

Alabama Trails Commission and Advisory Board Joint Meeting  
Alabama Public Library Service  
6030 Monticello Drive  
Montgomery, Alabama  
March 8, 2017  
11:00 am

ATC Attendees

Amy Rauworth  
Allen Armstrong  
William Edwards  
Rebecca Fulks  
Greg Lein  
Jeffery A. Pruitt  
Debbie Quinn  
Phillip West  
Johnny Smith  
Graham Sisson

ATCAB Attendees

David Brewster (Proxy for Frank Edmonson)  
Jason Dockery  
Jim Felder  
Tim King  
Ike Lyon  
Nisa Miranda  
Steve Newton  
Odell Sanders  
Ken Thomas

Visitors

Crystal Davis  
Kim Martin  
Shabbir Olia  
Jim Plott  
Brian Rushing  
Tatum Smith  
Cindy Ragland  
Wayde Morse  
Mitch Carter

## Welcome and Introductions

Debbie Quinn called the meeting to order at 11:04 AM as the chair had not yet arrived at the meeting. Crystal Davis read the rules regarding the use of the facility from the Alabama Public Library Service. Debbie asked everyone to introduce themselves and all in attendance did so.

## Commission Chair Report

Debbie mentioned some updates to the bylaws. Jeffrey Pruitt made a motion to accept the bylaws which was seconded by Rebecca Fulks. The motion passed unanimously.

## Approval of Minutes

Debbie Quinn asked if anyone had any additions or suggestions to the minutes from the last meeting. Debbie stated that if there were no changes the minutes would stand approved as sent.

## Resume Commission Chair Report

Debbie discussed the Legislative Report, to whom it was provided, and its purpose.

She then reported on membership dictated by the new Legislation.

- Provides for two members to the ATCAB from underrepresented recreational user groups. The Executive Committee recommended someone from Alabike and the Alabama Hiking Trails Society because they are the most organized groups with large memberships.
- There is also one spot available for a federal agency. Discussions are still taking place regarding this seat. A representative from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service or a Tribal Representative is being considered.

A group discussion on the subject followed. Debbie stated that further discussion regarding the representative from a Federal agency would take place. Greg Lein made a motion to request an appointment from Alabike and the Alabama Hiking Trail Society. Jeffrey Pruitt seconded the motion which then passed unanimously.

## Alabama Trails Foundation Status

- The Foundation currently does not have a board in place.
- The purpose of the Foundation is to help find funding for trails statewide.
- Discussed choosing the top ten trails in the state, providing them with funding and making those premier trails in the state.
- Looking at creating a short-term board consisting of 10-15 members.
- Debbie will be reaching out to ATC and ATCAB members for recommendations.
- Brian Rushing is involved with a steering committee which included outside advisors as well as ATC members who are looking at the Pinhoti Trail being the starting trail.

## Alabama Department of Transportation Bike-Ped Plan

Rebecca Fulks gave a PowerPoint presentation on the Alabama Statewide Bicycle & Pedestrian Plan. She discussed the purpose, goals, and the consumers.

- Purpose is to establish a vision for bicycling and walking as modes of transportation in Alabama.
- Goal is to have a plan that can be used by anyone.
- Consumers – focuses on those using walking and/or bicycles for transportation.
- Established project advisory committee to include ALDOT, Chambers of Commerce, healthcare professionals, bike clubs, real estate developers, safety organizations, hiking clubs, leisure clubs, faith-based organizations, federal officials, veterans organizations, etc.

Rebecca answered questions following the presentation and there was some discussion from the group.

## Project Updates – Brian Rushing

Two Recreational Trails Leadership workshops are held every year

- Spanish Fort, December 15, 2016, at 5 Rivers, 33 attendees.
- Next workshop is scheduled for May 18, 2017, at Monte Sano State Park.

Alabama Recreational Trails Website

- Connect people to recreational trails throughout state by use, type, and/or amenities
- Connects people to user groups.
- Site is continuously being populated with data and geographical data will be added later this year.

Trail Counters and Economic Impact Surveys

- There have not been a lot of impact studies done in Alabama.
- The University of Alabama's Center for Economic Development has developed a trail economic development impact kit which consists of infrared trail counters and a survey instrument which is a quick way to gather data on trails.
- Conducting a pilot program at Ruffner Mountain Nature Preserve in Birmingham, with seven counters to be removed in late June and a report generated.
- The Chief Ladiga Trail and Coldwater Mountain Trail system have been studied by Jacksonville State University.
- Counters will be deployed in Anniston and additional counters may be purchased after the Ruffner Study is complete.

Pinhoti Trail Initiative – Discussed the trail and its potential, as well as the possibility of it being designated as part of the Appalachian Trail.

100 Alabama Miles Challenge – Described the program and explained that proposals are being sought for the creation or replication of the Missouri program. The goal is for the program to be complete in the Spring of 2018.

#### Rail Trail Technical Assistance

- Working with city of Gadsden to connect downtown to Noccalula Falls.
- Working with city of Fayette to acquire a two-mile trail corridor.
- Working with Monroe County to facilitate the Tunnel Springs Rail Trail project.
- Wiregrass trail project will be the longest in the state at 43.5 miles.

Amy Rauworth, Commission Chair, discussed the High Efficiency Trail Assessment Process training sponsored in part by the Lakeshore Foundation.

#### 2017 Applications for RTP and LWCF

- FY 2017/18 RTP applications were combined and the deadline to submit pre-applications was extended to January 10, 2017, due to extreme weather conditions.
- Approximately \$3.2 million available for funding.
- ADECA received 24 applications, two were deemed ineligible, and one withdrew.
- The Alabama Recreational Trails Advisory Board met on February 16, 2017, to review projects and make funding recommendations.
- Currently preparing 2<sup>nd</sup> level invitations and regret letters.
- The next funding cycle should begin in late Fall of 2017.
- The development of the State Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan was discussed briefly.

#### 2017 International Trails Symposium – May 7-10, Dayton, OH

- Amy Rauworth will be giving a presentation.
- Steve Newton will be receiving an award.

Next Meeting – The next meeting will be held August 9, 2017, possibly at the Alabama Wildlife Federation in Millbrook.

The meeting adjourned at 12:35 PM.

Respectfully submitted,  
Crystal Davis