

**Minutes of the
Nonmotorized Recreation and Transportation Trails Council (NRTTC)
February 7, 2018, 11:30 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.
Via teleconference**

1. Meeting was called to order by Joel Patenaude. Members in attendance: Rod Bartlow, Anne Murphy, Joel Patenaude, Debbie Peterson, David Phillips, Ben Popp, Geoff Snudden, Blake Theisen. Staff: Missy VanLanduyt, and Brigit Brown (Department of Natural Resources), Jill Mrotek-Glenzinski (Department of Transportation).
2. Discussion of meeting minutes from September 20, 2017. Bartlow requested an edit to clarify that the September 22 meeting did not take place, due to legislative action that took place prior to September 22. Theisen moved approval of the minutes as amended, seconded by Murphy; passed.
3. **Committee Chair Reports**
 - a. **Funding. (Bartlow, Hauda, Peterson, Phillips)** Bartlow has continued to look at ideas for nonmotorized trail funding. Snudden offered to reach out to friends in Oregon for information on their funding model. Discussion regarding the potential gas tax hike in Wisconsin and possible opportunity for nonmotorized trail funding as a part of that. Bartlow, Patenaude and Phillips will develop a specific proposal for consideration by the Council.
 - b. **Outreach. (Patenaude, Murphy, Johnson, Snudden)** Discussion about a proposal to revive the Wisconsin Conservation Corps (WCC). Bartlow and Phillips both know the former head of the previous incarnation of the WCC, and will reach out for her thoughts on the proposal.
 - c. **Education. (Theisen, Snudden)** No report.
4. **Discussion item: Electric bikes bill (AB 886/SB 741) introduced and assigned to Transportation Committee in both Assembly and Senate.** Patenaude and Snudden provided an overview of the bill, including the dividing of electric bicycles into three classes. The proposed legislation is similar to what has been enacted in many other states. Mrotek-Glenzinski offered her understanding of the language; discussion particularly focused on the provisions for the proposed Class 3 electric bicycles. Patenaude will reach out to Bike Fed about possible next steps and clarification on some elements in the bill.
5. **DNR Report.** VanLanduyt reported that the department is currently working on wrapping up the last four draft chapters of the remaining ROA regions (covering southern Wisconsin). The draft chapters will be available for public review in March or April. A survey has been drafted and a promotional video created to encourage public participation in the remaining public input opportunities for the current ROA effort. Patenaude would like to use the video, when available, to promote public

participation in ROA. Theisen, as the NRTTC representative on the statewide ROA stakeholder group, asked about additional stakeholder team meetings; VanLanduyt will follow up with Theisen.

- VanLanduyt reviewed the department's new master planning process, which will be based on 16 landscape-level areas across the state and will be less detailed than some previous master plans. A map of the ecological landscapes will be sent out to NRTTC members.
- The Northern Highland-American Legion State Forest master plan amendment was approved by the Natural Resources Board and implementation of the proposed developments will work through the implementation process over the next few years.
- At the September NRTTC meeting, council members provided feedback on potential legislation requiring front and rear lights on bikes on some DNR lands. That legislation has been introduced (SB 566/AB668) and passed out of the senate committee on 2/6. It remains in the assembly committee at this time.
- The State Park System is implementing daily admission fee increases at three parks (Devil's Lake, Peninsula, and Willow River), camping fee increases at 38 properties, and camping fee decreases at 36 properties.
- The department recently launched a new groomed cross-country ski trail conditions reporting system and thanked the NRTTC for posting an article about this on the NRTTC Facebook page.
- Mrotek-Glenzinski shared that applications for the current (upcoming) round of [Transportation Alternatives Program](#) (TAP) funding are currently being reviewed by WisDOT.

6. **Discussion item: Rails to Trails Conservancy TrailNation Summit, Milwaukee, June 5-7.** Brown provided information on the event, noting that it is focused on the eight "Trail Nation" projects of the Rails to Trails Conservancy (RTC) along with 12 other communities across the nation that have been inspired to take on similar projects of their own. Four people from each of the 20 projects will be invited to participate in the meeting, including Route of the Badger. Council members suggested an update on the Route of the Badger project from RTC would be a good upcoming agenda item.

7. Action items:

- a. Develop a specific proposal regarding the potential gas tax increase and nonmotorized trail funding (Bartlow, Patenaude, Phillips).
- b. Patenaude will reach out with Bike Fed regarding the e bike legislation, seeking clarification and noting general NRTTC support regarding local jurisdiction on some elements of implementation but requesting clarification on some items.

c. Invite Willie Karidis from Rails to Trails Conservancy to provide an update on the Route of the Badger (DNR).

8. Next meeting will be Wednesday, April 11, 11:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m. via conference call. The following meeting will be Wednesday, June 6, 10 a.m. – 3 p.m., likely in Stevens Point.

9. Phillips moved to adjourn, seconded by Theisen. Motion passed.