SESSION TITLE : What Can PNTS Do For Your Trail?

CONVENER(S): Morgan Sommerville

PARTICIPANTS: N/A

SUMMARY OF DISCUSSION, CONCLUSIONS and/or RECOMMENDATIONS:
Provide guidelines/primers on how to do:
- NEPA
- Effective organization of events
- Comprehensive Plan
- Federal Agreements
- provide Library of important documents from Trails and agencies

We ARE PNTS- ergo, what will PNTS Trails and their members do to help each other get PNTS priorities done?

We need a clear PNTS VISION; review vision

AHA! PNTS should focus on being effective w/ agency Washington offices and Congress
- Some felt this should be #1 priority of PNTS in exclusion of everything else until done to satisfaction of all.

Define better what PNTS does:
- need orientation and defined role; established process to do this
- for new organizations
- for new organization members
- for new Leadership Council members and BOD members.
- define who should do orientation and when (BOD vs. PNTS staff)

Better define vision of PNTS so it is consistent & easily repeated
- review mission to see if it needs better definition
- how a national org. better represents its member orgs. with a reputation & image in D.C.

PNTS: Education and Lobbying of D.C. (agencies and Congress)
Member Trails: provide opportunities for info sharing, conference, education of members

Network & learn from existing orgs. & lean on existing expertise

Info on how to depend on non-staff to disseminate info. Have a best strategy for info dissemination.

Activate PNTS committees for better guidance to staff & help to delegate PNTS tasks:
- better committee work will provide more to member orgs. from PNTS

AHA! Review contract vs. employee status of PNTS staff to be sure arrangement is legal, optimal and fair.

PNTS assist in lobbying for funds
What resources are available to member orgs?
Need to provide better guidance on what trail orgs. need & what resources to provide

AHA! Improve communication with Key partners & more effective strategy/priority setting

Provide clear roll definition and accountability between PNTS staff, member org. staff, BOD/Leadership Council members and partners:
- who will lead for specific project
- who will do what
- for events
- for issue response, etc.

AHA! PNTS Board take lead and provide better guidance to PNTS staff and members on:
- work priorities
- deliverables
- define effective process to prioritize work for new issues that arise unexpectedly
- How NST's and NHT's overlap, and support where differences exist
- effective process for PNTS (staff & orgs) dealing with national funding issues & policy including: notice, strategy and time table to address effectively
- real time process to evaluate problems, capacity issues, performance issues, organizational issues

Request separate focused & structured meetings with agency and congressional staff for NST's during Hike the Hill.

Encourage member orgs. to nominate PNTS Board members

AHA! Look at PNTS needs & staff capacity & make decisions about staffing levels and duties
Choices?:
1. Limit deliverables
2. increase funding
3. more assistance from member orgs.
Ensure communication with NHT's re: employee strategy.

More rationalized, focused priority setting

Hike the Hill:
- 2 meetings? 1. partnership demonstration of success; 2. business meetings w/agency staff in summer
NEW STRATEGY (from Friday meeting with agency partners):
- Review AGO report

- I.D. PNTS priorities considering Decade Goals, 1 or 2 items to bring up to agency leadership from NST's and NHT's by Nov. 19. (Develop matrix of issues by agency, select highest priorities)
- Start process and bring in NHT's at the Oct. ExCom meeting
- meet with Chief once/year; joint interagency meeting in summer to address 1 or 2 issues; meet with other agency staff other times; currently, don't talk about funding – too tight now.

Advocacy Week Planning Committee
- express desired outcomes
- Washington Plaza Hotel, 2/12/11 to 2/18/11
- making agency and congressional staff appointments
- PNTS BOD Committee:

    Kent Wimmer (FTA) - Chair
    Leslie Sabin (PCTA) – scheduling
    Steve Dudley (CDTA) – USFS
    Liz Bergeron (PCTA) – Planning
    Bob Proudman (ATC) (tentative) – white paper development
    Add NHT trail reps.