

**SUMMARY OF NOVEMBER 14, 2013 MEETING
FORT ORD NATIONAL MONUMENT SUPPORT GROUP
Oldemeyer Center, Seaside**

I. **Welcome** – Roughly 10 folks attended representing BETA, BLM, Monterey Bay Youth Camp, MORCA, Seaside Art and History Commission, Sustainable Seaside and road cycling (sorry, forgot name!) and individuals. A new attendee was Phil Craig, a newly elected director of MORCA.

II. **Group Announcements**

- A. FORT Friends—Henrietta noted the CLF Conference and Grant (see below)
- B. MORCA—Henrietta noted MORCA's Specialized Bike Demo and Night Ride celebration 11/16 4-10 pm
- C. Sustainable Seaside – Kay described her outreach efforts for Public Lands Day; also general outreach to Boys&Girls Club + Village Project, who have vehicles. Kay later spoke with BLM Ranger Tammy about nature program for these kids.
- D. Monterey Bay Youth Camp – Art described status and attending Fort Ord Committee meeting; he suggested East Garrison develop pave West Camp and Watkins Gate Road as potential entrance point to Natl. Monument. BLM is interested in this too.
- E. Visitor Center/Museum Committee—Ralph and Michael described their efforts in trying to get City of Seaside interest in allowing use of the old Thrift Store off Imjin. Developer appears to be agreeable. Other interest groups are CSUMB history students, Fort Ord Alumni Association (vets group), plus Seaside Art and History Commission. We briefly brainstormed what could be done to use Imjin site and possible other sites. Ralph suggested checking out Monterey's tourist info center as a model, and describe specifically what needs would be involved (space, power, lighting etc).

III. **BLM/FONM Announcements**

- A. Public Lands Day – Eric Morgan discussed final logistics for our November 16 event. All looks good for several volunteer venues plus BBQ and band.
- B. Stornetta Lands—hopefully this will be a new National Monument near Point Arena (1,000 acres in Mendocino County). They are looking at Fort Ord as a model for their efforts.
- C. FONM Visitor Count – Eric described estimated visitors as up to 325,000 people (rather than 100,000-150,000 initial estimate). This is based on laser beam counters at several locations (not 8th and Gigling) and the assumption of 2 persons per vehicle. BLM welcomes volunteers to count in person to do quality control and calibration of the machines, as some doubt the numbers could be that high. The machines provide hourly data to better show trends. Regardless of numbers, Eric opined that most of the traffic is local versus out-of-town visitors. Anecdotally, we know biking folks come here from the Santa Cruz up to the Bay Area in winter, as their trails are muddy.

- D. Turkey Trot—Laguna Seca race track is hosting a charity event Thanksgiving morning—the track will be open to cyclists and runners.

Go to <http://www.mazdaraceway.com/twilight-cycling> for more information.

IV. CSUMB Colloquium Dec 12-13, 2013

- A. Jane Haines gave an overview of this free two-day event (you must register). There will be 19 nationally known speakers broken in to 4 groups: blight, National Monument, economic development and design guidelines. Each speaker gives a 20-min presentation then Q&A discussion. Go to FOR A website for registration info. <http://www.fora.org/>

V. Conservation Lands Foundation (CLF) “Friends Rendezvous” Conference

- A. Henrietta Stern attended this meeting in late October and provided a sampling of materials, presentations and workshops. FORT Friends is part of the CLF “friends Network.” CLF played a big part in helping create the National Monument and supports Friends groups to help sustain these public lands throughout the west.
- B. BLM California Five-Year Strategy – Henrietta noted a new booklet prepared by BLM; many of our ideas and interests are reflected in BLM’s official policy, which bodes well for positive partnerships in the future.

VI. \$10,000 Grant Award from CLF to FORT Friends

- A. Henrietta announced the successful grant proposal, which runs December 1, 2013 through November 30, 2014. FORT Friends asked for logistical assistance to effectively host the FONM coalition (aka support group).
- B. Primary Goals-- FONM Coalition or support network; increase outreach to diverse groups, including social media; help create volunteer network; serve as catalyst for specific projects
- C. Key Tasks—Update website, including master calendar and volunteer clearinghouse; professional training and services; prepare Communications Plan and related materials; prepare fundraising and membership plan
- D. Desired Outcomes—Support network or coalition created; new businesses or groups become involved; increased volunteers; increased membership and board seats; identify projects that need funding

E. Brainstorm outreach ideas – we discussed various concepts as follows:

- Eric Morgan (BLM) described the need for “one-stop shopping” regarding opportunities and services relate to FONM, and BLM really can’t host such information. He suggested checking out Chuck Haugen conservation fund website as a good model for a calendar. BLM will have an information center at its new offices near REI (near FOR A) in Marina—perhaps a tie-in there.
- Idea—find all the groups that supported the Monument; find contact person and phone; ask for a liaison to the FONM group; want a broad base of folks involved [HS note—this might be part of Communications Plan in CLF grant]
- Idea—involve commercial entities like RERI, outdoor stores, bikes shops etc.

Visitor Info and Access Issues—continued in more detail from above--

- Ideas included FORA building, BLM old office on Eucalyptus (will cars be allowed to come in that far?); Eric Morgan prefers partnering with developers for visitor access points and sharing costs; ideas include Ammo Supply area (East Garrison), Travel Camp (Youth Camp/County); CSUMB; MPC; Jerry Smith (County slated development area); lots of uncertainty re 8th and Gigling/Parker Flats area (Monterey Downs and Eastside Parkway).

VII Specific Follow-up Tasks –explore visitor center/museum needs; check out Monterey and Salinas visitor center; research previous work on Fort Ord groups and contacts; FORT Friends board needs to develop specific work plan for grant implementation.

VIII. Next meeting: Thu December 12, 2013 at 6 pm at Oldemeyer Center
More discussion on FONM coalition and reports back on individual research.