

Northwoods Regional ATV Trail System Oversight Committee Meeting Minutes  
Tuesday, January 4, 2011  
Quadna Mountain Resort, Hill City, MN

Members Present; Harlan Kingsley, Mark Jacobs, Ross Wagner, Len Hardy, Anne Marcotte, Frank Turnock, Bob Marcum, Dave Marshall, Brian Napstad.

Guests Present; Joe Majerus, Andrew Brown, Dave Schwartz, Joe Meixell, Dave Olsen DNR Enforcement.

6:00 PM – Call to Order by Mark Jacobs until the arrival of Chair Brian Napstad.

Approval of Meeting Agenda, motion by L. Hardy, 2<sup>nd</sup> by F. Turnock

Approval of 10/14/10 Meeting Minutes, motion by L. Hardy, 2<sup>nd</sup> by H. Kingsley, Marcotte abstaining.

#### Review of Old Business

- UPM Trail Update, it was reported the Phase 1 segment is complete to the Rabey Line, a June 2011 grand opening is anticipated.
- Solana Loop Update, the DNR is hauling gravel at the present time and will be utilizing private contractors to spread the gravel on the trail bed.
- Lawler Loop, Stockpiling and general maintenance.

#### Phase II Update

- The Environmental Assessment Worksheet (EAW) 30 day posting period is now complete and two comments were received, one from the MN Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) and the other from the State Historical society. MPCA pointed out various permits that would be needed and the Historical response was for additional Archeology review. Both responses will be addressed and complied with. The next step for the EAW is to the Aitkin County Board to determine if an EIS is necessary based on the EAW. As the RGU, Aitkin County will post the findings and notify Itasca County of the results. The Aitkin and Itasca County Land Departments and GIS Departments were thanked by the entire committee for all the work on the EAW, saving time and money for the project.
- Planning by the construction committee has been ongoing for winter construction activities, consisting mainly of shearing and stockpiling, and summer trail shaping. Bids have been let in anticipation of the EAW being approved. Holmwig Construction, Crosby, MN had submitted the low quote to Aitkin County for both winter and summer work and the bid was approved contingent upon approval of the EAW. A motion to approve the Holmwig Construction quote as submitted to the Aitkin County Board was made by Hardy 2<sup>nd</sup> by Kingsley, all aye, also contingent on the EAW approval.
- Recent meetings have been held with Macville Township and the Cities of McGregor and Hill City. The Hill City and McGregor meetings were to discuss the Northwoods ATV Trail project and to ask the cities to designate routes from trail heads and parking lots to amenities in their communities. The Macville Township meeting was to discuss trail options with Option "B" selected which was

the alignment listed in the EAW. Access work in the area of Hwy 169 and The Corner Club may be needed.

- Renewal of Project Coordinators Contract. It was noted that the contract between Aitkin County on behalf of the Northwoods ATV Trail project, and Dovetail Partners had expired 9/1/2010. Committee members spoke very highly of the work done and services provided by Dovetail Partners and in particular, Katie Fernholz, Executive Director. The desire of the committee is to continue with Dovetail Partners, a proposal had been submitted for the committees review. The proposal called for an amount not to exceed \$24,000.00 for project oversight and covered the period of 9/1/2010 through 12/31/2012. During discussion it was also noted that Dovetail Partners had incurred \$6,647.24 in expenses that they did not invoice the committee for in 2010. Dovetail offered to forgive those expenses and allow the committee to apply that amount for in-kind services should the opportunity arise. This offer was accepted by the committee and Dovetail Partners was thanked for the generous donation. A motion was then made by F. Turnock, 2<sup>nd</sup> by L. Hardy to approve the Contract Renewal and Continuation between Dovetail Partners, Inc. and Aitkin County on behalf of the Northwoods ATV Trail System, as presented with the contract period to be 9/1/2010 through 12/31/2012. All members voting aye.

#### Schedule Next Meeting

- Tentative next Oversight Committee meeting is set for April 12, 2011, date will be confirmed and meeting site determined by the construction committee progress.

#### Public Comments

- Bob Marcum stated that Lawler would like to place a welcome sign on the ATV Trail. Discussion was then turned to need for consistency if other communities wish to place welcome signage and possible county ordinances regulating such signage. Matter was referred to the Sign Committee for review and recommendations.
- Len Hardy introduced Lt. Dave Olsen of the MN Conservation Officers and reported that Andrew Brown had left Itasca County and would be replaced on the committee by Dave Marshall.
- Updates from Crow Wing County trails and planning were received.
- Committee was asked when detailed maps would be available, response was that they are coming and would be printed upon final trail alignments.

#### Adjourn

- A motion to adjourn was made by L. Hardy, 2<sup>nd</sup> by F. Turnock, all aye, time 7:15