

**Second Draft**  
**Mid Atlantic Regional Partnership Meeting**  
**Sept. 20-21, 2008**  
**Mohican Outdoor Center,**  
**Blairstown, NJ**

**Decision Summary**

- 1. Minutes.** Daniels moved, Rosen seconded, that the minutes of the Spring 2008 meeting be approved. Approved unanimously.
- 2. ATC Approval Process for Proposed Management Actions.** Day moved, Rosen seconded, that the RPC endorse the proposed approval process with the inclusion of comments from the discussion (suggestions for a state MOU; adding trail relocations; the value of the RPC in approvals; and the appeals process to the Stewardship Council). Vote 11-1 (CVATC).
- 3. NIETC.** Rosen moved, Daniels seconded, that the MARPC urges ATC, NPS, & ATPO to delay construction permitting of powerlines; encourages conservation; asks that alternatives including underground technology near ridgelines be considered; seeks cooperating coalitions with likeminded organizations; and encourages pursuing full EIS for all proposals” Approved unanimously.
- 4. Bear Poles.** The RPC requests that the Stewardship Council provide information to the maintaining clubs on the type of bear poles available, and guidance on siting and installing such poles.
- 5. Discussion Forum.** Daniels moved, Rosen seconded, the following resolution: The Mid Atlantic RPC requests that ATC supply web-based collaboration resources (specified below).

History:

This topic has been discussed for more than 5 years with no progress.

The need has been recognized by all leadership levels (staff, Stewardship Council, and RPCs).

Reasons:

Necessary in order to accommodate current and revised AT management strategies.

Committees have no adequate communication resources.

No continuity between semi-annual meetings

Need to make decisions between meetings in a timely manner since the ATC process specifies approval by the RPC for many things that are time sensitive.

Resources:

Standardized shared, local management plans

Collaborative document preparation

Blog style communication tool

- Trail assessment data
- Inter-RPC communication
- RPC – SC communication

Approved unanimously.

- 6. Trail Assessment Data.** Rosen moved, Daniels seconded, that the maintaining clubs request that they have access to assessment data in a timely fashion after assessments

have been performed (in the same work season as the data was acquired). Approved unanimously.

**7. Local Management Plans.** Schwartz moved, Charkes seconded, that the MARPC request that ATC consider consolidating local management plans to state level plans with local appendices for each maintaining club. Approved unanimously.

**8. Side Trails Resolution from Stewardship Council.** Rosen moved, Bohn seconded a motion that the Stewardship Council rescind the advisory statement as written. Approved unanimously.

**9. Geocaching Paper from Stewardship Council.** Bohn moved, Rosen seconded, that the MARPC endorse the paper with the advisory caution that this subject will need continued review as conditions change. Approved unanimously.

**10. Land Protection Paper from Stewardship Council.** Rosen moved, Schwartz seconded, that the RPC suggests that on page 3 of the document, language should be added on how to judge the listed criteria, assigning relative weights to the listed criteria when evaluating properties, explaining how to use the listed criteria, and noting that these are not inclusive criteria (by adding the words “such as” before the listing of the criteria). Approved unanimously.

**11. Climate Change Policy from Stewardship Council.** Wiemann moved, Rosen seconded, that the MAPRC supports the tenor of the policy and requests that the RPC Chair submit comments and suggestions from the group discussion to the Council. Approved unanimously.

### **Complete Minutes September 20, 2008**

**Representatives:** PATC: Kerry Snow; CVATC: Frank Bohn, Dallas Owens; MCM: Rosie Suit, Paul Ives; YHC: Jim Hooper; SATC: Phil Day ; BMECC: Martyann Gutierrez; AHC: Anne Griffin, Barb Wiemann; PTC: Paul Schubert; AMCDV: Dan Schwartz, Bill Steinmetz; BATONA: Al Britton; WTC: Jane Beck; NYNJ: Ron Rosen, Walt Daniels, Christie Ferguson, Gail Neffinger, Larry Wheelock, Daniel Hoberman  
**ATC:** Karen Lutz, Jeanne Mahoney, Bob Sickley, Bob Proudman  
**NPS:** Todd Remaley

**Opening** - Chair Day called the meeting to order at 9 AM.

**Minutes** - Daniels moved, Rosen seconded, that the minutes of the Spring 2008 meeting be approved. Approved unanimously.

**Opening Comments by Chair** - Day reminded everyone of the importance of the MARPC in the organizational structure of ATC. He stated that in the past, the RPC struggled with its vision of the Committee’s goals, but now the Committee must embrace its new challenges. A team approach is required and it is time to display our volunteer leadership for the region.

#### **Club Reports:**

**SATC** – opened 1 mile relocation off a rocky rutted old fire tower road (north of PA 225) after 2 ½ yrs work ; have concerns with ATV & motorcycles trespass ; holding a Habitat for Humanity charity hike ; Earl Shaffer shelter removed and donated to the AT Museum

**PTC** – working with Lehigh Gap Nature Center ; held a regional meetings for trail partners ; trail rerouted south of Little Gap

**PATC** – converting privies to moldering privies in Shenandoah National Park ; relocation north of Shenandoah NP ; completed steps at Harpers Ferry ; holding chain saw training ; need guidance on installing bear poles; want a discussion forum for the RPC

**YHC** – also have ATV problems ; club will have a new representative (Tom Morley) for the Spring meeting

**NYNJ** – privies being installed at NJ shelters ; there will be new hiker parking area at High Point next year and the trail will be rerouted ; the construction of the handicapped trail at Bear Mt. will be contracted out ; the golf club project in Dutchess-Putnam (which is seeking Audubon certification) has the potential for 3 miles of corridor contact with the AT and there is no local opposition to this development ; will be fixing a flood prone area near Pawling ; there is a new roof on the Telephone Pioneer shelter and relocation in that area ; will be conducting a monitor training workshop for experienced monitors ; have 14 paid staff, 7000 membership units (10,000 people), 100 member clubs representing 150,000 members

**BATONA** – the Wind Gap parking lot is complete except for shrubbery and some step work ; have trained 3 boundary monitors ; will have new representative (Susan Charkes) for Spring meeting (Britton will become alternate) because the RPC needs new faces to address the regional issues

**CVATC** – 2 new bridges are in place ; the PA944 pedestrian underpass has been installed ; our next challenge will be invasive species (swallow-wort is invading from NY and the Midwest) ; club is buying new DR mower and is selling its old DR mower

**AMCDV** – a pipeline installation is occurring south of Wind Gap ; in partnership with Blue Mt. Ski Area, removed encroaching structures on NPS land ; Ski Area has requested a windmill study and is proposing building time share housing ; Ski area has a new owner ; club monitors have found errors in original boundary lines

**WTC** – club is maintaining its section

**BMECC** – there is a relocation at Rausch Gap ; the classic stone arch bridge which carried a Game Commission road over Rausch Creek was damaged by a storm and the Game Commission will not redo the stonework and has installed a plank bridge instead ; due to an aging membership, BMECC has been trying to find ways to attract new members ; the club does not discount the "power of one" - one new member has the power to bring in other members such as family and friends ; BMECC has one prime example of a member who did just that.

**AHC** – the parking lot a Jacksonville-Snyder Rd. has been improved ; graffiti was removed from the Outerbridge Shelter roof and walls ; club removed over 80 tires from NPS land ; club committee submitted Act 24 map and description ; the Allentown Recreation Bureau is again printing the club newsletter

**MCM** – a club member has completed hikng the AT ; an LLBean grant paid for a brochure that was distributed to attract members ; club web site has been upgraded ; club has an active hiking program with 250 trips and 3500 people participating in 2007 ; with the help of the Mid Atlantic Crew, replaced a bridge ; when the Game Commission approves, will construct a relocation at the Darlington shelter ; privy at Cove Mt. Shelter

is being rehabbed ; using AT assessment list to fix identified problems ; cut up abandoned manure spreader and car to remove them from the corridor

Proudman – in the future, give me a written copy of your comments so that ATC has it for our files and reports

### **ATC report - Lutz, Sickley, Proudman**

1. The PA 944 Pedestrian Underpass design and engineering funding came from DCNR and construction funding from PennDOT through the transportation enhancement section of TEA-21. The Underpass was installed Labor Day weekend. \$1.2 million was budgeted, but actual cost will be about \$600,000. The ribbon cutting is scheduled for November 15.
2. The Bear Mountain relocation project began in 2006, starting at the cul-de-sac at the top. This year they worked down near the Inn, moving really big rocks; this is a 5-7 year project.
3. ATC was honored with a Kodak American Greenways Award for outstanding achievement in greenways preservation (given by Kodak, National Geographic Society and the Conservation Fund).
4. ATC is expanding into the next generation of issues, with programs such as Trail to Every Classroom and the MEGA Transect.
5. ATC is renewing Memorandums of Understandings (MOUs) with each state (Pennsylvania's was renewed for the third time in 2006). ATC has MOUs with national parks and the US Forest Service.
6. ATC needs to revitalize the Local Management Plan process. Should we have one state plan in PA and VA, which have more small clubs?
7. The condition assessment deadline for the entire trail is October 31 (it has been a 5 year effort). Capital needs must be listed in the assessment.
8. ATC is solid financially, after planned expenses and deficits for the transition from the Conference to a Conservancy.
9. New terms for ATC Board and Council will begin at the next biennial meeting. Deadlines for submitting Volunteers in Parks and Volunteers in Forests hours is October 24. The deadline for LLBean grants-to-clubs is November 1.
10. Trail to Every Classroom (TTEC) is becoming very popular and ATC is recruiting for 2009 (the 4<sup>th</sup> year). Last year we had twice as many applicants as positions. ATC is recruiting in school districts that "touch the trail"; there are 12 Mid Atlantic slots available
11. ATC is developing a "Trail Town" plan.
12. The South Mountain Landscape Initiative includes land trusts and county planning units. Fermata Inc. is the consultant to the Initiative and the Initiative is in the process of hiring someone for a 2-year position to work on landscape protection on South Mt.
13. The VA AT license plates will debut in 2009. The PA plate is tied up in the I-80 tolling controversy.
14. The new PA AT Act was signed into law in June.
15. John Luthy is selling maps, guides, memberships, etc., at the regional office. Send all contact information changes for your club to Luthy.
16. Mid Atlantic ridgerunners made 16,500 visitor contacts this year and reported performing more trash removal this year.

17. The MA Trail Crew is working for 8 weeks in September and October; almost every volunteer slot was filled this year.

18. The 1-day chainsaw re-certification program will be held in October or November.

19. The first trail assessment cycle (2004-2008) is finished, but ATC will resume assessments next year. It takes about 1 hour to assess 1 mile of trail.

Daniels – suggested that more than just NPS items be included in the assessment (for example, all improvement items should be noted)

Snow – this information needs to be assessable to the clubs

Sickley – the information is on spread sheets that David Reus prepares

20. The capital plan for clubs will be out soon.

21. ATC should have figures generated by the pilot visitor use study (National Visitor Use Model) next year; this will give us a better idea of the number of visitors to the AT.

### **ATPO Report – Remaley**

1. We have challenges with the corridor and must take the initiative with our neighbors, handling encroachments, and working together. Boundary monitoring is very important.

2. NPS is operating under continuing resolutions.

3. There have been several staff changes: Sarah Bransom replaces the retired Don Owens and Jessica Liptak has been hired to handle community outreach and educational programs (shared position with Harpers Ferry National Historical Park). ATPO is in the process of hiring a field ranger.

4. VIP & VIF packets have been sent out. These programs offer volunteer benefits in an expedited tort program, which is not an insurance program. Volunteers can choose to use or not use it, but insurers can choose to require someone to use workers' compensation.

5. ATPO is negotiating park agreements for the Great Smoky Mountains National Park and Shenandoah National Park.

6. The ATC-NPS chainsaw agreement has been renewed.

Wheelock – should chainsaw policy be written into state MOUs?

Break for lunch – Sally Naser and Ellen Gass from ATC joined group

**Volunteer database** – Mahoney presented a live demonstration of the new software program that will be used by ATC and the clubs to help manage and recruit volunteers. The software has the capability to include photos. There will be private and shared data. Volunteers can be linked (such as family members) and clubs will be able to import Excel spreadsheets into the database. The next step is for ATC to review and revise the data elements, import data into the database, and then conduct training. ATC expects to go live in January.

Griffin - would a club have to enter activities on their own web site and the ATC site? ; this would be more work

Hooper – if someone's email appears on this web site, volunteers will be bothered by spam unless the address is hidden

Britton – will there be help screens?

**ATC Approval Process for Proposed Management Actions** – Day introduced this Stewardship Council proposal, which covers administrative procedures for handling such

matters as trail reassignments, adopting local management plans, bridges, shelters, and timber management. He stated that Pennsylvania once had a statewide management plan and perhaps ATC should investigate that option.

Hoberman – relocations should also be included in this proposal

Lutz – everything relocation needs a NEPA check

Bohn – will the extra oversight in this proposal add anything to the approval process? ; can someone in one club really judge the value of another club's proposal?

Griffin – this oversight will help people understand broader trail matters and they will gain from the experience of other clubs

Proudman – we will have to have online approvals in a timely manner

Rosen – the appeals process should be to the Stewardship Council, with a 2/3 vote required

Day moved, Rosen seconded, that the RPC endorse the proposed approval process with the inclusion of comments from the discussion (suggestions for a state MOU; adding trail relocations; the value of the RPC in approvals; and the appeals process to the Stewardship Council). Vote 11-1 (CVATC).

Charles Elliot joined the meeting

**PA AT Act 24** – Elliot, a lawyer with 30 years experience in land use law, presented a brief history of the Alpine Rose development proposal and discussed Pennsylvania land use planning and zoning, the 1978 PA AT law, and the 2008 PA AT Act.

The purpose of the 2008 amendment to the 1978 law is to protect the natural, scenic, historical, cultural, and esthetic values of the trail. Local municipalities must enforce zoning to protect those values and they have a deadline of Aug 11, 2009 to enact that zoning. State agency funding is available to help them develop clear strong zoning ordinances that will withstand variances. To that end, trail clubs must define and identify those values and the trail experience, articulate those values, and communicate that information to decision makers in local governments along the trail. We are seeking to protect the entire integrated experience along the trail. By doing this now, we can avoid case by case battles later.

Lutz – our obligation is to articulate those values to local officials ; which townships have the spectacular views? ; where are the quiet spots? ; we need compass directions for viewpoints, photos of views and features ; the Dept. of Community and Economic Development has informed the affected municipalities (58 in 11 counties) ; a task force has solicited proposals (17 were submitted) from firms to develop model ordinances ; by the end of October, a firm will be selected ; they must develop model ordinances by April in order to give local municipalities enough time to enact them before the August 11, 2009 deadline

**Chainsaw Train the Trainer** – Snow expressed the concern that we are losing chainsaw trainers and we need to develop trainers

Proudman – ATC went to contractors and other agencies because of liability issues ; contractors have insurance ; qualified volunteer trainers must have insurance

Wheelock – NJ paid to have agency workers trained, with the understanding that these people would then train our AT volunteers

Naser – perhaps we could use sustainable loggers, who have insurance, as trainers

Lutz – all trainers must teach our curriculum

Break at 5:25 PM

**Sept. 21, 2008 – 9 AM**

**Representatives:** MCM: Suit, Ives; CVATC: Bohn, Owens; SATC: Day; BMECC: Gutierrez; AHC: Griffin, Wiemann; PTC: Schubert; AMCDV: Schwartz; BATONA: Susan Charkes; NYNJ: Rosen, Daniels, Ferguson, Wheelock  
ATC: Lutz, Sickley, Gass, Naser, Proudman  
NPS: Remaley

**Corridor Mapping** – Gass presented a power point presentation about the ArcGIS software that is being used to develop new maps for corridor monitoring and electronically record data from previous monitoring. Once the database is completed, ATC can see where the high priority areas are located, locate and track encroachments, and identify threatened areas. The new maps will be 11 x 17 inches, a more convenient size for field use. The potential exists for electronic hand held units for field use. Since other agencies, such as the Pennsylvania Game Commission, use this same software, we could share information.

**National Interest Electric Transmission Corridor (NIETC)** – Proudman stated that ATC has a history of fighting roads and utilities, trying to minimize the number of trail crossings. Power companies are aiming at our mountaintops; we need to address the cumulative impacts. Our policy is to use the same corridor with minimal disruption for new lines. An EIS (environmental impact statement) is the most complete study, taking about 1 year to complete. An EAS (environmental assessment statement) is not as involved and utilities prefer this. How should ATC proceed when new utility corridors are proposed?

Day - Deregulation will have an impact

Proudman – price increases will affect consumer behavior

Rosen – we need transmission lines because the source of electrical power and place of use are not the same

Rosen moved, Daniels seconded, that the MARPC urges ATC, NPS, and ATPO to delay construction permitting of power lines; encourages conservation; asks that alternatives including underground technology near ridgelines be considered; seeks cooperating coalitions with likeminded organizations; and encourages pursuing full EIS for all proposals. Approved unanimously.

**Bear Poles** - The RPC requests that the Stewardship Council provide information to the maintaining clubs on the type of bear poles available, and guidance on siting and installing such poles.

**Discussion Forum** - Daniels moved, Rosen seconded, the following resolution: The Mid Atlantic RPC requests that ATC supply web-based collaboration resources (specified below).

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#### Resources:

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Approved unanimously.

**Trail Assessment Data** - Rosen moved, Daniels seconded, that the maintaining clubs request that they have access to assessment data in a timely fashion after assessments have been performed (in the same work season as the data was acquired). Approved unanimously.

**Local Management Plans** - Schwartz moved, Charkes seconded, that the MARPC request that ATC consider consolidating local management plans to state level plans with local appendices for each maintaining club.

Remaley – LMP needs to be a living document, kept current ; it can help solve enforcement issues

Wheelock – LMP only as good as the willingness to enforce its provisions

Proudman – ATC wants to get all plans current by 2013

Passed unanimously.

### **Stewardship Council Issues**

#### **1. Side Trails**

Griffin – if a trail is abandoned, who is responsible for notifying others that it no longer exists

Rosen – moved that the Stewardship Council rescind its advisory motion entirely as written Seconded by Bohn

Bohn – this advisory is unnecessary

Rosen – too much attention has been given to one person's problem ; specifically, there are too many obvious problems with utility access trails ; these kinds of trails will not be obliterated or marked ; we want to discourage third party side trails ; NYNJ maps are used by many people and make money for the club, are used by hunters, search and rescue ; our club policy is that if it is on ground, it is on the map ; this proposal is a stupid idea



Wheelock – we want to show quickest way out for someone on a trail

Day – do we give the expectation that if it is in the guidebook, the trail is usable?

Wheelock – what is “official”

Lutz – any trails coming onto corridor land become the responsibility of maintaining clubs

Proudman – are clubs really exercising control of side trails? ; that is the real concern in this matter ; clubs need to take control of side trails ;

Owens – this advisory has two parts – to guidebooks and maps editors and to clubs

Daniels – there is sufficient policy on this subject already

Remaley – I am not seeing this already existing policy used in the field ; there is liability in using these trails that end in private land

Daniels – guidelines are in our LMP ; that needs enforcing

Remaley – there is a bigger problem ; this resolution may not be answer, but we need something, since processes not being followed ; we have liability issues

Approved unanimously.

## **2. Geocaching Paper**

Remaley – on NPS land, the park office sets policy ; other landowners may allow or permit this activity ;

Schwartz – does anyone ever obtain written permission for their caches?

Bohn moved, Rosen seconded, that the MARPC endorse the paper with the advisory caution that this subject will need continued review as conditions change. Approved unanimously.

Remaley – check out earthcaching.com, which promotes a GPS based outdoor activity with an educational component

## **3. Land Protection Paper.**

Daniels – on the page 3 bullets, how are we to judge the criteria, do some need higher weight in the evaluation?

Rosen – these points seem to lean toward large rural tracts ; soundscapes should be added to the criteria ; they should add that the parcel must meet most of the criteria

Charkes – bullet point 8 is not inclusive, add “such as”

Rosen moved, Schwartz seconded, that the RPC suggests that on page 3 of the document, language should be added on how to judge the listed criteria, assigning relative weights to the listed criteria when evaluating properties, explaining how to use the listed criteria, and noting that these are not inclusive criteria (by adding the words “such as” before the listing of the criteria). Approved unanimously.

## **4. Climate Change Policy**

Rosen – ATC should limit activities (#3) ; volunteers need higher reimbursement (#5)

Day – we should encourage ATC to reduce carbon footprint

Rosen – include tips in the Register on how volunteers can conserve while volunteering

Lutz – regional staff will travel less and use more conference calls

Wiemann moved, Rosen seconded, that the MAPRC supports the tenor of the policy and requests that the RPC Chair submit comments and suggestions from the group discussion to the Council. Approved unanimously.

**Future Meeting dates**

March 7, 2009 in Boiling Springs

October 24-25, 2009 in MD/WV (MCM to investigate meeting locations)

March 6, 2010 in Boiling Springs

Oct. 23-24, 2010 in NY/NJ (NYNJ to arrange meeting location)

**MARPC Email list** – Day asked for guidance on whether the list should be for committee use only, or should it be open to anyone who requests access to the list.

Griffin – there could be lots of non-representatives on email

Lutz – suggested that representatives can decide who in their club can have access ; agency staff and other persons could be added at the discretion of chair

Schwartz – I would like to have biographies of everyone on the list so we know something about people who are posting comments

**Cyber Stalking Of Hikers** - Remaley stated that hikers who post cyber journals in real time, listing where they are or intend to be, could be placing themselves at risk..

**Volunteer and Partner Awards** – Day asked everyone to think about persons or groups that we might want to honor at our spring meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:30 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Barbara L. Wiemann

MARPC Secretary

December 26, 2008