



State of Wisconsin
GOVERNOR'S STATE TRAILS COUNCIL

Meeting Agenda
Friday, July 26, 2019

10:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

Public Participation

Call: 888-327-8914

Passcode: 6829 265#

Waupaca County Courthouse
811 Harding Street

TIME	PRESENTER	ITEMS & TYPE
10:00 a.m.	Bryan Much, Chair	Welcome and introductions
10:05 a.m.	Members	Agenda review/repair and approval of April meeting minutes
10:10 a.m.	Bryan Much, Chair	Boards/Small Wheels (discussion concerning a replacement member or changing the nature of the seat)
10:15 a.m.	Jerrod Kehring, John Francis, Andrew Whitman	Trail opportunities at Hartman Creek State Park, Waupaca County, and the City of Waupaca
11:15 a.m.	Bill Menke	North County Trail
12:00 p.m.	Members and Presenters	Lunch
12:30 p.m.	Kathryn Gehrke, DNR	DNR Update
1:45 p.m.	Members	Follow up on topic of sharing recreation routes and trails in conjunction with the DNR
2:00 p.m.	Members	User group highlights
2:45 p.m.	Guests	Public comment
2:55 p.m.	Members	Nominate potential future agenda items
3:00 p.m.	Bryan Much, Chair	Adjourn



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Meeting Minutes

July 26, 2019 – Teleconference

Public Participation via teleconference

10:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

State Trails Council Members present

Bryan Much, off-highway motorcycle representative (member of *Wisconsin Off-Highway Motorcycle Association (WOHMA)*) [STC Chair]

Ken Neitzke, hiking representative (member of the *Ice Age Trail Alliance*) [STC Vice Chair]

Doug Johnson, snowmobiling representative (member of *Association of Wisconsin Snowmobile Clubs (AWSC)*) [STC Secretary]

Jeff Anderson, *Wisconsin Department of Tourism* [non-voting]

Roy Atkinson, bicycle touring/rail trail bicycling/road bicycling

Steve Falter, nonmotorized water trails

State Trails Council Members on phone

James White, small boards and wheels

Bob Fasick, *Wisconsin Department of Transportation* [non-voting]

State Trails Council Members not present

Luana Schneider, 4-wheel drive vehicles representative (member of *Wisconsin 4-Wheel Drive Association*)

John Siegert, off-road bicycling representative (member of *Bicycle Federation of Wisconsin*)

Ben Popp, cross-country skiing representative (Executive Director of American Birkebeiner)

Randy Harden, ATV/UTV representative (member of *Wisconsin ATV-UTV Association ((WATVA))*)

Kricket Jewett, equestrian representative (member of *Wisconsin Horse Council*)

Invited speakers

John Francis, Waupaca County

Andrew Whitman, City of Waupaca

Bill Menke, North Country Trail

Others present

Hank Wozniel for Randy Harden, ATV/UTV representative (member of *Wisconsin ATV-UTV Association (WATVA)*)

Ryan Harden for Luana Schneider, 4-wheel drive vehicles representative (member of *Road Legal 4-Wheel Drive Association (RL4WD)*)

Kristy Maki for Ben Popp, cross-country skiing representative (Event Director of American Birkebeiner)

Julie Fox, Department of Tourism (phone)



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WI DNR Staff present

Kathryn Gehrke, DNR liaison/staff to the STC

Brigit Brown, phone, DNR

Sophie Parr, DNR

Bobbi Winebar, DNR

10:00 A.M. – Welcome and introductions

- Much called the meeting to order. Council members and guests introduced themselves.

10:06 A.M. – Agenda review/repair and approval of April meeting minutes

- Agenda repair, none.
- Motion to approve April minutes by Doug, Ken second. None oppose.

10:07 A.M. – Boards/Small Wheels (discussion concerning a replacement member or changing the nature of the seat)

- New application or idea for small boards and wheels, Jim White is no longer interested
- Discussion on if small boards and wheels is still needed and who the new right representative might be
- Group discusses the option of reaching out to motorized scooters as they seem to be growing in popularity with Lime in Milwaukee
- Bryan agrees to look into motorized scooters and find someone to come to STC meeting in November

10:18 A.M. – Trail opportunities at Waupaca County and City of Waupaca

Andrew Whitman from City of Waupaca

- River Ridge Trail handout
- 22 miles of trails which connect parks and public areas
- 240 acres of parks in city
- Most of the use on the trail is hiking and there is some biking on limestone and asphalt
- Swan park has winter use, is maintained with snow dog for hiking and snowshoe. There is some fat tire and xc skiing but most of those users go to county or state property in the area.
- Trail system can improve with additional partnerships which would help make a connective loop
- Friends of Waupaca Parks funds one summer maintenance staff and the Friends Group also helps maintain and notify the city when areas need maintenance
- Looking into Adopt a Trail or Adopt a Park programs
- Continue looking into different options of engaging public

John Francis from Waupaca County

- County and City intertwine work
- Maintain snowmobile and ATV trails
- Many townships are opening roads to ATV/UTV, county passed ordinance that they could use roads if townships allow



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- > Discussion on issue of different townships have different rules on ATV/UTV use
- > Walking trail gets a lot of use getting from city to high school and veterans use to get from vet house on electric chairs
- > Winter recreation trail near country club is groomed for fat bikes and traditional and skate xc skiing. Hosted fat tire bike event the past few years
- > Tomorrow River State Trail, have 15 miles within county that county maintains. Working on maintaining invasive plants and bridge replacements
 - o Eastern end, stops at Wolf Road on east side of rail bridge. Railroad is not officially abandoned but removed signage, so it seems it feasible
 - o DNR owns bridge and county working to get the trail into Manawa
 - o Future plans to connect to New London and then would connect to Mountain Bay trail from there
 - o Trail is used for biking, hiking and horseback riding
- > 40 parks that county maintains
- > Harman Creek State Park has nice horse and single-track mountain biking
 - o CRONES trail group maintains single track mountain biking
- > Silent Sports Guide for Waupaca has great information on water routes
- > Water routes have been maintained by public and there are outfitters in county
- > Discussion on large motorized recreation area and getting group engaged in advocating for this area
- > County has 4 fulltime people that work for parks, there are always decisions on where resources should be used
- > County has camping at fair grounds and Keller Park
- > User fees help at boat launches, two on wolf river and many on chain of lakes, 50-60K comes in from the launches
- > Discussion on how to communicate to elected officials on budget issues with parks
- > Starting greenways commission, similar to Appleton, and it will be seeded for \$25,000 per year to give grants to cities etc.
- > Chunk of IAT that runs through county

11:10 A.M. – North County Trail

- > Bill Menke from North County Trail
- > National Scenic Trail, created in 1980
 - o 40% of Americans live within one day drive of North County Trail
 - o About ½ complete, when done 4600 miles through 8 states
 - o Traverses and connects about 165 units of public land areas
- > Act of Congress allowed trail to go into Vermont to then connect Appalachian Trail on western it will connect Lewis and Clark Trail
- > North County Trail Association is volunteer driven organization and partner of National Park Service who is the main administrator
- > National Park Service has 3 staff and North County Trail have 7 staff, both headquartered in Lowel, Michigan
- > Nonmotorized, foot travel only trail
- > Wisconsin crew is called “roving trail crew”
- > NPS contributes \$300,000-350,000 per year



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- > No longer have set membership dues, if you make a contribution you are a member for 12 rolling months
 - Members get quarterly magazine
 - Discount at trail shops
 - Access to maps online
- > Three volunteer chapters in Wisconsin
 - Brule - St.Croix Chapter
 - Western part of state to Chequamegon
 - Chequamegon Chapter
 - About 120 people
 - Chequamegon to Copper Falls
 - Wilderness area, all construction and maintenance must be done by hand, no chainsaw etc.
 - Heritage Chapter
 - About 60 people
 - Most is currently under construction
 - Copper falls to eastern part of state
- > Storm damage on NCT is frequent, from wind to water damage
 - Discussion and photos of tree removal and bridge repair and trail reroute due to damage
 - 32 ft A-truss bridge \$3,000-3,500
- > Do not know number of people who use trail but have seen increase in through hikers
- > Backpacker campsite every 5-8 miles along trail in Wisconsin
 - Fire ring, picnic area

12:30 P.M. – DNR Update

Master Planning

- > Direction from NRB: all master plans are to be updated (NR 44-compliant) by the end of 2024; FY18 Target = 65% of department-managed fee and easement acres under approved MP; Actual = 66.2%.
Master Planning link: <https://dnr.wi.gov/topic/lands/propertyplanning/>
- > **Completed regional plans**
 - Northern Lake Michigan Coastal: August 2018 NRB
 - Superior Coastal Plain, Northwest Lowlands, Northwest Sands: February 2019 NRB
- > **Active Plans**
 - Western Prairie Regional Plan – the department initiated public involvement and the planning process in November 2018. The department anticipates presenting the draft plan for public review and comment in September 2019 and presenting for NRB approval in December 2019. (Beth Kienbaum lead planner, Savannah Erzen Parks-specific)
 - Blue Mound State Park Master Plan - the department initiated public involvement and the planning process in March 2019. Department planning team is evaluating



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management alternatives and anticipates presenting a range of resource and recreation alternatives for public review and comment in August 2019. This is an additional public involvement opportunity given the extent of public interest in this property. Staff will use public input on the alternatives to draft the property master plan, which the department anticipates will be ready for public review and comment in the fall. Based on comments received the department anticipates presenting for NRB consideration in the winter. (Phil Rynish lead planner)

- Northeast Sands Regional Plan – the draft regional plan is posted for public review and comment through August 21, 2019. Public open house meetings are scheduled for July 30 in Florence and July 31 in Crivitz; both meetings will be from 5-7 pm. We anticipate presenting for NRB approval at the September 2019 meeting. (Yoyi Steele lead planner)
 - Only minor non-motorized trail changes are proposed in this plan. A new primitive walking trail is proposed on the Pine-Popple Wild Rivers for scenic viewing of Breakwater Falls. Issues to be addressed: closure of several sections of forest roads, proposals for ATV use and a bicycle trail, forest/park division of land (Peshtigo/Gov. Thompson), and a unique network of trails on the Potato Rapids Flowage Unit of the Peshtigo River State Forest that currently allow recreational uses including hiking, biking, horseback riding and snowshoeing. The allowed trail uses will remain the same. However, a portion of the trail system has been discovered to impact both a prehistoric archaeological site and an early European settlement. This area (14.7 acres) is proposed to be closed to trail uses
- Southwest Savanna Regional Plan - the department initiated public involvement and the planning process for this region in early June 2019; the public comment period for this first phase closed June 25th. The planning team will evaluate and summarize comments received and begin work evaluating management alternatives and developing the regional plan. This region includes three state parks, three state trails, six stand-alone State Natural Areas, three fish and wildlife areas and the Southwest Grassland & Stream Conservation Area. (Savannah Ernzen lead planner, Phil Rynish)

> **Anticipated upcoming plans**

- Central Sand Plains –Internal team has been assembled, initial internal meeting complete. Includes properties in Adams/Portage/Juneau/Wood counties. Will be kicking off with a public meeting August 28, 2019 in Adams seeking public input on issues that should be addressed during the planning process. (Yoyi Steele and Mitch Horrie lead planners)
- Central Sand Hills – biotic inventory will be completed this summer, inventory and pre-planning work will be completed by end of 2019. Anticipated kick off in January 2020. Includes Devil's Lake, Hartman Creek SPs, many FM lands. Property surveys for two parks over the summer of 2019. (John Pohlman lead planner)



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- Western Coulee and Ridges, North Central Forest and Central Lake Michigan Coastal are likely next after the two Central Sand ELs.

Budget update

- > Parks and Recreation Management asked for 1.7 million additional spending authority and was granted 1.1 million
- > Additional spending authority will be used to cover operating expenses for existing new infrastructure utility cost, such as electric rates for new electric campsites, and raise some LTE wages
- > Two development projects were removed from budget – Potawatomi entrance station and Pattison toilet/shower building
- > No GPR (general purpose revenue) added for parks
- > No direct impact on trail or infrastructure projects

Sharepoint page and storage site for storm damage photos

- > No longer use sharepoint page since not well used by STC and seems that we only need photo storage
- > Options for photo storage/viewing, WEtransfer your photos to kathryn.gehrke@wisconsin.gov to add them to our shared album: <https://wi-dnr.widencollective.com/c/qwe8mh4x>
 - Kathryn will send out instructions on how to submit photos and documents (see Appendix B)
- > What specific photos would you like? How will they be used?
 - Council would like variety of storm damage with various construction photos to share with user groups

Overview/Comments on new format for the STC webpage

- > <https://dnr.wi.gov/topic/parks/stc/>
- > Bryan asked for agenda to be added as first page of minutes

Overview of how groups can sponsor trail schools

- > Handout that outlines pricing and logistics (see appendix C)
- > Group asked how many trail schools DNR will fund per year
 - Brigit Brown stated she does not know of any trail school that has not been funded

Orientation about the new Recreation Stakeholders Group

- > Brigit Brown explains new recreation stakeholder group
- > Group includes various external partners, public and private
- > Group met once in June and next meeting is in August
- > In June group divided into three focus groups
 - Recreation management
 - Outreach and education
 - Planning
- > STC representative is Ben Popp
- > At August meeting group will discuss possible team outcomes



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Update on the trail standards project

- > Brigit Brown tells group that she still has names they submitted and hopes to re-engage the group by end of the year
- > Project has been on hold due to admin changes

State Park license plate and admission

- > Brigit Brown explains two proposed bills related to state park admission
- > AB 219 would allow a special license plate to be used as your admission to the state parks
- > AB 331 the annual sticker would be valid one year from date of purchase rather than one calendar year

Other Policy Updates

- > Brigit Brown talks about new legislation and pending legislation
- > SB 212 and AB 252: bill to waive state park admission for 4th graders, similar what NPS does
- > Bills to tie recreation vehicle OWI offences to driver license record
- > Electric scooter bill did pass and is signed into law, state park trails open via master plan process, other trails and bike lanes open automatically
- > SB 129 and AB 132: bill to allow e-bikes on trails, DNR has been proactive and allows e-bikes on some trails: <https://dnr.wi.gov/topic/parks/activities/bike.html#electric> if it is a co-op managed linear trail e-bikes are allowed unless the partner decided to opt out
- > Multiple legislations going around related to lymes disease, one would require state parks to have signage on lyme, another would require insect repellent available for sale
- > Legislation regarding DNR patron license and how it is administered and sold
- > Some additional bills regarding hunting and regulating hemp and marijuana
- > AB 332: bill that would eliminate state trail pass
- > SB 125: water infrastructure projects
- > OHM admin code going forward September 18, public hearing and telepresence
- > Motorized trail handbook expected to go out for comment

Closure and Damage System

- > New closure system will go live next week
- > Property managers will have access to close trails or properties in real time using GIS system

Visitor Survey

- > Visitor optionaire at 12 properties plus 8 properties with visitor intercept survey and campground hosts
- > Survey asks variety of questions including recreation

Land Acquisitions

- > IAT Manitowoc County went through
- > IAT Sheboygan County objection from joint finance, more work to be done
- > Extension Wolf River State Trail NRB next month
- > Winona Connector moving forward, funding secured

Marketing Update



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- OutWiGo Girls, May 11, was a huge success with 1600 people coming out to southern unit to enjoy full day of recreation, and education. 19 partners participated including IATA, RL4WD, Nica Grit, AWSC. Plan to have same event next year with minor tweaks to schedule
- OutWiGo is continuing work to engage more people in Wisconsin's parks, forests and trails and plans to host a few additional events in 2020 as well as continued social media marketing and attending/contributing to our partner events.
- Let me know if you'd like to be involved or see an opportunity you think we should explore.
- Staffed table at farm tech days this week and will be at state fair next weeks
- August 17th OutWiGo and NRF are hosting a day of outdoor recreation complete with a campout at Gov Dodge
- WSPS continues to host events at parks, forests and trails and you can find these events and get your organizations involved by searching "Get Outdoors" on wi.dnr.gov page
- Girl Scouts Love State Parks was new this year, coordinated by national girl scout association a few Wisconsin chapters participated by getting out into the WSPS
- Pattison SP turning 100 years and to celebrate there will be an event about once per month throughout 2020

RTP Update – Bobbi Winebar

- Rec trails funding meeting in June, working to get everything obligated by September
 - Started with over 2 million dollars after deductions ended up with 1.8 million for projects
 - Fund 46 local projects
 - 16 capital develop
 - 45,000 cap year
 - Total 60 projects total this year
 - Next 200,000 cap year is 2021
 - 90 local applications this year
- Recreation boating facilities, 2 commissioners have retired and looking to fill their positions for Lake Michigan and Mississippi River
 - Link on Governor Evers webpage to submit application
 - 5-year term

1:45 P.M. – Follow up on topic of sharing recreation routes and trails in conjunction with the DNR

- April: discussed possibility of having DNR link to other sites which show GPS guided routes
- GPS guided routes are very popular
 - RL4WD group has 78 routes in SE Wisconsin but no traditional trails for RL4WD from DNR
- Group views Travel Wisconsin site and how they feature and link to GPS guided routes
- Task force group will form and handle the issue

2:41 P.M. – User group highlights

- Bob Fasick DOT
 - Pine River Recreation Trail – looking into multi-use



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- ATV traffic staff meet to discuss property signage made ATV FAQ page, will run it by Randy and hope it will give people info they need
- Sam Landis and attorney representative met about the 40-foot vegetation rule
- ATV/UTV on roads is up to the local community rather than state
- Jeff Anderson Tourism
 - Budget
 - 1.5 million additional in marketing
 - In-house video capability
 - Office of outdoor recreation – 3 in house staff focus on outdoor recreation, 2 year positions
 - <http://industry.travelwisconsin.com/>
 - view 2019-2021 strategic plan
 - draft document for review and feedback
 - Tourism will be at State Fair
 - Joint effort marketing grant deadline August 1st and September 1st

2:57 P.M. – Public Comment

- None

2:58 P.M. – Nominate potential future agenda items

- Electric scooter
- GPS mapping
- Cannonshot.net to view Bryan's trip blog and info on how wild firefighters build trails when not fighting fires

3:05 P.M. – Adjourn

- Motion to adjourn, Doug, seconded by Ken, all in favor, no objections.



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Appendix A – User Group Reports (submitted before meeting by Council Members)

STC User Group Reports –

ATV/UTV

Our organization is extremely busy in the summer months, attending numerous local club meetings throughout Wisconsin, plus joining when asked to participate in town and county meetings as well as hosting 3 regional meetings where our focus is more regional in nature. At these listening sessions we ask our clubs in attendance to share ideas, problems or topics that they are in need of assistance with. Likewise we have topics and issues to share at each setting, to gather more input and ideas as to policy changes we are working to add, change or alter.

This season the 3 regionals and locations are the Northeast Regional being held July 27th at the Northland Camp & Conference Center in the Dunbar area, located in Marinette County. Next will be our Northwest Regional being held on August 17th at the Barron County ATV Playground in the Almena area. Last but not least, our Southwest Regional will be hosted at Grandma Mary's Cafe in Arena on Saturday, August 24th.

After our regional meetings and rides area over, we host our annual VIP Ride, this year being held on Friday, September 6th at the Dyracuse Recreational Park in Adams County. This is always a large event for us as we get new folks interested in this outdoor recreation a chance to experience what the activity is all about.

Last year we launched a new outreach program out on our trail systems, referred to as our mobile Welcome Centers. Basically these are EZ Up tents with support materials to share riding area maps, club information and safety / regulatory requirements to riders. We offer to do voluntary safety checks, a perfect way to answer people's questions while offering many safety tips and statutory requirements many folks are unaware of. We also provide water and snacks as well as Tread Lightly! educational support material.

Following is a summary of the program as well as our scheduled dates and locations:

The Wisconsin ATV UTV Association (WATVA), in partnership with the Trail Ambassador program, promotes and encourages safe and responsible riding. To help educate enthusiasts and the general public, working alongside of and with the local clubs around the state, WATVA has instituted a mobile trail side tent we call a "Welcome Center". These Welcome Centers have a variety of outreach services to provide riders with area riding information and maps, local and statewide club information, as well as offering free vehicle safety checks performed by our qualified Trail Patrol Ambassador's.

These Welcome Centers provide an excellent opportunity for riders seeking more in-depth



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information about the sport in general, safety aspects and requirements they may be unaware of or want to know more about, what and how clubs provide for our sport and basically a resource to the riding community as well as the tourism industry.

July 6 - Turf & Tundra Club - Burnett County

July 20 - Dusty Trails / Team WinnebagoLand - Oconto County

July 21 - Osseo Area Dusty Riders - Trempealeau County

August 3 - Rolling Hills Snowmobile & ATV Club - Washburn County

August 31 - Red Arrow Snowmobile & ATV Club - Oconto County

September 21 - Marinette County Rec Officer & Area Clubs - Marinette County

September 21 - Rice Lake Snow & Dirt Club - Barron County

Submitted by: Randy Harden

Bicycle touring/rail trail bicycling/road bicycling

Happy summer, friends! For my update, I will be sharing a number of news articles from throughout the state that have had / will have a general impact on state trails and road cyclists. I also provided a few fun events taking place in the near future.

User Group Related Events:

The Wisconsin Bike Summit is taking place this year in Wausau on October 4th and 5th. For more information, please visit <http://www.bfw.org/events/bike-summit/>.

Check out the Wisconsin Bike Festival Weekend. As a fully supported ride, enjoy the beautiful scenery along the rolling bike-friendly roads of the Northern Kettle Moraine. With multiple routes to choose from, women and girls of all ages and abilities are welcome. This bicycling event is open to women and girls only. <http://www.cedarburg.org/events/details/wisconsin-bike-festival-weekend-3541>

Related User Group Articles:

Wisconsin Office of Outdoor Recreation Established

Article Link:

<https://www.jsonline.com/story/money/2019/07/05/wisconsin-department-tourism-adds-new-outdoor-recreation-office/1655561001/>

I want to begin my user group notes with this item because it is AWESOME news for our state! With the passage of the budget, the Department of Tourism will be rolling out the Office of Outdoor Recreation. Three new staff positions will be allocated for this new office.

“Tourists spend \$17.9 billion on outdoor gear and supplies in Wisconsin every year, according to the release. The outdoor recreation industry is also tied to 168,000 jobs.” This Office is one of the first of its kind in the entire Midwest and it capitalizes on the state’s biggest driver of tourism, outdoor activities. I am confident that the state will greatly benefit from the establishment of the OREC office.



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Elroy-Sparta Bike Trail and 400 State Trail Trail Funding Vetoed

Article Link:

https://lacrossetribune.com/community/tomahjournal/news/gov-evers-vetoes-directed-repair-funds-to-elroy-sparta-bike/article_89be67a4-eee2-5c2c-ae3a-8b47667d5fbd.html

“Gov. Tony Evers Wednesday vetoed \$100,000 appropriated by the Legislature to repair portions of the Elroy-Sparta Bike Trail and 400 State Trail.” For the record, I am very disappointed in this veto. As is evident with current conditions, there are significant repairs that need to be completed. I hope that the deferred maintenance gap is addressed in future budgets.

State poised to regulate e-bikes

Article Link:

<https://isthmus.com/news/news/legislation-comes-as-electric-bikes-surge-in-popularity/>

“It would bring electric bicycles under the same rules of the road as other bicycles and afford them the same responsibilities and privileges — meaning they would be allowed on paved bike paths, gravel state trails or off-road single track”. I’ll be excited to see how this legislation falls.

Madison is the first city to go 100% electric for its bike share

Article link:

<https://www.fastcompany.com/90365265/madison-is-the-first-city-to-go-100-electric-for-its-bike-share>

As a fan of bike shares, this is a fun update! I thought this article was too cool not to share. “As of June 18, BCycle, the local bike share, became the first citywide system in the U.S. to transition its fleet entirely to electric-assist bicycles.”

User Group Updates:

From Patty Loosen of the Friends of WI State Parks:

“Some of our current priorities of the FWSP are:

- advocating at the legislative level for the Lyme Disease bill and the state parks water infrastructure bill (\$5.1 million - authored by Se. Cowles).
- advocating for support of and monitoring of law enforcement at the state park system properties by the DNR Bureau of law enforcement.
- advocating that the DNR have state trail planning responsibility vs. local cooperators.
- 2019 Gold Seal and Photo Contests that run through Aug. 31, 2019 and result in state park and trail awards and photos for the 2020 state parks and trails calendar. “

Submitted by: Roy Atkinson

Four-Wheel Drive



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Wisconsin Four Wheel Drive Association(W4WDA) and Wisconsin Off Highway Vehicle Association(WOHVA) are making good progress in possibly merging. The membership of W4WDA will vote in regard to this at their October meeting. If all goes well the expectation is that a merger will hopefully be effective as of January 1,2020.

WOHVA is having their annual event at Apple Valley and a Fall run in October.

W4WDA and WOHVA are currently working with a sports group to cut trails, assisting with their event and then our group would host a four wheel drive event there possibly next October.

Road Legal Four Whee Drive Association (RL4WDA) has been very busy with rides, building membership and working with some of the various government agencies on trails. They had a very successful VIP ride in Tigerton in late June where they had various speakers and discussion on the need of having trails in Wisconsin for the four wheel drive community. After the program those that could stay were given a ride on some of the trails and also were taken on some of the offshoot challenges. There were many smiles as they got out of the vehicles at the end of the ride. The hope is with a better understanding of recreating with a Four Wheel Drive we can work together for more trails in Wisconsin.

Many clubs have rides throughout the summer with many having road trips that take them out of state for their four wheel drive experiences.

Submitted by: Luana Schneider

Hiking

Both the Ice Age Trail Alliance and the North Country Trail Association sponsored hike events and trail projects on National Trails Day, June 01, 2019. Unfortunately, in Wisconsin the weather was less than cooperative resulting in a lower hiker turnout. Nationally, 41,424 people joined American Hiking Society to set the world record for the most people improving trails in a single day. Thousands of miles of trails were cleaned up, and more than 869 miles of trail were built or maintained on National Trails day. That is the equivalent of working on 72% of the 1,200 mile long Ice Age Trail in one day.

National Trails Day is the only nationally coordinated event designed to unite all muscle-powered trail activities with the goal of connecting more people to trails. Every trail beckons adventure and has a story to share with any person willing to discover it. American Hiking Society who is the sponsor of National Trails Day, believes these trail experiences can improve the lives of every American.

The Wisconsin The Joint Finance Committee voted on the future of the Stewardship Program on Tuesday, June 11th. The Joint Finance Committee adopted Governor Evers' position of a two-year extension of the program at current funding levels, 33 million each year. Both the Ice Age Trail Alliance and the North Country Trail Association were disappointed by this outcome as they were hoping for 10 years of reauthorization; however, the vote could have also cut or eliminated funding altogether. The Knowles-Nelson Stewardship Program is a vital source of funding for the Ice Age Trail. Each of the 66 Stewardship purchases by the Ice Age Trail Alliance was leveraged with private, county or other funds, well over \$20M since 2000. Additionally, the DNR has acquired Ice Age Trail



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rights on more than 100 properties (87 miles) for the Trail over time – nearly all of these used the Knowles-Nelson Stewardship Program.

Despite a stubborn winter that lingered around well into spring in the northern part of the state, and a wet spring and early summer the volunteers of both the Ice Age Trail and the North Country still were out on the trails building and maintaining their perspective trails. The weather did not seem to deter hikers either as they were definitely out enjoying the trails in rain, snow and occasional sun.

Summer is here and both the Ice Age Trail Alliance and the North Country Trail Association are very busy holding guided hikes on their perspective trails across the state on most weekends and during the week for hikers of all ability levels. The social hikes have become quite popular and is another way to raise awareness about trail concerns and attract new members and volunteers.

Submitted by: Ken Neitzke

Off-highway motorcycles

We were recently able to fund some trail grants for OHM projects using funds from our OHM sticker program. It is good to see this program start to provide funds we contributed to help create more riding opportunities. The development of the administrative code that is required to fully implement the program is still moving along in the required multi-year process. There will be an opportunity the DNR to collect some comments in August on what has been developed to date. We are constructing the second of three loops at the new OHM trail being developed in Vilas County. The first loop is already open and the second loop should open in August. The first loop was intended to be more of a novice loop to encourage more people to get started with OHM trail riding with the second and third loops requiring more advanced skills. Some of the usual organized summer riding events have been conducted already and we are looking forward to more events and opportunities later in the season. A large regional adventure motorcycle rally will be held in Vilas County in August. This rally historically has drawn people from great distances in the US and Canada to enjoy some of the dual sport and trail riding in the area.

Submitted by: Bryan Much

XC ski

In general, it was a good winter for skiing, however south of Hwy 29 had very poor snow conditions on and off. Like skiers, ski trails are made in the summer, so lots of work going on around the state. Here are a few updates from the different areas around the state:

Chippewa Valley Region

- **Timberland Hills**

One of the great ski destinations in North Central Wisconsin has a huge upgrade this summer – a new Pisten Bully groomer. The trail will have even better skiing this winter with the new upgrade. They also plan to host a variety of HS events including a CC race this fall as a fundraiser and to get more kids out on the trails.



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- **Rhineland Area**
 - The ski area in Rhineland, CAVOC has worked hard to get their trails Homologated through FIS/ US Ski and Snowboard and hosted not only many youth events, but an elite level college event as well. The energy and clubs in the are growing and helping to improve the infrastructure and trails in the area – allowing many to get out and enjoy winter!
- **American Birkebeiner / Hayward Area**
 - Spooner City Trails has new grooming equipment and is working on trail repair this summer and lighting repair. A new “community building” was built at City Park where the trails begin and it has spawned a huge growth in the youth programs -now over 120 kids K-12!
 - Drummond HS has officially added a HS ski team and will have trails groomed in town for kids to ski as well as the public!
- **Milwaukee Area**
 - Lapham Peak and Southeast Wisconsin
Funds raised by the Friends group allowed Lapham to grow the artificial snow loop there this year. They are focused this summer on upgrading their equipment and the services they provide for the park. It is one of the most used ski destinations in southern Wisconsin due to the artificial snow.
- **Central Cross-Country Skiing (Regional Governing Body under US Ski & Snowboard)**
 - Youth - 80 schools enrolled in Nordic Rocks for Schools Program in WI serving 10,423 students where 50% of students experienced cross country skiing for the first time.
 - Juniors - 47 competitors with National Ranking Race License
 - Coaches - 40 US Ski & Snowboard Certified Coaches
 - Clubs - 6 clubs have regional/national club memberships and 7 clubs have regional club memberships
- **Madison Area**
 - Madison Area Nordic Ski Club will continue investigating and looking at the feasibility of creating a 1.5km man-made ski loop at Elver Park. The venue hosted the Wisconsin State Sprint Championships, as well as a Junior National Cup qualifier event for the Midwest Division this past year.
- **Iola/Stevens Point Area**
 - Winter was slow to come to central WI, but when it came, it came!! Iola and many trails in south central WI were in great shape as we close the winter. It was a great season of skiing once the snow arrived and many happy users.

Submitted by: Ben Popp



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Equestrians

From now until July 31 we have challenged our users with the #trashtag challenge. The group that posts a picture to the WHC Trails Facebook page, with the largest pile of trash picked up earns a free 2020 WHC membership.

The Friends of Gov. Dodge State Park Equestrians continue to work on fund raising to install a new 21 spot campground. The group has just hit the \$200,000 mark of the required \$500,000 goal. Most of these funds have been raised in the last year and a half. They will be working to apply for RTP funds and are researching any other grant opportunities.

Spring riding was great this year with some great weather. Most trails needed some work days – but most wintered well, and were open late April.

WHC has established a “Capital Fund” that will be built over time, to award money to larger projects that may be outside of the normal grant program.

The WHC grant program was able to award 12 grants to projects, totaling \$27,775. The program requires a 50% match by the group who receives it. Since the beginning of the program we have given out a total of \$356,296, with the matching funds that is over \$544,000 in value added to public trails.

Alice Williams from the WHC Trails Committee will be working as the equine representative to the DNR on the new Recreation Stakeholder Committee.

Submitted by: Cricket Jewett

Water Trails

Due to the nature of this position being recently filled the following report is filed. As a whole the States Water Trail system is lightly used for the total miles of river possibilities. The trails the State is responsible for are in relatively good shape and have fairly good access. However, they could be improved with proper signs that follow a world standard in recreational symbols and placement.

Most all the States Water Trails are on its boundaries and favor its Mississippi, Lake Superior, and far northern tier. A south central and south eastern trail should be added. A better overall plan developed.

The majority of Water Trails in the State are developed by private parties that have a stake in canoe and kayak rentals or on large self-clearing rivers. Some local communities and small groups also clear trails. The State of Michigan has a 79-page online project manual on water trail development in their State, as do other States. An updated online Wisconsin rules or manual with a meeting of parties to set a standard for wildlife and habitat protection of; in mind., seems to be in order.

Just making new trails is not a reason of its own. Tourism to our State should be balanced with the endangered and sensitive areas in mind or absolution of areas as a protected resource. There are



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thousands of miles of river and streams in the State. Proper planning and conservation should be a forefront to miles paddled.

There are funding grants and donations, fund raiser events and other types of philanthropy available for those who seek it, on Federal, State, and local levels. Also, sponsorship from manufacturers, vendors and other sources for Water Trails, the State alone should not be the funding source. We enjoy our free State waters as paddle craft owners and do not wish to be burdened with registration or other fees to fund trails.

Increased flood cycles and intensity have kept all groups working harder to keep Water Trails open. Low bridges are a problem stopping flow and causing a safety concerns on many waters. We must remind the road and other trail builders that a five foot above waters standard flow is a State standard that should be a minimum when crossing any waters with a bridge. Many bridges fail this standard including highways of U. S. and State and County designation.

Paddling in Wisconsin brings millions of dollars to the State economy. It could easily be tripled with a few new trails and a better marketing plan. I have only begun to see the full potential of Water Trails in Wisconsin. And with more input from paddlers, business owners, DNR staff and scientific data we as a State could reap the rewards of a great Water Trail system.

This report is an early conception of the future of our State Water Trails, development, thought and planning should start a process that benefit all Wisconsinites.

Submitted by: Steve Falter

Snowmobile

Wisconsin snowmobilers attended the 51st International Snowmobile Congress (ISC), held this year in Grand Rapids, Michigan in June. Recognition was given to several of Wisconsin's own. The American Council of Snowmobile Associations (ACSA) recognized the Snowmobile Family of the year- The Jay Thompson Family from Franken, The ACSA Dealer of the Year- Rob's Performance from Johnson Creek, and the ACSA Snowmobile Club of the Year- the Sayner Barnstormers. ACSA (www.snowmobilers.org) is the national organization uniting the snowmobile community and promoting snowmobiling as a safe, fun, family oriented activity. They have recently updated their "Snowmobiling- Facts & Myths" booklet available on their website. The International Snowmobile Manufacturers Association (ISMA) (www.snowmobile.org) represents the 4 major snowmobile manufacturers. They reported an increase in sales for the past year.

June 22nd the Association of Wisconsin Snowmobile Clubs (AWSC) held its Summer Directors Meeting to conduct regular AWSC business and to pick this year's "Of the Year" award winners at Lake of the Torches

2019 "Of the Year" Winners

2019 Snowmobiler Of The Year: Janice Tetzlaff - Kettle Range Snowriders



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2019 Young Snowmobiler Of The Year: Nick Wilterdink – Sheboygan Falls Snowmobile Assoc

2019 Snowmobile Family Of The Year: The Norbie Ziegler Family – G-E-T Trailblazers Snowmobile Club

2019 Snowmobile Club Of The Year: Sno-Trails Snowmobile Club - Hayward, WI

2019 Dealer Of The Year: Day's Power Sports – Bloomer, WI

The 43rd Annual World Championship Watercross was held in Grantsburg, WI on the 21st of July.

Coming Events

International Snowmobile Hall of Fame (ISHOF) Induction Banquet - September 21st.

Wausau Grass Drags - September 28 & 29

Milwaukee Snowmobile USA Show - October 18-20

Governor's Snowmobile Recreational Council will be meeting in the Wausau area on August 26th.

The 52nd "Official Start of Winter"- Haydays Grass Drags- will be held September 7 and 8 in North branch, MN, Just across the border.

The AWSC is planning the Fall Workshops for October 25-27 at the Radisson Paper Valley. State snowmobile trail passes are available for purchase for the upcoming season. Snowmobilers are encouraged to order their trail passes early.

The AWSC current membership stands at 39,367.

Submitted by: Doug Johnson



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Appendix B – WeTransfer Instructions (ask of Council Members at meeting)

Trail photos and large ppt files will be stored as a widen collection for STC and public viewing at: <https://wi-dnr.widencollective.com/c/qwe8mh4x>

Link will be available on STC webpage

Instructions on how to submit files for Kathryn to upload to collection via WeTransfer

1. Visit <https://wetransfer.com/>
2. Click “+” to add the files you want to transfer
3. “Email to” kathryn.gehrke@wisconsin.gov
4. Enter “Your Email” it will send you a confirmation that your file was sent and again once Kathryn opens the file
5. Type description of the file or photos in “Message” section
6. Click “Transfer”
7. Files will then be sent to Kathryn and will be added to the collection if appropriate, files will not automatically be added to collection

How do I send files?

Just go to wetransfer.com

Click on the + sign and add the files you want to send, or, select a folder to upload.

Type in the email address of the person or people you're kathryn.gehrke@wisconsin.gov

Now type in your own email

Please type photo or file description. date, trail, specific segment, who took photo, etc.

Then simply hit the Transfer button and you're done. It's simple, secure, and free of charge.

Told you it was easy.

No need to use this feature

The screenshot shows the WeTransfer interface with the following elements: a blue plus sign in a circle labeled 'Add your files Or select a folder'; an 'Email to' field containing 'kathryn.gehrke@wisconsin.gov'; a 'Your email' field; a 'Message' field; a 'Transfer' button; and a three-dot menu icon. Blue lines connect these elements to the instructional text on the right. A box at the bottom left points to the three-dot menu icon with the text 'No need to use this feature'.



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Appendix C – Trail School Information (meeting handout by DNR)

DNR will pay up to \$5000 in costs (you'll need to keep the invoice below that amount, and it (invoice) must not exceed the "real" cost of the training). The training will have to be open to all trail uses and open to volunteers and public trail managers (e.g. County Parks Department staff, DNR staff, volunteers, etc). The DNR's contribution will cover registration fees for attendees. DNR will not cover registration fees for private individuals who are not volunteers on public trails or anyone from out of state. Just ask if you have a question about this.

You can hire anyone qualified to teach the class (Professional Trailbuilders Assoc. Member preferred, with experience teaching and building for all of the trail uses on Wi public lands).

You and your affiliates will host locally - meaning find the location, find a hotel that will give attendees state rate (\$82) for lodging (offering a camping location would be a bonus), be available during the training to troubleshoot issues or questions that come up, and working with the instructor on needs for the class (power point presentation, locations for trail work for the field portion of the class, tools, etc). Attendees are responsible for travel, lodging and some meal costs – the host group is responsible for providing lunch (you can charge attendees for this cost if you wish, but not more than the state per diem rate of \$10, including drink, tax, & tip – let them know this as far ahead of time as possible). It is nice to have (but not required) a group meal with your local club and other trail advocates in the area on one night of the training as well.

I will send out information to DNR staff, soliciting their participation. Let me know if there is specific information you'd like them to have ahead of time, a web page they should visit to sign up, or if they should just send you an email. In general, here is the information that I suggest you'll want to ask of each person signing up.

- Name, organization, address, city, state zip, email
- If they need lodging, and for which nights
- Any dietary restrictions
- Let them know to be prepared for weather, bring work gloves and sturdy work boots, bug spray, hat, water bottle, etc

About four months before the class (or sooner), you'll need to determine

- Max number of attendees (probably based on your budget) – & please let me know how many DNR folks have signed up so far
- When you want to cut off registration/class is full -
 - At that time, send everyone who has signed up an email with the logistics for the training like:
 - What time will class start and end each day, where do they meet
 - Name, phone number, address of the hotel(s) in the area that have agreed to offer state rate
 - What meals will be provided
 - Any expenses or costs that aren't covered beside lodging and the meals not listed above