

PUBLIC LANDS ROUNDTABLE MINUTES

Meeting Location: BLM Ridgecrest Office

Minutes of: April 27, 2023

Called to order at: 6:07pm by Chair Mark Dunn

PLRT MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE: Mark Dunn, Will Liebseher, Mark Mason, Charlie Hattendorf, Sam Merk, Jerome Johnson, Liam Connolly, Pricilla Watson, Dana Stephenson, John Auburn, Lilly Vincent, Frances Kuttor and Pedro (Guide Dogs for the Blind (GBD) - Puppy in Training).

Pledge of allegiance was led by Chair Charlie Hattendorf.

Motion was made by Sam Merk & 2nd by Charlie Hattendorf to approve the March 23, 2023 minutes. They were approved as sent.

BLM UPDATES: by Dana Stephenson Acting

Moose Anderson Day – April 29th, 2023, Jawbone Station Visitor Center.

+Breakfast 0730-0830, Registration 0800, Volunteer Event Begins 0900, Lunch 1200 (Free to All Participants), Assemble for Trail Ride 1315, Trail Ride 1330.

ROUNDUPS

+Currently working with Navy to remove wild horses and burros in areas with no water, date TBD

MINING:

+ No Update on Gold Discover Group.

+ No update on Notice of Intent filed for Conglomerate Mesa. All parties are working through paperwork.

+ No update on Atolia.

DWP WATER RELEASE

+ DWP is releasing water in Freeman Gulch, BLM receives an update every Friday. BLM Staff is monitoring the Desert Tortoise activity in that area, and did receive a photograph of a tortoise in the area and requested DWP water release to be turned down. DWP is responsible for an area walk down prior to water release.

WEMO

+ WEMO lawsuit filed by Center for Biodiversity and others over Tortoises. Details are complicated by active lawsuit.

SHEEP GRAZING PRESENTATION – Pricilla Watson

+ Slide show presentation on the sheep grazing permitting process; Pricilla described how AUM's are estimated by using a standardized grid and collecting the seeds and drying them. Currently there are 9 allotments and 20 active permits. The grazing period 1 March to 1 June, 2023. A letter of appreciation for her presentation is to be written by Chair Dunn

DUMPING

+ Dana Stephenson noted that illegal dumping has increased along with complaints. She noted, it's increasingly hard for BLM to press charges against individuals or groups responsible for the dumping; even when strong evidence is present. When complaints are received BLM follows up with a site visit and attempts to locate the source. Common practice is to have the Offender clean-up the affected site.

OLD BUSINESS

PLRT WEB SITE: Charlie noted that he sent out confirmation emails to several participants with little + response. Charlie encouraged the test group to check their junk and spam folders if his initial email was not received.

OSBORNE CABIN FIELD TRIP: A group of 11 individuals, accompanied by Tom Bickauskas, BLM +Ridgecrest Field Manager, traveled to Osborne cabin to assess the cabins eligibility for historic site registration. Mark Dunn noted that the Osborne Cabin roof was in better shape than expected.

NEW BUSINESS:

PLRT WEB SITE:

+Three donations were made:

Sam Merk - \$50.00

Will Liebseher- \$50.00

Lilly Vincent \$10.00

MEMBERSHIP REQUEST

A letter was received for Raymond Kelso as representing the public.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

COTTONWOOD CREEK SCENIC ROUTE

+ The Wild and Scenic River Management plan is a joint program with United States Forestry Service (USFS) the lead agency; 4 miles of the route is situated on BLM land and 10 miles situated on USFS land. Carrie Woods is the BLM program manager and her efforts to work with the public are greatly appreciated.

MONTHLY CLEAN UP

+ There will be a glass clean-up in an area just north of the airport road in Trona, by Chair Dunn. It will be on May 13, 2023. Volunteers are asked to meet at the Trona Rest Stop at 8:30. Please bring your own personal safety items such as gloves, hats, water, snacks, etc. Some rakes and shovels will be there but bring your own tools, and container bags if you have.

+ **The Desert Advisory Committee (DAC)** will be held in Ridgecrest, California. The dates and times will be announced at next meeting. It was suggested by Sam Merk that it would be nice if the other field offices could open up their meeting rooms for the public to be able to attend the zoom presentations by the main presentation as many of the desert residents do not have internet speed adequate for zoom.

DESERT TORTOISE RESEARCH NATURAL AREA (DTNA)

+ John Auburn requested help on removing noxious weeds from the Tortoise preserve. John has been trying to remove as many as possible, but he is concerned the weeds will flower soon.

NEXT PLRT MEMBERSHIP MEETING

+ March PLR meeting will be on held on May 25, 2023

Adjourned at: 7:16pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Frances Kuttor, Sub for Mary Grimsley

Executive Meeting met after general meeting.

EXECUTIVE MEETING:

ATTENDING: Mark Dunn, Sam Merk, Charlie Hattendorf, Dana Stephenson, Frances Kuttor and Pedro (Guide Dogs for the Blind (GBD) - Puppy in Training)..

DISCUSSIONS FOR FUTURE PLRT MEETINGS

BLM

+ Dana noted that there is a shift in duties for the Ridgecrest Resource Manager

+ Dana noted that she could release monthly incident logs occurrences excluding all personally identifiable information.

PLRT

+Charlie would like to see some progress on the MLRS as it has been non-functioning for months. A Presentation of the MLRS has been requested. Charlie noted: the MLRS is partially working now

+ Raven No Fly Zone information

+ How can PLRT can better support the BLM

+ Help for the DTRNA on weed removal