

**SUMMARY OF MORCA BOARD MEETING – APRIL 3, 2017**  
**Turn 12 Restaurant, Monterey**  
**Prepared by Henrietta Stern, Secretary, on 4/5/2017**

**Attendees:** All six Directors were present (McGirr absent); members/guests included Ken Howat, Darius Rike, Joel Trice, Tony Cepeda and Phil Craig.

**2017 Officers/Directors:** Gary Courtright (P), Brian Tomasini (VP), Henrietta Stern (S), Nick Madronio (T), Mike McGirr (MAL) and Sue Benjaram (MAL).

**Next Board Meeting:** The Board meets monthly, usually on the first Monday of the month. **The next meeting is Monday, May 1, 2017 at 6 PM** at Turn 12 Restaurant, Monterey.

**4/3/2017 Agenda Items were as follows:**

1. **President's Opening Remarks**
2. **IMBA Chapter Discussions**
3. **FORA/ESCA Update/Fort Ord Reuse**
4. **County Update/Happy Trails signage/FORHA Trails**
5. **Toro Park Issues**
6. **Trail Work Update**
7. **Treasurer's Report**
8. **Pump Track Update**
9. **Insurance Update**
10. **Take-a-Kid-Mountain Biking Day (TAKMBD)**
11. **Monterey Peninsula Regional Parks District (MPRPD)**
12. **Calendar Review – major events in 2017**
13. **Meet-Up**
14. **Incorporation**
15. **Other Business – Many topics**

**Item 1: Opening Remarks–** The meeting opened at 6:05 PM. President Gary Courtright presided. The key focus of the meeting is Sea Otter Classic (SOC) logistics. Gary also provided a copy of the U.S. Forest Service policy on e-bikes, which is also adopted by BLM. In short, they are not allowed on the Fort Ord National Monument. Gary will provide a PDF copy for distribution.

**Item 2: Review of IMBA 3.0 Proposal.** Gary has been interacting with IMBA and other chapters via conference calls. He shared Dave Wien's e-mail re: "IMBA 3.0". This includes: \$39 base membership; 50/50 split with chapters; maximized efficiency to process memberships; no further reductions in field staff; and chapter leader to be invited onto IMBA Board as a full voting member. Though IMBA is struggling due to funding reductions, MORCA supports IMBA primarily due to IMBA's lobbying presence in Washington DC and state capitols. Individual chapters do not have the staff and expertise to address various bills, threats and opportunities.

**Item 3: FORA-ESCA/Army/Fort Ord Reuse Update—** The first FORA-ESCA noontime meeting of the year will be on May 24 at FORA office; then held quarterly. The County/Seaside Oak Woodland corridor assessment within the development parcels is in progress; they have not set a date for a public meeting: <http://oakwoodlands.org/>. There has been no action by US Army on its Work Plan for BLM Area B. See FORA website ([www.fora.org](http://www.fora.org)) and [www.fora-esca-rp.com](http://www.fora-esca-rp.com). The Army site is [www.fortordcleanup.com](http://www.fortordcleanup.com).

**Item 4: County Update/Happy Trails Signage/FORHA.** Nick Madronio attended a March 7 meeting with County staff to review a draft trail map prepared by the County GIS staff with 54 trails mapped and numbered; east-west are even and north-south are odd. Also four access roads are included. They envisioned the need for 144 signs. However, Nick identified well-used trails that should also be included. Signs will be blue. County staff indicated that they still need to complete the Trail Master Plan, do CEQA environmental review and sign a formal agreement between MORCA and County before we can do any work. Nick reminded County staff that our grant was extended through December 2017 so they need to move forward. Nick to attend the next regular Fort Ord Committee on April 24 at 11 AM.

**Item 5: County Update/Toro Park.** No Toro Park Trail Committee meetings have been scheduled since June 2016. There was a news article about starting up again but no communication from the County has been received. Pursuant to Board direction last time, Gary signed a letter to Supervisor Adams (and others) prepared by Henri asking the County to let us organize a volunteer brigade to address damaged Toro Park trails. We would reach out to a variety of groups to maximize the number of volunteers.

**Item 6: Trail Work Update –** Darius reported that 10 people attended on April 2 and the next trail day is April 15 at 9 AM. We have nearly 300 volunteer hours to date this year. The Ewok Re-Route bench work is nearing completion and the new trail could potentially be ready after Sea Otter. Key tasks are addressing the swamp swale (culvert needed), connecting to usable parts of existing trail and closing/disking the old trail (needs machinery). Darius will contact BLM and Stowe Construction about that. Gary floated an idea about bigger quarterly trail days with food sponsors, prizes etc, including outreach to other adult and youth/school groups. Darius suggested having a camp-out “trail day swap” with MBOSC and other groups, similar to MTB Tahoe (includes rides, food, etc). Previous idea was to provide a raffle ticket for fancy bike for every trail day participant. After Ewok, the primary goal will be repair and maintenance throughout Fort Ord as soil conditions allow. Plus, lots of vegetation trimming (please do not leave cuttings on the trail; no dangerous “pongi sticks”). A long-term goal (2-3 years) is the Laguna Seca/Couch Canyon trail in coordination with BLM, County, and NICA. Mike volunteered to contact Specialized re trail funding/volunteering as they use our trails regularly to test bikes.

**Item 7: Treasurer’s Report–** Nick reviewed our status as of April 3, 2017 we have roughly \$33,056 in combined assets. The grant savings account for trail signage project is \$17,902, with roughly \$15,154 in checking+Paypal. Major expenses last month night ride fees to BLM (\$70), supplies (\$340) and insurance (\$1193). Major income was Night Ride deposits (\$109). At the meeting we received another \$335 check from Bay Area PG&E employee; Nick to provide \$200 for cash box at Sea Otter. About \$100 has been received for SOC Raffle (on-line). We need to spread the word about the Raffle at a variety of locations. Brian provided tickets for folks to take. Nick and Joel will meet re preparing IRS/State tax returns. Thanks!!!

**Item 8: Marina Pump Track proposed for Locke Paddon –** The Marina Recreation Director told Darius that things are “on track” for a pump track at Gloria Jean Tate Park. It has not been formally approved yet, partly because City is doing a formal re-design for GJT Park, which will include the pump track. The estimated cost for construction is \$15,000-30,000.

**Item 9: Insurance**— Nick confirmed that annual insurance for the club has been paid for and good as of March 12. He still needs to submit the application for director's liability and get a quote. Recall from last time that waivers should be done annually.

**Item 10: TAKMBD Update October 7, 2017**—Sue is working with Lavonne Chin re new application for the Travel Camp. We need to sell raffle tickets for the Specialized Stumpjumper FSR Comp 6 Fattie. Fox has also donated a fork and a dropper seat post! The SOC program includes info about the raffle.

**Item 11: Monterey Peninsula Regional Parks District – No report this month. Ken Chrisman** attends all MPRPD public meetings that may affect bike access, and recently put his name to be considered as a member of their citizen's advisory committee. Major storm damage has derailed certain planned land transfers etc. A recent State Parks event included many NIMBY folks against any activity that would increase traffic and people in the area. Recall to be wary of "passive recreation" which is often code for "anti-bike." Progress on **Palo Corona** Management Plan likely stymied due to major fire and then storms. MORCA to write letter when timely. There has been no reported action on Park District plans to take over management of **Happy Trails**, Jacks Peak and Toro Park from County. MPRPD seems supportive of bikes in the future **Fort Ord Regional Park** concept. The Herald reported that this transfer is significantly delayed.

**Item 12: April 20-23—Sea Otter Classic.** Ken Howat is volunteer lead; new SOC volunteer coordinator is Teresa Harrison. SOC Volunteer signup will be electronic this year through SOC website, which is not yet out. MORCA also has our own signups through MORCA website for **dual slalom and booth** duties. Party and raffle Saturday beginning at 4:45. You can **buy raffle tickets** online via MORCA website. Ken indicated dual slalom slots have been filled but help is still needed at the MORCA booth. IMBA is not doing memberships; they are there to answer questions etc. Joel will have laptops and WiFi hotspot to enable folks to sign-up for IMBA/MORCA memberships. There is not any swag like previous years, except for 150 boxes of Clif bars. Joel will see if he can get bike tubes. He will also bring dry erase board. Tony will bring display stands and donate a shuttle trip. We are booth #241 next to IMBA. We have campsite immediately to the right of the entry kiosk.

**Item 13: Calendar Review – Major events in 2017** include:

**April 19-21 – Calif. Trails and Greenway Conference, Monterey** (see page 4)

**May 13—Old Cabin Classic (MBOSC at Wilder)**—Karl will deliver structures for kids

**May 18—Wed eve Twilight Ride—MORCA host(??)** Gary to confirm as there was a questions

**May 27-June 4—Darius trip to Durango**

**July 15-23—Latino Conservation Week (trail work day on 7/15) at Fort Ord**

**October 7-- TAKMBD**

**Late October – Public Lands Day and Night Ride Kickoff (TBD)**

**November 8-- Laguna Seca Twilight Ride we host**

**See Nick for other out-of-state races!**

**Item 14: MeetUp.com Hosting** -- Sue has been posting MORCA rides and events on the MeetUp.com. We now have 135 "members" and have met some nice folks, many from out-of-area. Recall we need to RSVP attendance for Sunday rides (especially at Creekside or on trail days) to we are sure there is a leader for the Meetup folks.

**Item 15A: Other Business— Letters of Support:** Henri prepared and Gary signed two letters: (1) Rep. Tom McClintock supporting his Wilderness Access Bill; (2) US Dept. Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke supporting public lands remaining in public hands

**Item 14B: Other Business—GIRLS ROCK April 8:** Henri to give overview of MORCA work on trails and have donation bucket out, plus raffle tickets for TAKMBD bike. Thanks to MORCA and Fort Ord Cycle Path gals willing to lead and sweep

**Item 14C: Other Business—TAMC Bike/Pedestrian Committee:** Sue noted next meeting is Wednesday April 5, 2017 at 6 PM at Plaza Circle, near Star Market (sorry I don't have complete info). Item is awards for Golden Helmet awards. Sue previously suggested a MORCAN apply to be on this committee. In a related matter, Salinas Parks Department is soliciting ideas on how their parks can be improved, including a pump track out near Natividad

**Item 14D: Other Business—"Grand Fondo" Event Suggested--** Mike suggests we host a fundraising event with long/medium/short/family trail routes with food trucks, music etc. He has done this in the past. We discussed when would be best (September?), and permits needed etc. Mike to research further.

We adjourned at roughly 7:55 PM.

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