



State of Wisconsin
GOVERNOR'S STATE TRAILS COUNCIL

Meeting Minutes

Final - as of 1/13/12

Friday, October 28, 2011

Trekker Lodge, Lapham Peak Unit – Kettle Moraine State Forest
W329 N846 County Highway C, Delafield, WI
10:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

State Trails Council Members Present: Ken Carpenter, Randy Harden, Doug Johnson, Dave Phillips, Skip Maletzke, Bryan Much, Luana Schneider, Robbie Webber, Marty Weigel (for Harold Schmidt), Jim White
State Trails Council Members Not In Attendance: Phil Johnsrud, Mike McFadzen
Wisconsin DNR Staff Present: Dan Schuller, Brigit Brown, Kris Hess, Tim Parsons, Jeff Prey
Others Present: Brad Crary, Nathan Guerra, Roger Kussman, Judy Peterson, Dave Peterson, Gene Roberts, Hank Wozniel

10:00 A.M. – Introduction, Agenda review/repair and approval of July/September meeting minutes

- Harden called the meeting to order. Amend agenda to reflect approval of July and September minutes (not April). Repair of July minutes. In Hiking Report, change “England” to “Scotland”. In Bylaws subcommittee report (line five), change “after” to “during” to reflect that public comment would be during each agenda item. Approval of the July 8, 2011 meeting minutes and the September 21, 2011 meeting minutes. Minutes passed as amended.

10:10 A.M. – Chair Report

- The STC bill in the Legislature passed the Senate on October 25. The bill is now scheduled for an Assembly vote on November 1. This is a positive step forward for the STC, and for trails. Congratulations to everyone who has worked to make this happen.

10:15 A.M. – State Trails Council Member Reports

- *Tourism/Business* Tourism is continuing to expand. This year there has been a 3.8 percent year-to-date increase in tourism in Wisconsin compared to last year. By next year, numbers are expected to be back at previous levels (~2007). New advertising is being rolled out and hitting other states. Niche travel seems to have seen the greatest success lately. Promotions like Groupon and Social Living have been very successful.
- *Off-Highway Motorcycles*. There was a recent adventure motorcycle rally in Eagle River. The most popular trail was a two-track at the Northern Highland-American Legion (NHAL) State Forest. Several new routes have been mapped. Route information is available on Cannonshot.net. There have been several off-road trails, which rely heavily on private lands. Motorized vehicles are popular for hunting. Much received a draft of OHM registration legislation from the Legislative Reference Bureau which will hopefully be introduced during the 2012 Legislative Session.
- *4-Wheel Drive Vehicles*. Work continues on a potential motorized recreation area near Crandon. WOHVA is working on an access trail to the Pipeline Trail, using Recreation Trails Program (RTP) funding. The Wisconsin 4-Wheel Drive Association held their March of Dimes fundraising rally, and it was a success. Schneider worked with NHAL staff on the event in the forest.



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- *Bicycling.* There is pending legislation to allow bicyclists to use a flashing red light instead of a reflector on the rear of a bicycle, to allow passing a bicycle (by another vehicle) in a double yellow line, to expand the definition of bicycle to include handcycles and recumbents, and to allow studded tires on bikes. Wisconsin went from number two to number three for bicycling, nationally. There is a proposed amendment to take all Transportation Enhancements funding and move it to bridge repair in the federal highway bill. Jill Glenzinski has been named as Tom Huber's replacement as the Department of Transportation's Bicycle and Pedestrian Coordinator. Both the Recreational Trails Program and Transportation Enhancements funding are in danger; STC members will share with each other talking points and the messages that they are getting out to their user groups.
- *Hiking.* There was a recent Ice Age Trail project to construct two miles of trail. More than 140 volunteers contributed 26,000+ hours of labor to get the trail constructed. There are a number of projects like this, run by the Mobile Skills Crew, throughout the state every year that attract volunteers and volunteer groups from all over the Midwest.
- *Snowmobiling.* The Association of Wisconsin Snowmobile Clubs (AWSC) is continuing to work with Discover Wisconsin to create a TV episode. The show will highlight the clubs that create and maintain Wisconsin's snowmobile trails. Snowmobile events like grass rides, swap meets, snow shows, etc., help keep snowmobilers active throughout the year. There is at least one major trail access issue involving a private landowner closing a trail segment near Three Rivers. AWSC is talking with Tourism about resurrecting the statewide snowmobile map highlighting the state's 22,000-25,000 miles of trail. Legislation to increase snowmobile funding and club membership is expected to be introduced next week. The fall AWSC workshops will be taking place in Stevens Point, November 4-6.
- *Boards/Small Wheels.* There is a new paved trail connecting the Waukesha County Lake Country Trail to the Glacial Drumlin State Trail. Groups will be working with the Department of Natural Resources on a pavement maintenance policy.
- *Mountain Bicycling.* The Wisconsin Off-Road Bicycling Association (WORBA) is negotiating with the Bicycle Federation of Wisconsin and the International Mountain Bicycling Association to incorporate into those two organizations. A new type of mountain bicycle allows bikers to use bikes on beaches and snow. The indoor mountain bike park in Milwaukee is a great asset to mountain bikers and provides more of a skills-type setting than a trail.
- *Equestrian.* Carpenter recently participated in a program in France where he was invited to represent equestrians. Much of the riding was done on the beaches. There was a discussion about potential damage to the beaches by riding. It was felt that greater damage comes from pedestrians walking over the dunes (versus horses on the flat beach areas). Access issues are increasing on lands purchased with state Stewardship-Natural Areas funds. The trails at Lapham Peak are a good example of shared mountain bike and horse use.
- *All-Terrain Vehicles.* The riding season is winding down. Most ATV trails close on the 15th or 31st of October, except for trails on county and state lands. There is new ATV legislation, mainly concerning youth and grandparents, road routes, and private property. Storm damage issues have impacted ATV trails. An ATV/Snowmobile OWI tie-in bill will be reintroduced this session. Plans are also underway to modify the ATV Trail Patrol Ambassador education program. The Wisconsin All-Terrain Vehicle Association (WATVA) workshop will be held April 20-22, 2012. The new Utility Terrain Vehicle (UTV) program is moving forward. Details of the proposed program include co-registration with the current ATV program, a license plate requirement, and funding distribution.



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11:25 A.M. – Utility Terrain Vehicle (UTV) Resolution

- Several bills have been introduced regarding UTVs. There is now one bill which WATVA helped to craft that takes into account many aspects of safe, responsible, appropriate UTV use on trails, and creates what is believed to be a workable UTV registration and grant program. Resolution in support of a permanent UTV registration program moved by Phillips. Seconded by Webber. Motion passed.

11:40 A.M. – Recreational Trails Program (RTP) Update

- Tim Parsons updated the council on the Recreational Trails Program. Parsons provided handouts listing the RTP grants awarded for the 2010 grant cycle. The program is expected to have \$3 million available for the 2011 grant cycle, with 2/3 of the money available for large projects, 1/3 of the funding will be capped at \$45,000 projects (most years 100 percent of grant funds are capped at \$45,000). The council expressed appreciation for the explanations Parsons has been providing. Feedback has been generally positive about the cap. The council asked that a grants staff person attend a future meeting to talk about their work with local sponsors.

12:30 P.M. – America's Great Outdoors Initiative and SCORP Update

- Jeff Prey, Senior Planner with the Wisconsin DNR Bureau of Parks and Recreation, provided an overview of the Federal Program, America's Great Outdoors (AGO) Initiative, and the initial trends and findings of the Statewide Comprehensive Outdoors Recreation Plan (SCORP) that is being developed for 2011-2016.
 - <http://americasgreatoutdoors.gov/>
 - <http://dnr.wi.gov/planning/scorp/>

1:00 P.M. – Bylaws Subcommittee Report

- Robbie Webber reviewed the second phase of proposed bylaw changes which focus on public appearances and how the public can participate in STC meetings. Bryan Much introduced a revision to the language concerning how the public introduces items for the agenda. STC members agreed to have the department combine the current recommendations and add language from the Ad Hoc Structure Committee recommendations regarding the review of trail user groups represented on the STC, and the review of Recreational Trails Program grant funding criteria.

1:30 P.M. – DNR Report

- Master plans in progress or upcoming include Point Beach State Forest, the Ice Age Reserve at Cross Plains, Door County state parks, Kettle Moraine Northern and Southern units, and the former Badger Army Ammunition Facility adjacent to Devil's Lake State Park.
- The Chippewa Moraine State Ice Age Recreation Area Interpretive Center was renamed, per an item in the state budget, for former congressman David R. Obey.
- Wisconsin State Parks are working with the National Association of State Park Directors for "First Day Events." These will be hiking, skiing, or snowshoeing events that will take place in eight state parks on January 1, 2012.
- The STC will consider sustainable funding for public recreation at a future meeting.

2:00 P.M. – 2012 Officer Elections

- Phillips presented a slate of officers for 2012: Randy Harden – chair, Robbie Webber – vice-chair, Skip Maletzke – secretary. Johnson motioned to accept the nominations, seconded by Schneider. Motion passed.



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2:10 P.M. – 2012 Meeting Dates

- Friday, January 13, 2012 (Teleconference), 10 a.m. – Noon
- Wednesday, April 11, 2012 (Madison), 10 a.m. – 3 p.m.
- Monday, July 9, 2012 (Teleconference), 10 a.m. – Noon
- Friday, October 26, 2012 (Green Bay area), 10 a.m. – 3 p.m.

2:30 P.M. – Vision Cycling Presentation

- Nathan Guerra introduced STC members to his organization, Vision Cycling, and their goal of getting kids into mountain biking. Guerra mentioned some of the barriers currently being experienced by the group. STC members suggested working with other user groups (equestrian, e.g.) on trail user education and interaction between different user groups. Various resources were suggested: contact Bicycle Federation's executive director and review the DNR's Trail Safety & Etiquette brochure (available online: <http://dnr.wi.gov/org/land/parks/trails/etiquette.pdf>).

2:45 P.M. – Public Comment

- Roger Kussman commented that some 4-wheel drive vehicles were similar in size to UTVs, and should have been included in the UTV resolution.

3:00 P.M. – Adjourn