

- (4) The duties of the council shall include the following:
- (a) Facilitate a statewide system of interconnected landscape linkages, conservation corridors, greenbelts, recreational corridors and trails, scenic corridors, utilitarian corridors, reserves, regional parks and preserves, ecological sites, and cultural/historic/recreational sites using land-based trails that connect urban, suburban, and rural areas of the state and facilitate expansion of the statewide system of freshwater and saltwater paddling trails.
    - Get to know the Opportunity and Priority map – especially in your Area-*Be familiar with the area and people within the area (help facilitate connections)*
    - Attend local and state meetings to educate others about the maps and encourage Inclusion-*Get Involved-Be the ambassador for trails/ Access to PPTS/Information for people (Council Members) to use when going out and speaking/presenting/educating. (Resource Library-Added to the Share Point Page) Hire Someone that can facilitate a strategic plan. Goals & Objectives.*
    - *The intent is that the Council should be proactive with the facilitation of the FGTS. Raise the level of awareness and visibility of the FGTS. This could be an area to explore with Florida Greenways and Trails Foundation for some collaboration. Also, it is noteworthy that the bullet calls for expanding the paddling trails system! (BS)*
  - (b) Recommend priorities for critical links in the Florida Greenways and Trails System.
    - Participate in the public meetings when updating the Opportunity/Priority maps- *Attend meetings/assisting in reaching out to contacts*
    - Review changes to Maps-*Look at areas you are familiar with and help with information gathering*
    - Identify and recommend the priorities
    - *The Council could go through a careful evaluation process to prioritize specific links they think would be critical either due to their strategic position or due to a situation of timing. This also implies that the Council should set priorities with levels to them. That is, should we establish priority tiers in the System. (BS)*
  - (c) Review recommendations of the office for acquisition funding under the Florida Greenways and Trails Program and recommend to the Secretary of Environmental Protection which projects should be acquired.
    - Educate local governments in your areas -*Resource Library*
    - Encourage acquisition applications that will help complete the FGTS
    - Review the acquisition applications
    - Approve/recommend projects that help complete the Priority System
    - *Proactively identify any acquisitions based upon gaps in the system (BS)*
  - (d) Review designation proposals for inclusion in the Florida Greenways and Trails System.
    - Be familiar with the Designation program
    - Encourage public/private designations
    - Review/Approve designation applications
    - *Initiative here would be with OGT and the Council responding (BS)*
  - (e) Encourage public-private partnerships to develop and manage greenways and trails.
    - Be familiar with the FGTS Opportunity and Priority System
    - Educate local governments, developers, health organizations, hotel/restaurants, TPO/MPO, visitor bureaus, schools, tourist development councils, etc. about the

benefits of trails (economy, tourism, health, transportation, recreation and conservation)

- Facilitate meetings between these groups to establish partnerships
- *Although this appears to be a somewhat passive responsibility with the use of the word encourage, this could be an important function. There are many opportunities to further trail initiatives or provide amenities that could be either for-profit or not-for-profit ventures with public agencies. This could be a function to be explored with the FGTF. (BS)*

(f) Review progress toward meeting established benchmarks and recommend appropriate action.

- Develop work plan with measurable goals and objectives-*\$/Assistance Strategic Plan from Foundation*
- Develop strategy to meet goals
- Establish working groups to accomplish goals
- Discuss progress and each quarterly meeting to ensure you are meeting goals
- *Important function which relies upon an established work plan. This is a reminder that as we define the tasks connected with the other bullets we will need to define benchmarks for review and decisions. These benchmarks and recommendations might apply to not only what the Council is doing but also what other agencies might be doing. (BS)*

(g) Make recommendations for updating and revising the implementation plan for the Florida Greenways and Trails System.

- Be familiar with FGTS 5-year Plan – expires December 2017
- Plan update needs to be complete by January 2018
- Identify and make recommendations on updated 5-year Plan
- Attend public meetings in your area
- *This is an important bullet and one that would require considerable involvement of the OGT staff. OGT may already be organized on this? (BS)*

(h) Promote greenways and trails support organizations.

- Be familiar with organizations in your area that support greenways and trails
- Participate with the organizations – Become members
- Educate about the benefits of greenways and trails and encourage participation from these organizations
- *This bullet may need some further definition. If support means that we are talking about the agency that actually operates the trail I can see considerable engagement by both the Council and OGT on a direct basis. However, if this is about citizen agencies that are in an advocate or help function this could be something we could explore with the Foundation. (BS)*

(i) Support the Florida Greenways and Trails System through intergovernmental coordination, budget recommendations, advocacy, education, and any other appropriate way.

- Encourage partnerships and coalitions *-Encourage Cooperation*
- Participate locally to educate cities and counties about the benefits of greenways and trails
- Encourage local governments to support projects within the FGTS in their budget
- Encourage local governments to work with legislative contacts

- Be familiar with greenways and trails activities and advocate for projects
- Participate on local boards or groups to educate about the FGTS and the benefits
- *Ongoing program of outreach and cooperation with other agencies. The first step may be to identify these other agencies or groups and then define how we could work with or relate to them. This bullet might also be implemented by pursuing the other bullets in this package. (BS)*

*2014 bullet*

*The Council to identify trail priorities within the Florida Greenways and Trails System for funding by FDOT from appropriated funds. The Council has begun to do this by identifying the top regional systems but it appears there could be more done with respect to a system of priorities.*

*2015 bullet*

*The Council to work with FDOT on trail priorities on the SUNTrail Network as a component of the Florida Greenway and Trail System. This does raise the question that there needs to be more definition with this trail system if there are to be components within it. Also, as the built (or to be built) system emerges there is the need to track the progress and see how things are shaping up and whether adjustments are needed.*

*Sarah Glassner*

*Develop a resource library for Council members to use at community events*

- o *Power points, high level to detailed (information probably exists already, just making it available to the Council members)*

*Breakdown the state in to regions represented by council members, so council members know who is responsible for what area, what projects are going on in their area, what are the existing gaps, priority networks, etc.*

- o *Regional trail focus: encouraging local stakeholders to connect*
- o *Attend local events*
- o *27 MPO, 38 Counties covered, all other TDC, local information should be included*
- o *What communities have trail master plans?*

*Create a calendar of events for outreach within the state/region, especially for events that recur annually or quarterly*

*Get familiar with the Implementation plan, review for recommendations – ask a council member/staff to champion a review of one goal or a set of strategies of the plan each month for other council members to join in on for educational purposes*

*Provide a list of organizations that support trails to Council Members, get connected and know their events*

*Understand the differences between the FCT, OGT, RTP – what are they? Is there an overview for Council Members?*

*Get to know the Maps:*

- o How are the opportunity maps different from the priority maps?*
- o talk with people in the opportunity areas > get them engaged; have a print out for the Council members (or ask if they will accept an electronic copy. The one in the plan is too small to really see the detail.)*

*Know what a designation is and how to pitch it to private land owners (removes liability for the land owner)*

*Identify existing conferences to piggyback to talk on OGT*

*how about creating a virtual conference/scheduled webinars once a month and posting previous webinars on the OGT site?*

- o Topics could be on grants, upcoming meetings, whatever issues local governments/trail organizations need help with*
- o Use DEO and REDI as well*

*Getting the word out on grants: who do the RFP notifications go to? What does the notice look like? Is it in the Bid Solicitation Notice? Is there DOS listing?*

*Timeline when grants are coming up – should have predictability for solicitations*

*Grant distribution list– which groups receive the notification that there is a grant opening for? What are the other ways OGT publishes grants?*

*Colleen Kruk*

*I agree with all of Sarah's great recommendations. I also would like our duties connected to the SCORP report that is prepared by FDEP. The SCORP, as I understand it, is the statewide document that serves to identify recreation needs per region, per county, per city, etc. But it also serves to provide knowledge and awareness of the importance of recreation in Florida. I think it would be beneficial for us to include some of these goals in that document. Additionally, since we are all very aware of how economically important tourism and recreation is to Florida, we should strive to have a section in the plan that identifies the economic value of state parks, state Forests, etc. and the trail systems that will connect to these areas. I know this sounds like a tremendous task but this economic value will be very important tool for the future. Below is a link to a report completed in 2013 for National Park Systems.*