

Draft minutes to be reviewed at the next committee meeting on January 4, 2011

Northwoods Regional ATV Trail System Oversight Committee Meeting Minutes

Thursday, October 14th, 2010

Quadna Mountain Resort, Hill City, MN

Members Present; Harlan Kingsley, Mark Jacobs, Ross Wagner, Andrew Brown, Len Hardy, Laurie Westerlund, Frank Turnock.

Guests Present; Joe Majerus, Rob Moore, Brian Bauerly, Mike Rourke.

6:00 PM – Call to Order by Chair Brian Napstad

Approval of Meeting Agenda, motion by L. Hardy, 2nd by F. Turnock

Approval of 8/31/10 Meeting Minutes, motion by L. Hardy, 2nd by H. Kingsley

Review of Old Business

- UPM Trail Update, it was reported the Phase 1 segment is 85 – 90% complete. Crews are truck spreading gravel to save on costs. The MCC Crew has signed the trail, it was decided to go ahead with the signing to take advantage of the MCC Crew's availability. A spring 2011 opening is planned with a Grand Opening ceremony shortly thereafter. Phase 2 is in the planning stages with extending Phase 1 to Grand Rapids the goal.
- Solana Loop Update, Bridges along with other material has been ordered. Crews will resume working when the ground is frozen with a spring 2011 opening hoped for.
- Lawler Loop, Geo-block crossings have been revamped and improved. User feedback has been positive and usage has been very good.

Phase II Update

- The preliminary Environmental Assessment Worksheet (EAW) was reviewed by the committee. At the last meeting it was discussed that RFP's would be solicited to provide the EAW. It was explained that the Aitkin and Itasca Land Departments agreed to do the EAW to save the time of the solicitation process as well as money. By doing the EAW "in house" trail material stockpiling and shearing could possibly start in late winter/early spring to take advantage of frozen ground conditions.
- The Phase II "Big Sandy Connector" was dropped due to extensive wetlands and dubbed the Phase III. Committee members will work with new property owners on the proposed route for a future connection to the Soo line.
- Rare and endangered species review show a possible Heron Rookery may have to be addressed, Black Mussels also showed up but are in rivers should not pose a problem or require mitigation. Approximately 1.21 acres of wetlands would be impacted by Phase II construction and will be properly mitigated.
- An October 26, 2010 meeting with the EAW committee will be held for review and comment on the EAW. It will then be submitted to the Environmental Quality Board (EQB) for posting with a 30 day comment period. After comments are received, they will be responded to. If comments

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and concerns are adequately addressed, the EAW process could be finished by the end of January, 2011. Chair Napstad extended a Kudos to the Aitkin and Itasca Land Departments for agreeing to do the EAW with committee members in full agreement.

- The construction sub-committee will be meeting to determine a construction plan and timing with the EAW.
- After review and discussion a motion to post the Phase II Routes known as the Hill City Connector, Blind Lake Connector and Goodland Connector, on the Northwoods Trail website, was made by H. Kingsley, 2nd by L. Hardy, all aye.

Schedule Next Meeting

- Tentative next Oversight Committee meeting was set for January 4, 2011 at Quadna Resort to, among other items, to review and let bids for trail construction. Prior to that time the construction sub-committee will meet, if there are delays etc. the Jan 4th committee meeting may be changed.

Public Comments

- It was mentioned that once material lists are developed, potential contractors be given a heads up so they can plan accordingly.
- A possible trail head for the Swan Lake Trail may have been located.

Adjourn

- A motion to adjourn was made by F. Turnock, 2nd by L. Westerlund, all aye, time 7:15