

Draft for Review at the Next Committee Meeting on January 17, 2012

Northwoods Regional ATV Trail System Oversight Committee Meeting

Tuesday, October 11, 2011

6 PM

Quadna Mountain Resort, Hill City, MN

Members Present: Jon Korpi, Len Hardy, Mark Jacobs, Robin Baker, Brian Napstad, Harlan Kingsley, Ross Wagner, Frank Turnock, Maynard Ahonen, Robert Marcum, Anne Marcotte, Warren Spawn, Sara Thompson, Katie Fernholz

Guests Present: Larry Moses, Keith Caverly, John Wiljer, Brad Jarvi, Gilbert Eigsberg, Brent Speldrich, Ken LeVoir, Jack Halverson, Bob Storkamp, Sam Johnson, Andrew Brown, Joe Majerus

Minutes

6:07 PM – Call to Order

Approval of Meeting Agenda, motion by R. Wagner, 2nd by L. Hardy; Approved

Approval of 8/2/11 Meeting Minutes, motion by W. Spawn, 2nd by L. Hardy; Approved

Old Business

Review of County Roads Needed for Trail Connections

Aitkin County has identified potential spur routes on county roads to support access to services in towns near the trail. An additional spur in Lawler is also needed. Itasca County has established a permitting process for allowing county roads to be used for trail linkages. Aitkin County is working on a draft trail permitting process that is similar to Itasca County's. The permitting process can allow for limited segments of county road to be designated trails and thereby allow Class II ATV use and youth riders. The focus of the permitting system is on county road uses only. Townships, cities and the state have jurisdiction over other roads. A township, city or eligible club applies for the permit and the applicant would have minor maintenance obligations. It would be a one-year permit with annual renewal and the county retains the authority to revoke the permit. Signs would be posted at trailheads and city boundaries to identify access routes. Aitkin County will continue developing their permit process in partnership with the engineer and sheriff who have already provided input.

New Business

Update on Phase 2 projects and trail construction

UPM Trail grand opening was held on August 25th with 62 people attending and a ribbon cutting with Senator Saxhaug and representatives from Polaris. A lot of work was done on the trail and the partners and clubs deserve a lot of credit.

Draft for Review at the Next Committee Meeting on January 17, 2012

The Willow River bridge has been installed with funding received from Yamaha to support the project. Brother's Motorsports provided a letter of support for the funding request and visited the site to take some pictures. The total cost of the project was \$88,000. Polaris may also provide some support.

Blind Lake Connector: Right of way clearing has been completed and shaping. Final grading and gravel work still to be completed before the trail can be opened in 2012. The trail is currently closed.

Hill City Connector: The right of way for the Hill City Connector trail has been cleared and shaped and the boardwalk has been constructed. The boardwalk is about 600' long and 8' wide and includes pull-off areas. It cost about \$30/ft. An easement has been agreed upon with Quadna Mountain to provide a route connection. Some final work is yet to be completed before the trail will be opened. The trail is currently closed.

Solana Loop: 80% done, still have boardwalks and some more hardening and stockpiling work to do this winter.

Itasca County trails: Working on permits to support trail connectors in Goodland area and Swan River connection. Up to 925 feet of total boardwalk will be needed. Planning winter clearing for the route.

The Phase II trails are currently closed and signs and snow fence are in place to indicate that trails are closed. Trails will likely be ready to open sometime in 2012 if people stay off of them and repair work in the spring isn't required. People need to stay off of the unfinished trails to avoid further costs and delays.

Update on trail town meetings

A meeting was held with Workman Township regarding the Bear Country Road and to share the opportunity for trail funding to assist with road repair and maintenance, including a culvert that needs replacement. The Township Board decided they are not interested in being a formal part of the trail.

The Aitkin County Trail Towns Committee has had two meetings and has identified goals that include developing a geocaching system along the trail route and working together on opportunities to promote and advertise the trails and the trail towns. They are working with local businesses and town representatives. An ad about the trail was put in Outdoor News and has resulted in an up-tick in trail users and inquires. There is interest in developing a trail brochure and learning more about the interests of trail users. The next meeting will be in Palisade at the Fire Hall on November 16th.

Next Committee Meeting:

Tuesday, January 17th at Quadna Mountain Resort – 6:00pm

Draft for Review at the Next Committee Meeting on January 17, 2012

Public Comments

Question: Can donations be made to the project?

- Donations can be made to the Trail Towns Committee or to an ATV club.

Comment: I rode the trails this summer – congrats – they are fantastic and very enjoyable.

Comment: Lawler Loop trails are a great trail system. Lots of people on the trail and at the picnic area.

7:45 PM Adjourn

(motion by L. Hardy, second by H. Kingsley)

More information about the project:

<http://www.northwoodstrail.net>