

Northwoods Regional ATV Trail System Oversight Committee Meeting

Tuesday, August 2, 2011

6 PM

Long Lake Conservation Center

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

Guests Present: Jack Halverson, Gilbert Eigsberg, Jerry Pawlak

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

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

Approval of 4/12/11 Meeting Minutes, motion by F. Turnock 2nd by H. Kingsley; Approved

Old Business

The Northwoods Regional Trail was included in a recent article in “Forest Wisdom” by the Forest Guild, a national professional natural resource management organization. The article can be downloaded from:

http://www.forestguild.org/publications/forest_wisdom/Wisdom17.pdf

Discussion of the Bonding Matching Funds & Project budget by trail segment

Aitkin County Land Department has prepared a spreadsheet that outlines the matching funds and bonding funds along with estimated expenses for specific trail segments through 2012. Approximately \$400,000 in matching funds are available to leverage bonding funds, totaling about \$800,000 in available funds for the project. Estimated expenses through 2012 are \$720,000.

New Business

Update on Phase 2 projects

Work continues on wooden puncheons for Blind Lake and Hill City Trails. The county is in the process of negotiating an easement at Quadna Mountain Resort to support the trail route and connection.

There is a possibility that state highway 232 could be transferred to Aitkin County for maintenance and management. Trail opportunities could be considered during the roadway construction and engineering upgrades. Townships and businesses will need to be engaged to identify their interests.

The Goodland-Jacobson route is moving forward. The trail into Goodland has been marked and a stretch has been brushed out. An easement has been put in place for a section that follows a snowmobile trail route. Most of the trail is on county land and old railroad grade. Itasca County is planning meetings with landowners and the township.

Update on trail town meetings

The committee members recognize the importance working with the towns and townships in planning the trails.

Motion to authorize a meeting between committee representatives and Workman Township utilizing a budgeting figure of \$50,000 for the purpose of developing the Big Sandy-Palisade Connection. Motion by F. Turnock, 2nd by R. Marcum. Approved.

Aitkin County Trail Towns Committee

The committee includes towns along the trail (McGrath, Lawler, McGregor, Palisade, Hill City and Jacobson) and is working to collaborate on economic development and other activities. The group sees potential benefits to businesses as well as more effective management of visitors and trail related traffic. Aitkin County has approved use of tourism grant dollars for signs and trailhead markers at trail towns. There is a need to inventory permits that may be needed to allow use of county roads to access trail towns for goods and services.

Schedule Next Committee Meeting:

Tuesday, October 11th, 2011
at Quadna Mountain Resort near Hill City, MN

Agenda Item for Next Meeting: Review of county roads needed for trail connections

Note: Chair Napstad had to leave at 7:00pm; Mark Jacobs took over as Chair.

Public Comments

None

7:20 PM Adjourn (Motion by L. Hardy, 2nd by R. Baker; Approved)