of Galva is going to put down ½ mile of concrete within the city limits and move a gazebo to the trail. Four county commission candidates are in favor of the trail. This is a seachange in attitudes. Screenings will not be available until October when the crusher returns to the quarry. Then they will be installed on the Meadowlark Trail north of McPherson.

III. Assumption of Englewood-Protection Railbanking Custodianship .

- a. Stein reported that SGPT may have railbanking. Coan agreed to check into this.
Motion: Stein/Peterson moved that SRTC take over Englewood-Protection line.
b. **Approved:** the motion carried unanimously.

IV. Fundraising.

- a. Coan suggested that Larry Ross and Vanderwall visit Wichita foundations and bank trust departments. Ross agreed to do this. Weiner and Coan will draft a fundraising appeal letter to be emailed out. Coan announced he was paying \$100 toward the \$1,000 challenge grant and urged other directors to do the same. Ross agreed to do this as well.

V. Insurance.

- a. Ross reported that he talked with the McKay Insurance agent who thought that a \$2 million policy would be around \$600 since SRTC has 163 miles and KRTC has 155 miles. He will complete and submit the paperwork.

VI. Cooperative Management Agreement.

- a. An attorney is still reviewing the draft agreement. Ross will provide a final document by the Annual Meeting.

VII. Railbanking Initiative.

- a. **Short Grass Prairie Trail**—Stein hopes to get people in Coldwater and Protection working on that section.
- b. **Western Sky Trail.** Weiner reported that enthusiasm is building and groups are active in both Fredonia and Chanute. The section that was sold in a sheriff's sale shouldn't be a problem once the trail is done on both sides.
- c. **PST Extension.** Weiner reported that the 1.5 miles in lola is complete and high school groups and others are clearing trees and brush south of lola. Two residents in Bassett have hired an attorney to see how they can stop the trail. A company will provide free transportation of crushed rock. The *lola Register* is very supportive of the trail project.
- d. **Spirit Wind Trail** –No real news at this time.
- e. **Quivira Trail**—Lincoln talked about the two buildings SRTC has in Holyrood. He has a call into the bank officer about the buildings. Hopefully, the Booster Club will demolish one building and take over the other building which is useable.
- f. **Great Osage Trail** –Ross reported he is still waiting for the railroad to clear up the title in Oxford and issue a quitclaim deed.

VIII. Trail Reports.

- a. **Three Bridges Trail.** Peterson reported that he thinks a company will provide the remaining match needed for the \$25,000 Sunflower Foundation grant. The quarry won't have screenings until the crusher returns in October. Also, he believes the Smoky Hill Recreation Trail is first in line for any federal funds for trail projects along Scenic Byways.
- b. **Augusta-Andover Trail.** Lincoln said that the cities are on board with their sections and he is trying to get them to adopt the ROW in the middle of the corridor.
- c. **Prairie Sunset Trail.** Lincoln reported that the bridge memorializing Cecile was dedicated July 4.
- d. **Short Grass Prairie Trail.** Stein reported that there is a group interested in developing the trail to Coldwater Lake.
- e. **Flint Hills Nature Trail.** Coan reported that a landowner is trying to get the STB to revoke railbanking because part of the ROW was erroneously sold in Herington. Kanza's attorney has filed a counter petition which is likely to be successful.
- f. **Blue River Rail Trail.** Lincoln reported that the projects to connect the trail to a city trail being developed on the old ROW and to restore the depot are underway. Also, the Homestead Trail in Nebraska is now complete to Beatrice.

IX. Proposal to Combine with Prairie Travelers.

- a. Lincoln then restated the concept of combining SRTC and Prairie Travelers and he said he didn't that the support for it was there at this time. Ross said we can continue to explore the idea and perhaps the two organizations can cooperate on certain things at first.

X. Action Points.

- a. Submit insurance paperwork to McKay Insurance (Ross)
- b. Talk to the Holyrood Booster Club about the Holyrood buildings (Lincoln)
- c. Work to form Quivira Trail group (Lincoln)
- d. Complete attorney-reviewed Management Agreement (Ross, Coan)
- e. Find out if SRTC has railbanking for Englewood-Protection (Coan)
- f. Draft fundraising appeal letter (Weiner, Coan)
- g. Visit Wichita foundations, bank trust departments (Ross)

The next meeting will be held October 27 in Manhattan. There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 2:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by,

Clark H. Coan
Corporate Secretary

Sunflower Rail-Trails Conservancy

Board of Directors Meeting

October 27, 2012

Directors in Attendance: Coan, Novak, Peterson, Ross, Stein and Weiner. Also in attendance were director ex officio Ed Lincoln and guests City Manager Ron Fehr and Bicycle Coordinator Joey Lightner and other members of the Manhattan bicyclist community.

The meeting was called to order at 12:35 a.m. by President Ross in Manhattan.

I. Quarterly Review.

a. Board Meeting Minutes.

The minutes of the August Board meeting were reviewed.

Motion: a motion by Stein/Peterson to approve the minutes was made.

Approved: the motion carried unanimously.

b. Treasurer's Report.

The Treasurer's Report was not reviewed.

II. Election of Officers.

a. **Motion:** Weiner/Peterson moved that the current officers consisting of Larry Ross, President; Richard Stein, Vice President; Carol O'Neal, Treasurer; and, Clark Coan, Secretary be re-elected.

b. **Approved:** the motion carried unanimously.

III. Assuming Custodianship of the Short Grass Prairie Trail.

a. It was agreed to move forward on this. Coan will prepare the STB filing for SRTC to assume custodianship of the Englewood to Protection line.

IV. Fundraising.

a. Weiner presented his fundraising appeal brochure. Changes were suggested. Coan will send it out.

b. About \$600 has been raised this year which can be used to meet Stein's \$1,000 challenge grant. The remaining directors should consider making a \$100 donation.

c. It was agreed to adopt a debt payment plan for the \$6,000 owed to Tom McFarland. Coan will meet with C. O'Neal to develop a plan and a 2013 budget. Coan said that a pipeline company wants an easement across the trail east of Coldwater and any fee paid for the easement could go to McFarland. Ross stated SRTC may not hold subsurface rights. Coan will contact RTC legal counsel to get an opinion.

V. Cooperative Management Agreement.

a. An attorney is still reviewing the draft agreement. Ross will provide a final document by the next meeting. Ross stated that maintenance will need to be addressed by all trail organizations.

VI. Proposal to Combine with Prairie Travelers.

- a. Lincoln then restated the concept of combining SRTC and Prairie Travelers. Ross then called an Executive Session at which directors discussed the proposal. After the Board meeting resumed, it was agreed to move forward on the union.

Motion: Coan/Weiner moved that Coan draft a Memorandum of Understanding using the guiding principles and submit it to the Board for their review. Once it is finalized it will be presented to PRT which will then provide its Memorandum to SRTC. Then a Reconciliation Committee composed of the officers of both organizations will reconcile the two versions.

Approved: the motion was unanimously approved.

The next meeting will be held February 9 in Cottonwood Falls. There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 2:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by,

Clark H. Coan
Corporate Secretary