

## Northwoods Regional ATV Trail System Oversight Committee Meeting

Tuesday, August 31st, 2010, 6 PM  
Quadna Mtn Resort, Hill City, MN

*In Attendance:* Brian Napstad\*, Robin Baker\*, Katie Fernholz\*\*, Len Hardy\*, Ross Wagner\*, Mark Jacobs\*, Harlan Kingsley\*, Andrew Brown\*, Jon Korpi\*, Jeff Koehn, Bob Moore, Joe Majerus, Don Kitzrow, James Christensen  
\* = *Committee Member* \*\*=*project coordinator*

### AGENDA

6:15 PM – Call to Order

Approval of Meeting Agenda with addition of Phase I feedback (Motion by L. Hardy, Second by R. Baker, Approved)

Approval of 6/8/10 Meeting Minutes (Motion by R. Wagner, Second by L. Hardy, Approved)

Review of Old Business

- Grand Opening held July 14<sup>th</sup>: Thank you to the planning committee and everyone for all of the help in organizing, hosting and participating in a successful grand opening event.
- The open house for Phase II was held on August 24<sup>th</sup> and was well attended (approx. 40 people). Maps were presented and comments invited. The Phase II proposed routes are to be featured in a newspaper article (Aitkin Age). Comments will continued to be welcomed throughout the project, including the formal EAW comment period.

Phase I Feedback

The feedback on the Phase I routes has been positive. The Land Department is hearing from riders that are coming from out of state to use the trails – Texas, Kentucky, etc. Reports from riders are positive overall and there is evidence of benefits to local businesses. Up North Riders had an event with 40 riders and rode the Lawler Loop trails. Some riders have commented on the need to maintain/repair geoblock areas. ACLD is working on geoblock repairs and an improved installation technique. Tour on August 23<sup>rd</sup> with BWSR, SWCDs, etc. at Lawler to review geoblock and get feedback on wetland crossings. Want to work together on recommendations for which crossing types work best in which situations (with which types of wetlands).

Phase II Update

- Itasca has received comments from one landowner concerned about trail impacts on property values, wildlife populations, etc. No other feedback. Planning winter meetings and meetings with townships. Permit process is in place to designate corridor access trails. Process involves approved clubs, permit and public meeting. Ready for EAW process with Itasca Phase II routes.
- ACLD also ready to move forward with EAW process for proposed Phase II alignments. Had meeting with DNR about project and planning additional meetings to share information with a broad group of people. Ready to prep and gather information for EAW.

Potential contracting for EAW development

- 4 segments in Phase II
- Suggest contracting EAW process out due to time commitments. AES did it before and would be willing to put together a proposal if the committee is interested. Grant agreement may require competitive bidding process. EAW to include all Phase II segments
- Motion to put out RFP with 3 week timeline and with proposals to be reviewed by committee of A. Brown, M. Jacobs, B. Napstad, and B. Moore to make a recommendation to the committee. (Motion by R. Wagner, Second L. Hardy, approved)
- Schedule next meeting with agenda item to select proposal as recommended by sub-committee
- Clarify timeline at the next meeting; EQB publication dates

Next Meeting:

Tuesday, October 5, 2010  
6:00pm  
Quadna Mountain Resort  
Hill City, Minnesota

Public Comments:

J. Koehn: Tomorrow is 1<sup>st</sup> day of bear season, then bow, grouse, etc. New trails will probably be used for hunting. Contact Conservation Officers with issues, concerns about trail use. Realize hunting season is on the horizon and different users will be on the trails.

D. Kitzrow: DNR should open bear season earlier because they damaged my plum trees

J. Koehn: Can have licensed hunter take care of nuisance bears. Authorized to shoot and notify game warden within 24 hours

A. Brown: UPM trail update – trail moving forward when conditions allow (between rains) – about half complete.

L. Hardy: Roughed in and graveled over 6 miles with boardwalks put in. Blandin has provided gravel onsite to use.

B. Moore: DNR worked with Len on 169 ROW stretch on some of the hottest days of the summer

M. Jacobs: Opened Moose River Connection about a month ago

J. Majerus: Working at Lawler to maintain geoblock and fixing most stretches with more durable installations that can inform future use. New technique involves 2x8 installation under joints. Been out all summer doing a lot of work with the crew. Future trails may need to use more wood puncheon crossings. They are holding up well and vegetation looks good as well. Geoblock is working well in some areas and just need to identify places where it works best.

B. Moore: Solana progressing slowly with rainy conditions and renewed contractor. Scheduled for more work in Sept/Oct.

L. Hardy: 169 crossing uses old DNR access planks to avoid road shoulder damage

M. Jacobs: Ambassadors are providing 3-4 reports per week and exceeding expectations. Monitoring all of the trails, GPS details, take pictures, flag areas, etc. Trail ambassadors from various regions are on the trails and are a highly effective tool for monitoring and identifying areas where attention is needed. Ambassadors use standard forms that are conveyed to the counties.

L. Hardy: We're asking ambassadors to report wildlife observations as well and finding deer, bear, porcupine, skunks, etc. 10,000 miles ridden by ambassadors this year and 7,000 contacts made. This year people look to ambassadors for information, maps, etc. They ride in pairs with separate machines for safety.

7:15pm PM Adjourn (Motion by L. Hardy, Second by H. Kingsley, Approved)

*For directions to the meeting location, call: (218) 697-2880 or visit <http://www.quadna-resort.com/>*