

70-Mile Trail Oversight Committee Meeting

Monday, June 16, 2008

6 PM

Long Lake Conservation Center, Palisade, MN

MINUTES

In Attendance: Robert Marcum*, Steve Aysta*, Frank Turnock*, Mark Jacobs*, Brian Napstad*, Maynard Ahonen*, Len Hardy*, Galen Tveit*, T.J. Gustin*, Harlan Kingsley*, Ross Wagner*, Warren Spawn*, Kim Risen*, Jeff Koehn, Terry Kullken, Warren Witt, Beth Jacqmain, Jerry Pawlak, Mary Broten, Bob Moore, Ginny Ekstrand, Gilbert Eigsberg, Allen Askevold, Katie Fernholz**, Kim Chapman**

* = Committee Member ** - project coordinator

6:08 PM – Call to Order

Approval of 4/29/2008 Meeting Minutes
(Motion by L. Hardy, Second G.Tveit, Approved)

Approval of Meeting Agenda
(Addition of Information about Usage of County Roads and County State-Aid Highways (CSAH) by ATVs, Motion by L. Hardy, Second H. Kingsley, Approved)

Review of Old Business

Review of Actions & Decisions from previous meeting

Development of Phase I EAW: At the last meeting the decision was made to authorize the Aitkin County Land Commissioner to execute a contract for preparation of the EAW. Since that time the EAW has been drafted.

Update on EAW process and timing

- report from County Land Depts and AES

Outcome of Discussion: The EAW addressing the Phase I trails has been drafted and is nearly completed. The EAW includes discussion of the four trail segments and the information included addresses required permits, land use impacts, fish and wildlife considerations, invasive species, rare, threatened and endangered species, shoreland and water quality, soil impacts, solid waste management, traffic and air emissions, odors, dust visual impacts off construction, land use plan compatibility and cumulative impacts that include Phase II and other trails, such as the UPM trail. It was challenging to coordinate the data between the multiple agencies, and the work done by AES was commendable. The next steps in the process will include review and approval by the EAW Review Committee and the County Board. The deadline for publishing the public notice of the EAW in the EQB Monitor is July 7th. The EQB Monitor is published on July 14th and then a 30 day public comment period begins.

Advancement of Monitoring and Enforcement Planning process

- Approval of the drafted Monitoring and Enforcement Plan for review by the DNR. (Motion by F. Turnock, Second Ross, Approved) The drafted plan is available at the project website and comments that have been received have complemented the quality and comprehensiveness of the plan.

Discussion of Phase II Work teams

- Proposal to have the work teams submit trail alignment proposals at the next committee meeting on August 25th. The Aitkin Recreation Forester will contact the work team coordinators, help organize meetings and keep track of route alternatives.

Discussion of Naming Process for the Trail System and Trail Segments

- The committee will seek public nominations of names for the trail system and the new trail segments. Nominations will be accepted through the website and regular mail through August 15th. The project coordinator will distribute information about the nomination process through the media and project contact lists.

Information about Usage of County Roads and County State-Aid Highways (CSAH) by ATVs

- The Aitkin County long-term trail layout plan can designate county road or CSAH segments to link trails as needed to avoid wetlands or for other specific reasons. Nothing is proposed for designation at this time and no process or criteria have been established. The sheriff, engineer, attorney, and others would need to be involved in establishing that process. There are four legal options for when a road can be designated: to avoid a temporary obstacle, private use registration and agricultural purposes, corridor access trail to connect existing trails, or ordinance to allow road use when safe operation in the ditch is impossible. Aitkin County has taken no action to designate county road or CSAH routes for trails.

Public Comments

J. Koehn – Attended ATVAM event at Silver Bay that afforded a riding opportunity and demonstrated people doing the right thing. Several 1,000 people in attendance and economic benefit for the area that could occur in this region in the future.

L. Hardy – Congratulations to Frank Turnock for his trail ride on May 16th.

B. Napstad – The County has adopted the “limited” status and it is in effect.

M. Jacobs – We need to establish the trail signage and the regulation mirrors the state requirements.

B. Napstad – The Mississippi Headwaters Board in cleaning up language in their ordinance to address existing trails. The change means that no new trails will be allowed in the “Wild” section and conditional use permitting to establish new trails in the “Scenic” section.

A. Askevold – A private landowner is being impacted by the Turnock Trail.

F. Turnock – The trail goes through the hay field and the signs are up now so the trail is 100’ south of the house as planned.

Next Committee Meeting: August 25th, 6 pm, Long Lake Conservation Center
*(For directions to the LLCC, call 218-768-4653 or visit:
<http://www.llcc.org/roadmap.html>)*

7:50 PM Adjourn

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