

**SUMMARY OF MORCA BOARD MEETING –  
Tuesday, August 2, 2022 at 6 PM, Springhill Suites, Marina**  
For more info, visit the MORCA website: [www.morcambt.org](http://www.morcambt.org)

**YOUR 2022 DIRECTORS are:** Lisa Birch (Pres), Mike McGirr (V.P.), Henrietta Stern (Secretary), Rodrigo Sierra Corona (Treasurer), Julie Hymer, Sheri Covey and Eder Guzman (Members-at- Large).

**Next Monthly Board Meeting:** Tuesday, September 6, 2022 at 6 PM, Springhill Suites, Marina

**Secretary Notes:** President Lisa Birch opened the meeting at 6:04 PM. Five directors were present with Rodrigo and Eder absent. Attending members included Brian, Darius, Phil and Kevin. Guest was Sam Winter of State Parks. **Formal Board action is in yellow highlight.**

**6/7/2022 Business Meeting Agenda** (some renumbering by HS for clarity):

1. **Secretary Report—(a) Adopt Minutes of Previous Meeting—** Minutes for July 5 were adopted unanimously [Mike motion, Julie second]. (b) Other issues will be addressed below.
2. **Treasurer’s Report—** (a) Lisa reviewed **financial status** for July 1-31, 2022. The combined bank + PayPal balance is \$43,067 with \$344 still in PayPal from May-July donations. Bank deposits included \$1,302 from IMBA quarterly membership dues. Expenses totaled \$40 for trail worker lunch. *Henri to send out thank you letters to donors.* (b) Brian reported that 30 **high-vis vests** plus 30 cheaper vests have arrived for trail workers; Crew Leader patches are on order. The total was \$427 for the first set of vests; Brian has donated \$448 for the second set of vests. THANK YOU to Brian! (c) Mike reported he purchased 200 **MORCA logo’d water bottles** from Specialized for \$1,012. Our PayPal account must be replenished to cover this transaction. (d) Brian provided detailed listings of the **storage unit inventory**. Certain broken items were removed.
3. **Grants--** Mike described official approval of our grant application with certain caveats. He and Lisa described the kickoff meeting with BLM on August 1. Henri has some final edits to a news release on the grant. Some clarifications to previous posts include: For simplicity, we will call the grant source as BLM’s Fort Ord Recreation Management Program. The Phase 1 grant amount is \$78,000 to build a bridge over the Couch Canyon creek bed (T47), and map and confirm design of a realignment of T60 (The Beach”) to create an alternative to T50North. Roughly \$23,000 of in-kind volunteer time/labor is assumed in the grant. Additional information will be under Item 4-d, Government Relations.

**4. 2022 MAJOR OBJECTIVES:** Seven objectives set by the Board include: Committees, Advocacy, Membership Activities, Community Outreach, Social Media, Government Relations, and Fundraising.

- A. **Committees: We have five committees for specific programs or tasks.** Darius chairs the Trail Work committee. Rodrigo chairs the Sea Otter Classic committee. TAKMBD chair is now Mike McGirr. Marketing committee chair is open. Henri is Palo Corona committee chair. .
- B. **Advocacy: includes CAMTB, Marina Pump Track, Toro Park, Trail 60 Re-route, East Garrison area, and Palo Corona Backcountry.**
  - i. **CAMTB** (California Mountain Bike Association) -- Lisa noted no recent MORCA participation in CAMTB meetings and actions.
  - ii. **Marina Pump Track**—Darius described construction underway for 2 large loops and one small loop. Rough construction of the paved surface should be done in August, followed by landscaping with opening planned sometime in October. This could be a great TAKMBD venue next year.
  - iii. **Toro Park**— No action by the County re an integrated trails plan.

- iv. **Trail 60 Reroute**— This will be part of the BLM grant from now on (see Item 4-f-i.)
  - v. **East Garrison potential skills area**—No recent County action.
  - vi. **Palo Corona Back-country**—MPRPD Board meets the first Wednesday of the month via Zoom. Henri described chat with Rachel Santos about her interest and there is a new MPRPD staff member who could be a good contact re action on backcountry access. The Park District is now leading guided hikes in a portion of the back-country. *Henri to write an informal letter asking about guided rides led by MORCA volunteers.*
- C. **Membership Activities: includes Social Rides and Trail Work**
- i. **Social Rides**— We continue the First Saturday rides and informal Wednesday evening rides. Recent attendance has totaled 8-13 folks.
  - ii. **Trail Work**— There were 9 folks on July 17 which focused on T20, 55, 59 and 17. Total hours to date is 422. The August trail day will continue brush work on T24. Sept-October may focus on County trails near East Garrison. Lots of grasses and string trimming needed. Weekday activity is on hold for now. **NEW**—we heard from **Sam Winter from Cal State Parks** re potential ride and weed removal event at Fort Ord Dunes state Park, geared toward families at an easy pace. He is reaching out to all bike groups. We discuss need to avoid 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday and Henri to get back to him re potential dates, or dates to avoid.
- D. **Community Outreach—events we participate in or lead.**
- i. **Latino Conservation Week July 16-24+** —Henri described LCW activities supported by FORT Friends and the Conservation Lands Foundation: July 16 MORCA trail day; July 16 Community Bicycle Collective (CBC) ride with Greenfield youth; July 22 CBC ride with Santa Cruz youth and July 30 FOCP ride. Henri noted FORT Friends will fund trail maps in Spanish.
  - ii. **TAKMBD (Take-a-Kid Mountain Biking Day) is October 1**—Mike has taken lead on County permit. Committee members in active planning mode for registration, tables, chairs, porta-potties, swag etc. to brainstorm scope of the day, assess status of stunts in storage, contact Ecology Action etc.
  - iii. **Esperanto MTB film screening**—Sharon Osgood is researching fees, venues and opportunities for a fund-raising film.
  - iv. **Sea Otter Classic (4/20-23/2023)**—We have secured a campsite 166M.
  - v. **Norco Dirt Series Camp 9/17-18**—We have not received any requests for help.
- E. **Social Media/Marketing—engage members and the public to join, participate and/or donate.** (i) We reached out to IMBA members for help on outreach/marketing/social media but did not receive a response. Henri has contacted a marketing professional in Santa Cruz who is MTB rider. (ii) News release re BLM grant is nearly ready and Henri will send out Monday August 8. (iii) Julie is posting on social media.
- F. **Government Relations—interactions with land managers**
- i. **BLM Recreation Management Program Grant for Couch Canyon Bridge and T60 Reroute**— see Item 3/Grants above for background info. Mike to order Bridge pieces by August 5 and work out payment schedule that meets our needs and the BLM reimbursement schedule. HS to send out news release August 8.
  - ii. **Monterey County/Porta-Potties at 8<sup>th</sup> & Gigling**—A formal Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the County has been sent. Mikemet with Brian Flores on July 12 to discuss. County Counsel is reviewing the MOU. Goal is for MORCA to lead campaign to fund Porta-potties at 8<sup>th</sup> & Gigling for 2 years (est. \$14,000) if County commits to build and maintain permanent pit toilets similar to Creekside.

- iii. **BLM Safe PASSAGES**—MORCA co-funds monthly \$50 REI gift certificate drawing award. We post winners on our Facebook page and encourage participation.

**G. Fundraising—various opportunities**

- i. **MORCA Jerseys**—suggest having examples at all rides and events. Perhaps give as raffle prizes or volunteer gift for “X” hours.
- ii. **Other Options**—no report.

**5. Presidents Report/Membership**- We have 142 IMBA/MORCA members as of August 1; goal is 150 members.

**6. New Business**—No new topics raised for discussion.

**7. Calendar Summary -- Busy months ahead!**

- August 6 at 9 AM—First Saturday ride
- August 20 at 9 AM— Trail work day
- September 3 at 9 AM-- First Saturday Ride
- September 6 at 6 PM—MORCA board meeting
- Future—October 1, TAKMBD
- Future—late October Public Lands Day (likely October 22)

**We adjourned at 8:01 PM**

**Prepared by Henrietta Stern, Secretary, on 8/5/2022**