

70-Mile Trail Oversight Committee Meeting

Tuesday, January 29, 2008

6 PM

Long Lake Conservation Center, Palisade, MN

MINUTES

In Attendance: Robert Marcum*, Steve Aysta*, Frank Turnock*, Mark Jacobs*, Brian Napstad*, Len Hardy*, Galen Tveit*, Ross Wagner*, Bob Moore, Robin Baker*, Jon Korpi*, T.J. Gustin*, Harlan Kingsley*, Jerry Bahls, Beth Jacqmain, Jeff Koehn, Dan Guida, Jerry Pawlak, Tom Hackbarth, Marvin Hohsten, Mary Broten, Doug Mensing**, Katie Fernholz**

* = Committee Member ** - project coordinator

6:15 PM – Call to Order

Approval of 12/18/2007 Meeting Minutes

(Motion by F. Turnock, Second R. Wagner, Motion passed)

Approval of Meeting Agenda

(Motion by L. Hardy, Second R. Wagner, Motion passed)

Review of Old Business

Review of Actions & Decisions from previous meeting

Outcome of Discussion: Project Coordinator reported the printing and mailing of the first Quarterly Progress Report that summarizes the project accomplishments to date. The report was mailed to 228 business and government officials (including county, city, townships, etc) in the project area and using mailing lists provided by Aitkin and Itasca County. The report was also emailed to interested parties and is available at the project website.

Discussion and New Business

Results of Sub-Committee Review of Public Comments

- The project coordinator reviewed the final document summarizing public comments about the project & committee responses.
- Motion by L. Hardy to approve the document and post it to the project website with the names of individual stakeholders removed. Second H. Kingsley. Motion Passed.

Results of GIS Sub-Committee Meeting and Review of Trail Alignment

- Presentation of maps from AES

Update on GIS plan and analysis

- *Outcome of Discussion:* A meeting of the GIS sub-committee was held on January 9th. The group reviewed the public comments and the proposed trail alignment. The recommendation of the sub-committee is that the project be advanced in two phases. The first phase would include the proposed trail segments that have minimum social and environmental concerns associated with them. A phased approach would provide time for focus groups to address the concerns with the phase II trail segments. By using a phased approach it is hoped the construction can begin in 2008 and is a way for the project to continue to move forward. The DNR will need to confirm that the phased approach meets the legislative intent and the language of the grant agreement. The committee agreed to post information about the phased approach at the website following confirmation from the DNR that the approach is acceptable. A quick overview was also provided to the committee regarding how GIS data were being used in the proposed trail analysis.

Red Top Trail Survey (report from ACLD/Dovetail)

- *Outcome of Discussion:* One of the recommendations from the GIS sub-committee was to develop a survey to gather noise disturbance data associated with an existing trail and to inform the impact analysis of the 70-Mile trail project. In mid-January, 161 surveys were mailed to property owners within 3 miles of the Red Top Trail. To date, the survey response rate is greater than 40%. The deadline for returning surveys is February 4th. Final results will be reported at the next committee meeting.

Update on EAW process and timing

- *Outcome of Discussion:* The further develop of the EAW will be pursued following confirmation from the DNR that a phased approach as proposed by the committee is acceptable under the grant agreement.

Discussion of Monitoring and Enforcement Planning process

- *Outcome of Discussion:* A meeting of the Monitoring and Enforcement sub-committee was held on January 24th. Participants included Len Hardy, Frank Turnock, Jeff Koehn, Scott Turner, Dan Guida, Terry Snyder, and Mark Jacobs. The discussions from the meeting identified the need to address enforcement funding needs to ensure adequate resources are available to support the trail. The meeting participants also defined and agreed to the enforcement roles and responsibilities for the conservation officers, sheriff's department, and trail ambassadors.

Public Comments

J. Bahls: Would like a more detailed map at the website as soon as possible and interested in any feedback from the county attorney about enforcement.

J. Koehn – Followed up on recommendation to talk with county attorney and is in conversation.

D. Guida – Also talking with county attorney about enforcement efforts.

M. Jacobs – The Aitkin County attorney has the notes from the sub-committee meeting on the 24th.

H. Kingley – The committee needs to address designating Class I and Class II uses for the trail segments. Class IIs are increasing popular but have different width, weight, and height limits.

D. Guida – The committee needs to determine the season dates for the trail. Setting dates can address private landowner and hunting concerns.

J. Koehn – The state is considering a proposal to create an OHV season.

M. Broten – The DNR Commissioner is looking at several options, assuming continued spring closures and temporary closures based on conditions. Need to also accommodate utilitarian uses of OHVs. The trail season can be set by the trail sponsor.

Comments on future agenda items for discussion:

- Class I and Class II designations
- Trail season dates
- Funding to support monitoring and enforcements
- Signage and emergency service regulations

Next Committee Meeting: Wednesday, February 20, 2008, 6 pm at the LLCC

8:28 PM Adjourn (Motion by L. Hardy, Second R. Wagner, Motion passed)

For directions to the LLCC, call 218-768-4653 or visit:

<http://www.llcc.org/roadmap.html>