

**CWC Comp Rec Plan
Public Meeting**

Tuesday, December 14th at 6pm in Land Services Conference Room in the Land Services Building
(322 Laurel Street, Brainerd, MN 56401)

In attendance: Paula Robinson, John Kruse, Jenny Smith, Joe Cartwright, Roy Miller, Rebecca Best, Duane Smedsrud, Wade Miller, Dave Clute, Al Steiff*, Todd Holman, Jared Feiersbend, Jan Rettca, Marvin Eisel, John Reynolds, Bob Manning*, Linda Lawrie, Joel Huntley, Pat McDermott, Stephanie Foster, Larry Wannebo, Larry Moses*, Richard Sergot, Bob Bodine, Roger Bentley, Fred Van Krevelen, Louie Grochowski, Bryan Pike***, Kirk Titus***, Katie Fernholz**

* - advisory group member, ** - project coordinator, *** - Land Services Department staff

Agenda

6pm	Welcome/overview
6:10-6:45	Presentation of Draft Planning Recommendations
6:45 – 7:00	Summary of Next Steps for the Project
7:00 - 8:00	Public Comment
8:00	Adjourn

The presentation of the draft planning recommendations is available at:
<http://dovetailinc.org/files/CWC121410.pdf>

The draft plan is available at:
<http://dovetailinc.org/files/CWCCompRecTrailsPlan121310.pdf>

Public Comments (*includes comments made during the meeting and written comments received at the meeting*):

Question: Is the Aitkin County Comprehensive Trails Plan finalized?
Response: Yes, and it is available at the Dovetail Partners website.

Question: How does the plan address linkages and connecting trails?
Response: The plan is focused on the tax-forfeited lands directly managed by the Land Services Department. Collaborative relationships and additional planning will be necessary for addressing opportunities that include other landowners and managers.

Comment: The plan should minimize trails by residences.

Question: What is the definition of damage?

Response: Several other counties and the DNR have developed guidance for what defines trail damage and may warrant trail closures or repair. This guidance will inform the approach that Crow Wing County takes.

Question: The Open Space Plan and other plans have been much more broad in scope. Why is this now only looking at trails and not open space in general?

Response: This plan is focused on trails as a priority area of management interest and concern.

Question: What is the interaction between timber harvesting and trails?

Response: Timber harvesting design and scheduling are adjusted as necessary to support a balance of forest management, aesthetics and recreation goals as well as to address public safety concerns.

Comment by P. Robinson: Recreation trails in the Black Bear area need to respect Indian mounds.

Comment: Trails should be categorized as high impact vs. low impact

Comment: The matrix is important and should be applied to Black Bear.

Comment: Disappointed in the process for being focused on trails and the elimination of quiet spaces.

Comment: Five years ago the parks committee had recommendations on open space but didn't have support from all user groups.

Question: Will trail decisions be made by the Land Services Department? Are they going to use prescriptive easements?

Response: The trail planning process will be reviewed and updated as necessary and will include mechanisms for public input. The use of recorded public easements is a common tool for providing trail access.

Comment: There should continue to be monthly updates on the process and actions being taken to inform the public of potential outcomes. Don't wait until a surprise public meeting.

Comment: They should not allow the use of ATVs during deer season.

(Note: Current Minnesota State Law states that a person may not ride recreationally during the firearms deer hunting season. There is an exception allowed for a person in possession of a valid firearms deer hunting license operating an OHV before and after legal shooting hours or between 11:00am and 2:00pm. Crow Wing County follows the same restriction).

Question: Will expansion of the Black Bear Trail Area be close to residences? (J. Huntley)

Response: Routes have not been evaluated yet and the impact on residences will be part of the evaluation process.

Question: Will there be additional parking areas? Such as Section 6 mine, Trommald River Landing area, etc? (J. Huntley)

Response: The need for additional parking would be part of an evaluation process.

Comment: I do not want parts of the trail to be closed to other vehicle travel as parts of this trail have been in existence for nearly 100 years. Also, by opening this trail to heavier use, it will cause many more environmental, enforcement and noise problems that the residents don't need or want. There also seems to be excessive logging in the Black Bear and Miller Lake Areas. (J. Huntley)

Comment: Keep ATV trails off rural residential township roads and ditches

(Note: The plan addresses recreation trails on county-managed tax-forfeited lands.)

Comment: I hope in this process that you consider a community's desire on how they wish trails to be developed, and that adequate space be reserved for additional trail development so that there is not future conflicts between non-compatible recreation users (i.e., ATV and non-motorized trails). (J. Smith)

Comment/Question: Regarding water trails – I put a lot of people on the Pine River (south of Crosslake) but have limited access to the river for drop-offs and pick-ups. Is there an opportunity to create additional “access points” that have developed roads and parking and canoe/kayak landings? (J. Smith)

Response: The review of access points and opportunities for improvement is within the scope of the plan.

Comment: I pass out many maps of the Pine and Mississippi Rivers and enjoy being able to share information about these routes with visitors and customers. (J. Smith)

Comment: I prefer to think of the recreation categories as High Impact and Low Impact recreation. I consider all recreation forms including snowmobiles as Low Impact and ATVs, OHVs as high impact. High impact has a much more profound effect upon everything that is alive. Low impact is more in balance and harmonious. I witness generally very high public citizen support for low impact recreation. There seems to be no limits to ATV trails. There needs to be a clear indication whether or not Crow Wing County residents want ATV trails. The strategic priorities seems to be no more than a “to do list”. There is no vision, mission nor strategy in this report. Make a priority to develop a vision, mission and strategies for CWC recreation trails. Agree to not simply turn loose more high impact recreation. Continue all preexisting recreation trails. Address quality of life concerns. Minimize public safety issues. Focus on physically and mentally healthy recreation. Increase public support. Attract economic potential. Be environmental friendly. Protect sensitive areas. (R. Manning)

Comment: Any trail that isn't sustainable is a failure.

Comment: ATV's are not green. The Soo-Line trail is fine as an ATV trail, after all it was a train track before.

Comment: There are Indian mounds at Black Bear that are documented by the Army Corp of Engineers. These sites have had off-road vehicles abuse them. They should stay protected.

Comment: Bike trails, cross country ski trails and snowshoe trails are important.

Comment: I look forward to updates as the matrix is being developed and assume that the public will be able to review and comment on the matrix and its implementation. (L. Lawrie)

Comment: Committee selection was flawed with weight to special interests.

Comment: There are no quiet areas in the 100,000 acres of county managed land.

Comment/Question: In the plan, Black Bear is singled out for review for summer motorized use. How does Black Bear get proposed before the matrix is developed? I want Black Bear removed until the matrix is developed. I have spent many hours combing the website and did not see Black Bear mentioned. (L. Lawrie)

Response: Black Bear is mentioned in the notes posted at the project website from the August 25th Advisory Group meeting.

Adjourn 7:40 pm