

Approved by the Committee on January 29, 2008.

70-Mile Trail Oversight Committee Meeting

Tuesday, December 18, 2007, 6 PM

Long Lake Conservation Center, Palisade, MN

MINUTES

In Attendance: Kim Risen*, Robert Marcum*, Steve Aysta*, Warren Spawn*, Frank Turnock*, Mark Jacobs*, Rick Utech*, Brian Napstad*, Len Hardy*, Galen Tveit*, Ross Wagner*, Maynard Ahonen*, Larry Moses, Bob Moore, Larry Hammill, Marvin Holsten, Steven Saari, Chris & Rochelle Guinz, Carole Holten, Florian Blaszak, Connie Blaszak, J.T. Kuelhan, Gilbert Eigsberg, Allen Askevold, Steve Wold, Jerry Bahls, Jeff Koehn, Dan Guida, Kim Chapman**, Katie Fernholz**

* = Committee Member ** - project coordinator

6:00 PM – Call to Order

Approval of 11/20/2007 Meeting Minutes

(Motion by L. Hardy, Second R. Utech, Motion passed)

Approval of Meeting Agenda

(Motion by R. Wagner, Second L. Hardy, accepted amendment to add agenda item under old business to discuss mileage reimbursement for committee members, Motion passed)

Review of Old Business

Review of Actions & Decisions from previous meeting

Outcome of Discussion: Project Coordinator will produce a Quarterly Progress Report that summarizes the project accomplishments to date. The report will be printed and mailed as well as emailed to interested parties and made available at the project website. Motion by R. Wagner to have Aitkin and Itasca County provide mailing lists to the project coordinator. Second by L. Hardy. Motion passed.

Mileage Reimbursement

Outcome of Discussion: Motion to adopt a resolution providing mileage reimbursement for citizen members of the Oversight Committee at the Aitkin County approved rate. (Motion made by F. Turnock, Second L. Hardy, Motion passed)

Discussion and New Business

Results of Kick-Off Meetings November 27th and 28th

- Summary of map related comments (report by AES); Summary of other general comments (report by Dovetail)
 - o More than 150 people have provided input to the project through participation in public meetings, submitting written comments, or otherwise contacting the project coordinator. Comments received are in three general categories – alignment related comments, notes about destinations and amenities, and information about areas of damage or misuse. A written summary of comments was provided to committee.

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- A sub-committee was formed to review and draft responses to the comments that have been received. Sub-Committee members: Ross Wagner, Mark Jacobs, Bob Moore, Len Hardy, Steve Aysta, Harlan Kingsley, Katie Fernholz, and Kim Chapman. The full committee will review drafted responses prepared by the sub-committee, and after approval by the oversight committee the comments and responses will be made publicly available.

Update on GIS plan and analysis

Outcome of Discussion: The GIS analysis protocol has been developed and will be circulated for review and approval by the GIS Committee (Committee members: Mark Jacobs, Beth Jacqmain, Dan Haasken, Len Hardy, Steve Aysta, Adam Olson, Dave Bily, Bob Moore, Doug Mensing, and Kim Chapman)

- The oversight committee is interested in having the maps available at each meeting. Aitkin County will explore making the more detailed maps available through the county website.

Update on Environmental Assessment Worksheet (EAW) process and timing

Outcome of Discussion: The development of the EAW depends upon the refinement of the proposed trail routes. The GIS Committee will meet in early January to review the proposed trail alignments and to make changes based on public comments and available information. The results of this meeting will be presented at the next Oversight Committee meeting (1/29/08) and a PowerPoint presentation of the latest trail alignments will be given at that meeting.

Discussion of Monitoring and Enforcement Planning process

Outcome of Discussion: Aitkin County will form a sub-committee that includes members of the Oversight Committee as well as Conservation Officers and the Sheriff Offices in Aitkin and Itasca County to review and develop the monitoring and enforcement plans. (Potential sub-committee members: Frank Turnock, Len Hardy, Jeff Koehn, Dan Guida, the ATV Posse, DNR Ambassadors program, etc.)

Public Comments

C. Holten, Workman Township: Concerned about trail spur #3 and the use of 235th Place as a trail route. Want to see 235th Place removed from the proposed trail.

J. Bahls, property owner in Aitkin County: Need to get trails on the ground so everyone knows what is going on. Need to include county attorneys so citations are prosecuted. Need to aggressively prosecute violations.

S. Wold, Workman Township: Not in favor of trail on Grouse Street. Who is responsible for the damage that is occurring and the hazards of ATVs and snowmobiles on the roads? Vandalism is a problem and private landowners are being impacted.

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D. Guida, Aitkin County Sheriff's Office: 90% of ATV riders will do something illegal if you watch them for more than 5 minutes.

J.Koehn, Conservation Officer: Some people do things wrong without intentions to do wrong. Work to educate and create a better situation and need to be prepared for the violations and off trail riding that is sure to occur. Committee needs to be aware of the large percentage of riders that are not currently behaving well and expect the worse. Need education about where to ride based on counteracting the uses and activities shown in advertisements for the machines. Even with a trail system, education, etc there will still be troublemakers.

L. Hammill, ATV instructor: Work to educate parents not just the kids because the parents don't know the rules. Biggest problem is the lack of education.

L. Moses, Crow-Wing County resident: Complements on the project and the approach that is being taken.

Comments on meeting and Suggestions for future meetings:

- Have more detailed maps available at the meetings
- Well-run meeting, easy to understand and well-organized
- Where are the Christmas cookies?

Next Meeting: 6 pm, January 29th at the Long Lake Conservation Center

8:02 PM Adjourn (Motion by M. Jacobs, Second R. Wagner, Motion passed)

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