



State of Wisconsin  
**GOVERNOR'S STATE TRAILS COUNCIL**

## Meeting Minutes

Final - as of 11/2/12

### **Monday, July 9, 2012 – Teleconference**

Room 613, GEF 2 Building, 101 S. Webster Street, Madison  
Rhineland DNR Service Center, 107 Sutliff Ave., Rhineland  
10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

**State Trails Council Members Present:** Ken Carpenter, Randy Harden, Doug Johnson, Phil Johnsrud, Skip Maletzke, Mike McFadzen, Bryan Much, Dave Phillips, Harold Schmidt, Luana Schneider, Robbie Webber, James White

**WI DNR Staff Present:** Brigit Brown, Tim Parsons, Joseph Warren

**Others Present:** Willie Bittner, John Brantmeier, Kevin Hardman, Peter Herreid, Andy Kostelney, Elmer Mulhollon, Sally Mulhollon, Tony Ramer, Jim Wisneski

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#### **10:00 A.M. – Agenda review/repair and approval of August meeting minutes**

- Harden called the meeting to order. Motion for approval of the April 11, 2012 meeting minutes by Maletzke. Seconded by McFadzen. Minutes approved.

#### **10:10 A.M. – Chair Report**

- The fall 2012 meeting date will be rescheduled to Friday, November 2, 2012. The meeting location is to be determined, but will be in the Green Bay area. The fall meeting will be a good opportunity for the STC to review trail uses and trends, as suggested in the Ad Hoc Committee report. A review of trail uses will be added to the fall STC meeting agenda. Some STC positions will be expiring in 2013.

#### **10:15 A.M. – STC Purview Discussion Recap**

- Much recapped the discussion from the April STC meeting. Much stated that his interpretation of the statutes, mission and bylaws is that the council's purview is to advise the DNR. User groups can disseminate any information such as resolutions or letters to legislators or whomever they choose. Carpenter stated the council advises the DNR as an agency, not just the state parks program. Webber stated that she was unsure if all council members interpreted the language the same way and the council has more influence as a representative of all user groups. McFadzen stated user groups can contact legislators directly on any issue. Phillips stated that STC members can still contact legislators individually, but must be speaking on behalf of the user group, not the council. Harden stated the council may need to look at each issue on a case-by-case basis and determine if the issue is within the council's purview.

#### **10:25 A.M. – DNR Report**

- The High Cliff State Park master plan is currently in progress. The master plan for the White River State Fishery Area, near Bayfield, will be starting the end of July. Master planning will be starting in the next few months for the Mukwonago River Unit of the Kettle Moraine State Forest. Master planning for the five Door County State Parks; Newport, Peninsula, Potawatomi, Rock Island and Whitefish Dunes, is expected to begin within the next year.
- Master planning will also be starting for the Sauk Prairie Recreation Area (former Badger Army Ammunition Plant) near Devil's Lake State Park. The rail line segment that goes through the property



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will be used as a trail. The rail line goes north to Reedsburg and south over the Wisconsin River where a crossing would need to be determined. Johnson stated that snowmobile groups in the Sauk Prairie area have also been working on this Wisconsin River crossing and will put them in touch with Brown to provide an update on their efforts.

- The draft of the 2011-2016 Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP) was out for public comment in June. The DNR will take those comments, update, and finalize the plan. The final plan will be available published and available to the public.
- The DNR is looking at potential connector routes for the Wolf River State Trail. The southern section of the trail remains non-motorized. The DNR continues to investigate other potential sites for a Motorized Recreation Area.
- Appointments to the Non-motorized Recreation and Transportation Trails Council have been made. The first meeting will be August 16, 2012 in Stevens Point.

### **10:55 A.M. – Recreational Trails Program (RTP) Update**

- The ranking and rating meeting was held in June to determine grant awards for the Recreational Trails Program, and the other grant programs funded under the Stewardship Local Units of Government umbrella. There are 44 projects proposed to be funded for about \$2.2 million. Twelve projects exceed the regular cap as this is the cycle where 2/3 of the money goes for larger projects, and 1/3 of the money goes to projects under \$45,000. Anticipated approval of these projects is in August or early fall so work can begin this construction season. The Federal Transportation Bill has full funding authority for Recreation Trails for Federal Fiscal Year 2012. After 2013, it is uncertain what funding authority will be available. Next year's round of grants will go back to the \$45,000 cap for all projects. McFadzen asked to add this topic to the fall STC meeting agenda.

### **11:05 A.M. – State Trails Council Member Reports**

- *Bicycling.* Cuts to trail funding programs will have a big impact on trail projects. Fifty percent of the money from Transportation Enhancements will be going to Metropolitan Planning Organizations and fifty percent will go to the state. There were two tragic deaths of bikers recently in Wisconsin. Bike organizations are looking at safety campaigns. The number of people biking for recreation and transportation is increasing, and businesses are seeing the economic benefits of having adjacent trails.
- *Tourism/Business.* The Wisconsin Department of Tourism's Travel Green Program is expanding, with new members and eco-tourism. Northeast Wisconsin has seen an increase in tourism through spring and early summer. Water trail users, bikers and ATV numbers are up. Lodging business in Northern Wisconsin are doing well this summer.
- *Equestrian.* There was a recent trail building school held at Lapham Peak in Waukesha County. The attendees worked on a section of trail that was for bikes and horses. Mountain bikers, equestrians, Ice Age Trail Alliance members and trail managers attended the training. There will be one more trail building school in the end of July near White Lake, Wisconsin.
- *Snowmobiling.* A Wisconsin dealer was recognized at the International Snowmobile Congress in Massachusetts as dealer of the year by the American Council of Snowmobile Associations (ACSA). The Tri-county Recreation Corridor in Ashland, Bayfield and Douglas counties just held its 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary. July 20-22, 2012 will be the annual World Championship Snowmobile Watercross in Grantsburg, WI. In August the Association of Wisconsin Snowmobile Clubs (AWSC), along with Discover Wisconsin, will be at the Wisconsin State Fair.



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- *Water Trails.* The summer drought has had an impact on river use. Northern Wisconsin has seen an increase in the number of people using the rivers. Johnsrud is working with Waupaca County to determine a process for developing maps for water trails in the county. Two kayak campsites will be added at Point Beach State Forest for the Lake Michigan water trail.
- *Cross-Country Skiing.* Youth skiing organizations are continuing their growth, following school-based models. Snow amounts were down across much of the state last winter. There continues to be an emphasis to add more lighting and shelter facilities for skiers. Volunteers and clubs are often doing the funding and grooming for ski trails and facilities.
- *Off-Highway Motorcycles.* Much recently published a new ride for off-highway motorcyclists in northern Wisconsin which utilizes national, county and state forest lands. Michigan riders have been coming to Wisconsin to ride the trail. It is a dual-sport experience which uses off-highway and road routes. Off-highway motorcyclists are also working on legislation for OHM registration. There will be a dual-sport ride in Eagle River in August.
- *4-Wheel Drive Vehicles.* Schneider attended the Forest County OHV park workshop in April. The group will be seeking funding to move forward with the park proposal. OHV clubs will be getting involved in the master plan process for the Sauk Prairie Recreation Area. The Jeep Jamboree will be held in Mole Lake later in July. The March of Dimes ride will be held in Rib Lake on October 6, 2012.
- *Hiking.* No report.
- *Off-Road Bicycling.* Summer is race season for off-road bicyclists with many events taking place across the state. The Wisconsin Off-Road Racing Series is the biggest state mountain bike racing series in the country. Schmidt encouraged all interested in trails to attend a trail building course. The number of IMBA chapters continues to grow. There are also a number of mountain bike patrollers riding the trails in Wisconsin.
- *Wheels/Small Boards.* No report
- *All-Terrain Vehicles.* The Wisconsin All-Terrain Vehicle Association's (WATVA's) Trail Patrol Ambassador program has put 75 new people through the course this year. WATVA has completed a package of ATV/UTV legislation, which includes a rear license plate requirement for vehicles. This package also includes a free ATV weekend, to tie in with the free fishing weekend and state parks open house day, in June 2013. WATVA and AWSC are hosting a "Dirt and Snow" trail conference in Antigo in August.

### **11:45 A.M. – STC Officer Nominations**

- Phillips presented a list of officer nominations; Robbie Webber – Chair, Bryan Much - Vice chair, and Skip Maletzke - Secretary. Harden declined a nomination to continue as Chair. These nominations will be presented at the fall meeting for a formal vote, and new officers will begin their terms in 2013.

### **11:50 A.M. – Public Comment**

- Andy Kostelney, President of the White Lake ATV Club, stated the situation on the White River State Trail has been unfortunately taking a long time and that he has felt there has been miscommunication between the DNR, County, and the public. Kostelney asked if alternatives were considered to find a connection for non-motorized users off the rail corridor. Kostelney stated groups are willing to work on a cost-effective, environmentally-friendly solution that can accommodate all users.



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- John Brantmeier stated the local residents of the Nicolet State Trail use the trail daily and he has not heard of motorized/non-motorized conflicts. Brantmeier stated he hoped the Wolf River State Trail can be opened soon as it would help with tourism.
- Sally Mulhollon stated she had a proposal for ATV/bike trail connection alternatives for the Wolf River State Trail issue that she presented to the Town of White Lake. Mulhollon will forward this proposal to the DNR.
- Willie Bittner, Operations Director with WisCorps, introduced himself to the council and stated WisCorps was willing to work with all trail groups for projects. WisCorps is a non-profit youth conservation corps that works on conservation projects on public lands in Wisconsin.
- Kevin Hardman, Executive Director for the Bicycle Federation of Wisconsin, introduced himself to the council. Hardman stated the STC was a good place for all different user groups to come together to work on issues. Hardman recently attended the IMBA world summit to network with bike/trail folks.

**12:00 P.M. – Adjourn**

- Motion to adjourn by Johnson. Seconded by Webber. Meeting adjourned.