

70-Mile Trail Oversight Committee Meeting

Monday, August 25th, 2008

6 PM

Long Lake Conservation Center, Palisade, MN

MINUTES

In Attendance: Robert Marcum*, Steve Aysta*, Mark Jacobs*, Brian Napstad*, Len Hardy*, Galen Tveit*, John Korpi*, Warren Spawn*, Rick Utech*, Robin Baker*, Ross Wagner*, Andrew Brown*, Jerry Pawlak, Bob Moore, Allen Askevold, Gilbert Eigsberg, James Anderson, Carol Ann Allen, Jim Tourville, Russell Heittola, Larry Moses, Steve Hennessy, Katie Fernholz**

* = Committee Member ** - project coordinator

6:08 PM – Call to Order

Approval of 6/16/08 Meeting Minutes
(Motion by L. Hardy, Second W. Spawn, Approved)

Approval of Meeting Agenda
(Motion by L. Hardy, Second R. Utech, Approved)

Review of Old Business

- EAW process and timing
 - o A news release regarding the availability of the EAW for the 70-Mile Trail Project was emailed and faxed to local newspapers on July 28. The notice of availability was emailed to project contacts (154 individuals) the same day. The EAW is posted at the project website and has been downloaded 73 times as of August 20. The EAW is also available for public review at the Aitkin County Courthouse. The notice of the EAW was published in the EQB Monitor on August 11. The public comment period ends September 10. Two comments have been received as of August 25. The RGU (Aitkin County) is responsible for preparing a response to comments within 15 working days of the close of public comments (by October 1). This will be included as an agenda item at the next meeting. The committee complements the efforts of Aitkin County, Itasca County and the DNR in completing the EAW and developing a quality product.
- Distribution of Quarterly Progress Report
 - o The Quarterly Progress Report highlighted the availability of the EAW and was mailed on August 5th to 184 interested parties, including local town clerks, government officials, and businesses. The report is also available at the project website and was distributed to the electronic project contact list (154 individuals).

- Monitoring and Enforcement Plan
 - o The drafted plan is currently under review by the DNR and is also available at the project website.

Phase II Work Team Updates

- Big Sandy/Palisade: Mark Jacobs has had discussions at the Palisade end of the proposed trail route (Grouse Street to Soo Line Trail) and an alternative route has been identified that will require the permission of an out-of-state landowner. Next steps are to contact this landowner and discuss the project. Also working on a meeting with Big Sandy stakeholders.
- Itasca County: Steve Aysta met with people from Jacobson, included Steve Sari, Len Hardy, John Korpi and Andrew Brown, to look at a map of right-of-ways and land ownership. Have identified landowners to be contacted, and a potential route has been identified to get to Warba.
- Hill City: No update

At the next meeting maps will be available to review the proposed Phase II trail alignments.

Review of Trail Name Nominations

- The committee reviewed the trail name nominations that were received as of August 15. The committee made the decision to not use the names of individuals for the trail system or whole segments. Trail names with a geographic context are preferred to help communicate the location of the trail system. Final names will be selected at the next committee meeting. The following names are currently under consideration by the committee.

Moose River Connector: Moose River Segment, MooSoo Trail

Lawler Loop: Lawler Loop

Solana Loop: Solana Forest Loop

Itasca County Trail: PenWar Trail

Overall Trail System: Country Rustic, Great 70 Outdoor Trail, Timberland ATV Trail System, The Timber Cruiser, Aitkin Itasca Soo Line ATV Trail System, Central MN Rails to Trails System*, Great Northwood's ATV Trail System*

* Trail name nominations submitted on August 26th

Public Comments

Bob Moore: I'd like to introduce Steve Hennessy of Tower, Minnesota who is in the OHV Development Specialist position with the DNR and working on OHV development projects in the region, including the 70-Mile Trail Project.

Steve Hennessy: I'm focused on trail development projects and not working too much with education and training which is more within the enforcement division.

Bob Moore: Learning a lot from the project, and it is a positive and good process.

Brian Napstad: The committee has been referenced by other counties that are impressed with the process.

Larry Moses: We're from Crow Wing County with the Central Lakes ATV Club and have been watching the process. We're working on trail routes from Brainerd to Emily and along Hwy 371.

Mark Jacobs: This year we have gotten more calls than ever about dirt bike interests. It could represent a growing demand that the trail system needs to plan for.

7:25 PM Adjourn

(Motion L. Hardy, Second R. Marcum, Approved)

Next Committee Meeting: September 22, 2008, 6 pm, Long Lake Conservation Center

Agenda items will include: EAW Response to Comments, Trail name selections, Phase II updates and review of maps

*For directions to the LLCC, call 218-768-4653 or visit:
<http://www.llcc.org/roadmap.html>*