

**Missouri Ozark Trail Council  
Semi-Annual Meeting  
Echo Bluff State Park  
Saturday, February 23, 2019**

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Meeting opened at 10:00 by Kathie Brennan, President, Ozark Trail Association

### Individuals Attending

<b>Name</b>	<b>Representing</b>	<b>Name</b>	<b>Representing</b>
Abi Jackson	Ozark Trail Association	Kathie Brennan	Ozark Trail Association
Becky Hays	US Army Corp of Engineers	Matt Aholt	Meramec Valley Trail Association
Dave Savage	MO State Parks	Maury Mertz	Backcountry Horseman of Missouri
Dave Tobey	National Parks Service	Michelle Gabelsberger	Conservation Federation of Missouri
Dawn Fredrickson	MO State Parks	Rebecca Young	MO State Parks
Don Schulte	Ozark Trail Association	Rod Brown	Ozark Trail Association
Gary Garner	Backcountry Horseman of Missouri	Ruth Garner	Backcountry Horseman of Missouri
Hannah Smith	Ozark Trail Association	Terry Hawn	Ozark Trail Association
Jeff Goetter	Ozark Trail Association	Reta Barkley	National Parks Service

### Agency Reports

- Backcountry Horsemen
  - Work outing cancelled due to weather
  - On NTD there will be a work outing at Blair Creek that will be open all trail users
  - Northern end has been fully signed
  - doing equestrian campground upgrade north of Popular Bluff
  - June 1 is a workday doing raffle to raise funds for a vault toilet
  - Mar 22/23 doing a horse back of Blue Ridge and Eleven Point, if hikers would like to clear from McCormick to BR trailhead and there will be a celebration event at the BR TH
- Meramec Valley Trail Association
  - This organization morphed out of the Pacific Riverwalk Trail Organization and is dedicated to the trail plans for the region that includes Pacific, Eureka, and the other areas along the river.
- Department of Natural Resources – Missouri State Parks
  - Kelley Brent is no longer with DNR
  - A conceptual development plan has never been done for Taum Sauk and Jay Nixon park and there are plans to include a connection to the Ozark Trail. Public comment meetings are going to be scheduled
  - It was noted on the grants side is a motorized component can be incorporated it would increase the chance of a grant being awarded
- Current River State Park
  - The park will be holding a Kickoff Sumner event where the Girl Scouts will be coming to both parks. This is the same weekend the OTA has scheduled for the Mega.
- National Park Service
  - See attachments
- US Corp of Engineers
  - Still have a lot of work sawyer work needed, have some volunteers coming in do to trail work through November, Greenville is still closed. IDIQ funds are currently available for maintenance work. Getting some help, but manpower is not as easy to come by as it was.

- OTA President Report
  - Memorandum of Understanding (MOU)
    - Updated MOU has been sent out, still waiting for responses from a few agencies. Kathie did determine that some agencies may be dropping off, Gateway Hosteling is one that will be, because they are involved with other agencies
  - History of the OTC
    - Margo Carroll, author of the OT Guidebook had access to a set up documents from past OTC meetings. All the documents have been digitized and will be made available soon through the OT website
  - Operating Plans
    - Document was made available that spells out what the OTA will be doing the next year
  - The Future of the Ozark Trail
    - Updated plan from Roger. Please see Attachment 1 for the full document.
  - Budget – we are currently in the black, funding has dropped some due to an event cancellation. Just had sign off on a 2017 RPT, one is open, weather is slowing things down, did receive a \$1000 grant from conservation federation
  - Trail is being built and open, Blair to RS, etc.
  - EBSP is in progress
  - New signage has been acquired and plans are being worked on getting it in place
  - OTA has been meeting with all kinds of other agencies to make connections and getting the word out
  - All kinds of events coming up
  - AAT is going strong, except for the Wappapello section where we still need adopters
  - Education and Outreach has also been going strong with multiple promotion tables around the state
  - Grants – looking at several grants, but we have been finding that grant process for some do not fit our area and do not cover operations costs

## Open Discussion

- It has been reported there are plans to expand the Wrangler trailhead on the Victory Section.
- It was asked if any action was taken on the suggestion to make the EMS maps available for download, DNR will look at this again.
- Don Schulte, as a representative of the Arcadia Valley Trail Association stated they would like see plans to have spur trails come into the towns

After discussion the next OTC meeting will be at Meramec State Park on July 27th, 2019 @ 10 AM

**There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 12:30 PM.**

*Kathie Brennan*

Kathie Brennan  
President, Ozark Trail Association

*Jeffery J. Goetter*

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Secretary, Ozark Trail Association