



State of Wisconsin
GOVERNOR'S STATE TRAILS COUNCIL

Meeting Minutes

Thursday, November 9, 2017

Hausmann Nature Center
Kettle Moraine State Forest - Lapham Peak Unit
W329 N846 County C Delafield, WI 53018
10:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

State Trails Council Members present

John Siegert, off-road bicycling representative (member of *Bicycle Federation of Wisconsin*) [STC Vice Chair]
Ben Popp [for Mike McFadzen], 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*)
Luana Schneider, 4-wheel drive vehicles representative (member of *Wisconsin 4-Wheel Drive Association*)
Bryan Much, off-highway motorcycle representative (member of *Wisconsin Off-Highway Motorcycle Association (WOHMA)*) [STC Chair]
Doug Johnson, snowmobiling representative (member of *Association of Wisconsin Snowmobile Clubs (AWSC)*) [STC Secretary]
Dave Cieslewicz [for Robbie Webber], road bicycling representative (Executive Director of the *Bicycle Federation of Wisconsin (BFW)*)

State Trails Council Members not in attendance

Jim White, boards and small wheels representative

Invited speakers

Tim Malzhan, Ice Age Trail Alliance
Charlie Ritter & Ann Riendl, Lapham Peak Snowmaking Committee

Others present

WI DNR Staff present

Anne Korman, DNR – Kettle Moraine State Forest
Brian Lemke, DNR – Kettle Moraine State Forest
Brett Johansen, DNR – Lapham Peak

Brigit Brown, DNR liaison/staff to the STC
Missy VanLanduyt, DNR liaison/staff to the STC
Brigit Brown, DNR liaison/staff to the STC
Lisa Pastula, DNR Parks & Recreation



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10:00 A.M. – Welcome and introductions

- Much called the meeting to order. Council members and guests introduced themselves.
- Brigit Brown introduced Missy VanLanduyt as the new DNR liaison. Missy's position with the DNR is with the Parks and Recreation Management program as the Recreation Partnership Section Chief.

10:05 A.M. – Agenda review/repair and approval of April meeting minutes

- Doug Johnson moved to approve the minutes. Randy Harden seconded. Motion passed.

10:06 A.M. – Chair report

- Discussion of Great Trails book
- Mike McFadzen 20-year acknowledgement and appreciation of contributions. McFadzen shared his experiences over the past 20 years and was appreciative of the acknowledgement for his time over the past 20 years on the council.
- 2018 Meeting dates
 - January 8 – Conference Call
 - April 26
 - August 3
 - November 8

10:18 A.M. – 2018 Officer vote

- Motion for current officers to remain in the positions
 - Brian Much [STC Chair]
 - John Siegert [STC Vice Chair]
 - Doug Johnson [STC Secretary]

- Luana Schneider moved to approve the officers. Randy Harden seconded. Motion passed

10:20 A.M. – Recommendation and vote on council applications received for vacant positions

- Motion to endorse the applicant Ben Popp. Mike McFadzen Moved. Johnson Seconded. Motion passed.
- Motion to endorse the applicant Bob Boucher. Cricket Jewett motion to approve. Mike McFadzen Second. Motion passed.

10:27 A.M. – Discussion of current and potential trail funding

- Cathy overview of ATV / UTV funding sources. Gas tax, non-resident trail passes
- Brigit Brown discussed the State Trail Pass vs Snow Trail Pass
- State trail passes have declined over \$100K each year and the gap is continuing to grow
- <https://outdoorindustry.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/08/Headwaters-Economics-v4-Screen.pdf>
- http://lc.legis.wisconsin.gov/media/1200/rl_09_06_rec.pdf

11:30 A.M. – Lunch



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12:03 P.M. – Tim Malzhan, Ice Age Trail Alliance

- Presentation of Ice Age Trail – History and location of trail
- Land acquisitions and funding through grants. Over \$20k donated by Friends organization
- 2018 is the 60th Anniversary of the Ice Age Trail

12:45 P.M. – Charlie Ritter & Ann Riendl, Lapham Peak Snowmaking Committee

- Presentation of the snowmaking at Lapham Peak. This 1.5km loop draws the geographical area of northern Illinois, and southern Wisconsin. The average number of users each month is 38,000. This ski area offers lessons, ski rentals and concessions for ski events. Penguin signs were placed along the trail to remind users to help with the costs of the ski trail if possible. The cost of the snowmaking for the loop is \$48,000.

1:30 P.M. – Anne Korman and Brian Lemke – DNR Kettle Moraine Southern Unit (KMSU)

- Anne Korman, Superintendent of the KMSU, discussed recreation opportunities on the property with Brian Lemke (KMSU supervisor). They informed of the property layout and grooming schedules to keep the trails maintained through the winter months.

1:30 P.M. – Brett Johansen – DNR – Lapham Peak

- Over view of trail and discussion of one mile of paved trail.

2:10 P.M. – Highlights from Council member reports (linked at end of minutes as an appendix)

- *ATV / UTV* – No highlights beyond written submission.
- *Cross-Country Skiing* - No highlights beyond written submission.
- *Equestrian* - No highlights beyond written submission.
- *Four-Wheel Drive* - No highlights beyond written submission.
- *Hiking* - No highlights beyond written submission.
- *Off-Highway Motorcycles* - Much noted that the OHM event just west of Madison opened for registration at midnight and was filled by noon the same day (about 300 riders).
- *Snowmobile* - No highlights beyond written submission.

2:25 P.M. – DNR report: recreational opportunities analysis updates

- Recreation Opportunities Analysis update – Brigit Brown provided an update on the Recreational Opportunities Analysis, reviewed the information provided to the council via email since the last STC meeting. Public meetings have taken place for , provided information about turn out at the most recent open house meetings for the Upper Lake Michigan Coastal (Brown, Door, Kewaunee, Manitowoc, Marinette, and Oconto counties) and Great Northwest (Ashland, Barron, Bayfield, Burnett, Douglas, Polk, Rusk, Sawyer, Washburn counties), Mississippi River Corridor (Buffalo, Crawford, Dunn, Grant, LaCrosse, Pepin, Pierce, St. Croix, Trempealeau, Vernon counties), Western Sands (Adams, Chippewa, Clark, Eau Claire,



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Jackson, Juneau, Marathon, Portage, Monroe, Wood counties) and the Lake Winnebago Waters (Calumet, Fond du Lac, Green Lake, Marquette, Menominee, Outagamie, Shawano, Waupaca, Waushara, Winnebago counties). Meetings for the Mississippi River Corridor and Western Sands regions were held the week of October 22-25 in Eau Claire, LaCrosse, and Stevens Point. For the Lake Winnebago Waters region, a meeting was held in early November in Appleton, and comments were gathered online through November 17. The chapters for these most recent three regions are currently being drafted by the department, based on the feedback received, and will be available for public comment in the near future. Open houses and online comment period will be announced soon for the remaining regions, Southern Gateways (Richland, Sauk, Iowa, Lafayette, Columbia, Dane, Green, Dodge, Jefferson, Rock counties), and Lower Lake Michigan Coastal (Sheboygan, Washington, Ozaukee, Waukesha, Milwaukee, Walworth, Racine, Kenosha counties). The open houses will take place in the first half of December and are designed to gather public comments, ideas, concerns, and perspectives on the existing recreation opportunities available in these regions and future needs. Council members are encouraged to attend and to spread the word to constituents who may be interested as well. An online survey will again be available for each region. More information can be found on the ROA web page (<http://dnr.wi.gov/topic/Lands/RecAnalysis/>), which also has a link to sign-up for an email list for the project and links to the online survey for each region.

- Brown also provided an update on the DNR's master planning process. Master plans will now be created for geographic areas of the state, grouped by what are called "ecological landscapes" and any needed master planning within each of those areas will take place as one overall project. This approach to master planning was approved by the Natural Resources Board at their June 2017 meeting. The NRB briefing materials provide additional background in which you may be interested: [June NRB](#), February NRB agenda item 4.B.2. See "[PowerPoint](#)". A map of the ecological landscapes will be sent out to STC members. Current master planning efforts are detailed on the [master planning web page](#). All existing master plan projects will finish up, but moving forward all properties will be planned under the ecological landscape heading for their area, so rather than look for a certain property name, you should determine the ecological landscapes in which any properties in which you are interested in are located and sign up for notifications about those efforts, when posted to the master planning web page. Right now, the [Northern Lake Michigan Coastal](#) area is kicking off the master planning process (public comments on what you'd like to see in the plan are being solicited online through November 28 – more details are on the NLMC [web page](#), including a list of the DNR properties included in this planning effort).
- SCORP – Completed near end of 2018
- Staffing Changes – Explanation of Brigit Brown's and Missy VanLanduyt positions have changed. Any questions please ask.

2:55 P.M. – Future agenda items

- North Country Trail (April)
- DNR Updates

2:57 P.M. – Adjourn



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- Motion to adjourn by Mike McFadzen. Seconded by Johnson. All approved. Meeting adjourned.

ATV / UTV

A significant number of media and subsequent press articles have recently been released pertaining to the recent vote by Natural Resource Board (NRB) at their October meeting. One of the decisions the board made was a unanimous vote supporting an amendment to the master plan of the Northern Highland – American Legion State Forest. Within this amendment, the NRB approved the use of two different variations of existing forest roads on the NH-AL that would, for the first time, allow ATV & UTV use within the borders of this state property.

The first variation, referred to in the plan summary as “bucket A”, references approximately 42 miles of existing forest roads that would permit ATV & UTV use in the near future. Should surrounding governments approve bordering routes and/or trails within their jurisdictions that border the Northern Highland – American Legion (NH-AL), the total mileage could eventually expand to 202 miles, referred to as “bucket B”.

This state property is approximately 232,000 acres, located within three northern counties of our state. For perspective, if the existing forest roads footprint average 12 feet wide, and if bucket B, 202 mileage number is ever achieved, the acreage dimensions utilized for ATV and UTV use on these forest roads will still be less than .001 percent of the total property footprint.

Wisconsin ATV UTV Association supported this amendment that also included the addition of five miles of hiking trails, an additional 50 miles of mountain bike trails, adding another 60 miles of bicycle touring trails, 36 miles of off-highway motorcycle trails and improvements and upgrades to three different campgrounds, two that would be designated quiet zones where no generators or amplified sounds would be permitted.

It should be noted that many local businesses and towns supported the entire amendment, meaning they supported all the hiking, bicycle, OHM, improved camping upgrades as well as the ATV / UTV addition and adjustments in the plan amendment.

Another topic to share and highlight, the legislation needed to reverse the effects of a veto that took place in 2015, removing among other things, the Trail Patrol Ambassador (TPA) program by way of the Safety Enhancement Program, has recently been restored by lawmakers and the governor. This important management program should be back up and running in early 2018. Later in the year, the TPA team should be rolling out its third-generation update with enhanced features and services to address the ever-changing demographics and outdoor enthusiasts that are participating in the ATV & UTV sport.

A third item to report and share, the Wisconsin ATV UTV Group is participating in a statewide stakeholder team with other motorized users and trail providers, coordinated by the WI DNR. The purpose of this team, will among other things, seek to accomplish the following:



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- Provide a statewide perspective to the department on ATV/UTV trail design and associated aspects of ATV/UTV trails as the department develops guidelines for ATV/UTV trail development.
- Work collaboratively with the spectrum of major stakeholders in ATV/UTV trail design and maintenance.
- Provide representation of ATV/UTV trail outdoor recreation interests to provide input to the department specific to this project.
- Help facilitate opportunities for the public to provide input and perspectives to the department.

A fourth topic relates to new legislation continuing to move through the state legislature that, if passed, will reduce the number of ATV routes signs needed to comply with current state statute. This same bill also authorizes the preferred route signage, intended to better direct tourist riders from trail to services. Another bill being circulated, if passed, will permit local jurisdictions to have designation authority for ATV & UTV routes on numbered state highways that are within the local jurisdiction authority on state roads with speeds of 35 mph or less.

The organization continues to explore, seek input, and have deeper discussions both pro and con, pertaining to the concept idea of implementing a “winter use ATV & UTV trail pass”. Under the current registration program, we have no data as to how many ATV & UTV owners ride on winter approved ATV & UTV trail systems (initial concept idea would not include routes or frozen waterways). As such, the ORV Council has insufficient data to make the best decisions for incoming grant requests pertaining to funding winter or shared winter trail projects. Currently the ATV & UTV program may be spending too much or not enough money on shared snowmobile/ATV projects in proportion to the amount of usage or desire by our user group. The cost of the pass would be nominal, but the information would help our ORV Council make more informed funding decisions for the betterment of the registration program.

Cross-Country Skiing

- **Eau Claire Area Ski Trails:**
 - Tower Ridge Ski Trails, Eau Claire) lighting Expansion: The total funds raised so far for the lighting project at Tower Ridge is just under \$30,000. Eau Claire County Parks and Forest has submitted a grant application to the DNR to match up to \$32,000. These funds would allow us to upgrade all the existing trail lights to high-efficiency and brighter LEDs, and add approximately 1K of new lights. The work would be done in the summer of 2018.
 - Pinehurst Park (City of Eau Claire) - Lights have been installed and wired on 2.5k of trail in this city park, final hook-up will be Nov. 4th. We are currently exploring other equipment needed for snowmaking: Along with the equipment, we need 3-phase power, a compressor, and a generator. Water can be supplied by a fire hydrant that is in the park. Also, researching grooming equipment to be stored at the park: a small drag groomer and a snowmobile or tracked 4-wheeler. The trails get walked on a fair



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amount and need to get groomed more to keep them skiable. We would also like to groom a separate trail through the woods and some of the bike trails for the walkers in the hopes they stay off the ski trails, along with getting some signage out there encouraging walkers to the sides of the trails at least and onto walking/biking trails. (Craig MantheTrail Director, OutdoorMore, Inc)

- **Nordic Rocks Program:**
 - Currently, over 100 Midwest elementary schools are actively enrolled in the Nordic Rocks for Schools program, which includes over 60 Wisconsin school districts. New this season, the Nordic Rocks program is offering adjustable poles to schools interested in pursuing after-school and club programming, and further teaching the skill progressions of cross country skiing. The Nordic Rocks for Schools program is beginning its fifth season. A highlight goal for the program this season will be connecting schools with area clubs, shops, and events, with an overall goal of creating a culture of skiing across the Midwest.
- **American Birkebeiner – Hayward/Cable WI**
 - American Birkebeiner Ski Foundation (ABSF) has agreed to host the Wisconsin State XC Ski Meet at the Birkebeiner Trail Head in Cable, along with 5 other events this winter – the Double Pole Derby in December, The Birkie Tour and Gitchi Gammi Games in January, the American Birkebeiner in February and the Fat Bike Birkie in March.
 - The ABSF has also announce they will be installing a snow making system yet this fall – primarily as a test run at the American Birkebeiner Trail Head in Cable WI. They system will expand for the 2018-19 season to eventually be 5km long.
- **Green Bay**
 - Bay Nordic has added a Biathlon program to our other 3 programs this spring 8 targets and 8 team rifles purchased. The first biathlete certification course was completed in September and we have 27 people in regular practices at the Brown county range. Snow making planning and lighting design is under way this fall with NWTC assisting with our surveying and design of lighted trail 7 to 8 km and water supply ponds. Schedule going forward is to complete conceptual design 2017, fund raising and grants spring 2018 and construction late 2018.
- **Milwaukee**
 - The upcoming winter season will be the 12th year of snowmaking at Lapham Peak. The snowmaking system currently provides a thick blanket of manmade snow on about 1.5 kilometers of trail, often providing the only skiable snow in southeast Wisconsin. Improvements for the upcoming season include the acquisition of two new SMI Polecat snow guns, the complete overhaul of the LMC Snowcat used to spread the manmade snow, and the renovation of the well that supplies water for snowmaking. Negotiations are underway with the Wisconsin DNR to execute a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) that will allow for future expansion of the snowmaking trails
- **Madison**
 - Elver Park snowmaking will be extended to 2.5km loop this coming winter. Madison Nordic Ski Club is working with Madison Parks to assist city with grooming at Yahara Golf Course. New 5km trail system in Middleton have been clear-cut and potentially



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will be used this coming winter. Trail will be connected to Pleasant View Golf Course and Blackhawk Ski Club

Equestrians

Fall time, and most people are wrapping up their riding season! All-in-all it's been a good year to spend time outdoors in Wisconsin!

As the weather, has cooled down the ticks have come back out in force and brought back a lot of cases of Lyme's, and Ehrlichia Anaplasmosis in horses. Both can also be gotten by humans. There was also an outbreak of Eastern equine encephalitis in northern Wisconsin leaving 23 confirmed horses deceased from the disease.

In the last few months, there have been a number of user conflicts brought to the Wisconsin Horse Council's Attention. They all have been referred to the land manager to work on a solution where applicable. The WHC Trails Committee met last week and talked about a way we could help to alleviate some of the problems. Our first plan of action is we would like to do a media blitz in early spring with some newspaper articles on how to share the trail with all users. We will also be using our booth at Midwest Horse Fair to educate our own users on how to share information while out on the trail, and to take responsibility for their own actions via training before a situation comes up.

Plans are started for our 14th Trail School tentatively planned for Magnolia Bluff near Evansville in Rock County; Dates are yet to be determined.

Completion reports are starting to come in for the seven grants that were given out earlier in the year. Properties included Wild Rock Horse Trails, Middle Inlet County Land, Moccasin Trail, LaRiviere Park (x2), Horseshoe Falls with projects ranging from 2 ford crossings, Outhouse, high lines, trail markers, Water system, Bank Stabilization, Trail work, Outhouse, table, trail markers. 2018 grants are due by February 1 and a few of the guidelines include

These grants are meant for public equestrian trails or shared use trails, which include equestrian riding/driving.

The grants are awarded in two distinct categories, new trail development and trail improvements, enhancements, or repairs.

Application must originate with an equestrian organization. That organization must be a current member of Wisconsin Horse Council. An exception of the membership requirement is made for government entities; however, the trail work must benefit equestrian trail riders. Grants are not awarded to individuals.

Share the Trails Safely brochures have been well received – and more are available if your organization would like to share some. It is also available online at <https://www.wisconsinhorsecouncil.org/documents/trails/Share%20the%20trails.pdf>



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Four-Wheel Drive

The Four Wheel Drive Community has had several different groups working on various private properties for trails. There is also a group working with a public land area for a possible use in the near future. There are also two different “preferred routes” that are takeoffs of the Dual Sport Motorcyclists routes that have been GPS’ed on various public lands by Alex Bub for use by the Four-Wheel Drive Community.

In regards to the Recreation Opportunity Analysis, the group has been actively involved in responding with letters or e-mails and going to meetings. The 4WD Community intends to continue to do the same for the upcoming region meetings with high hopes of trails that include the 4WD Community. We wish to thank those involved in working on this analysis for the willingness to work with the 4WD Community.

We are anxious to work with the Northern Highland American Legion State Forest in establishing a Preferred Route for 4WD enthusiasts.

We are noticing some berming of trails due to the Garlic Mustard in some areas. Are very concerned as to what will be left of the more primitive trails that we prefer.

In October, there was a 4WD Clinic held by a Madison area local club for the first time. The clinic consisted of sessions consisting of Getting to know your 4WD, Public Perception of the 4WD user group, Safety & Recovery, Trail riding in the participant’s vehicle with minor obstacles, Accessorizing your vehicle. This was a test program for a very limited group, which was very well received with hopes of improvement and expansion in the future and become an annual activity.

There is a group working on getting legislation for 4WD up and running again. No further update on a 4WD Park.

As usual, many groups have small trail riding, charity, mud drags, rock crawling, etc. events with ice racing and sno-bashing coming up soon.

Respectfully Submitted by Luana Schneider

Hiking

Despite the varied weather conditions this fall, hikers were out in force enjoying the trails of Wisconsin.

The Ice Age Trail Alliance finished another success Mobile Skills Crew trail building seasons with (11) projects around the state. The final tally is not in yet but the projects involved thousands of volunteer hours and a few thousand meals to feed the volunteers during the multi-day trail building project events. The last project of the season was held on the Ice Age Trail in the South Kettle Moraine where 97 volunteers contributed 1,474 volunteer hours building over 700’ of boardwalk in the Eagle segment alone, trail tread repair and installing stone steps where needed. The project was visited by State Senator Stephen Nass and State Representative JoCasta Zamarripa.



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<https://www.facebook.com/media/set/?set=a.10155257438383877.1073741884.75724373876&type=1&l=dbd39707b5>

The local Ice Age Trail Alliance volunteer chapters were equally busy maintaining and building the Ice Age Trail ensuring a premier hiking experience. So far for 2017, (14) hikers have completed hiking the entire 1,200 miles of the Ice Age Trail with at least 4 of them starting in 2017 and hiked the entire trail in winter.

A new winter hiking opportunity will be available this winter. The Scuppernong trail system in the South Kettle Moraine State Forest will no longer be groomed for cross-country skiing, but will be open for winter hiking including access to the Ice Age Trail, snowshoeing and skijoring with dogs.

The North Country Trail Association Wisconsin has been equally busy this summer and fall building and maintaining the Wisconsin portion of the North Country Trail. The NCTA has held several hiking events over the last few months. In true Up North tradition, the winter hiking season has officially begun for the

A trail report from Bill Menke of the NCTA:

We have two major bridges that need funding to the tune of \$60-80K each. The one in eastern Ashland Co, in particular, is preventing us from utilizing the total extent of a purchased easement and preventing us from the total elimination of a road walk.

Work is about 1/4 finished on a new 3+ mile trail segment within Iron County Forest. Our Heritage Chapter has been working on this segment and hosted an Americorp crew for 3 weeks in Sept. A new, graveled trailhead parking lot, requiring culvert installation has been completed on SR-169. Signs are still needed.

In October, The Chequamegon Chapter of the NCTA met with USFS from the Great Divide District of the Chequamegon Nicolet National Forest to discuss the possibility of creating designated campsites along sections of the NCT. The USFS is favorable to this effort.

In true Up North tradition, the winter hiking season has officially begun for the North Country Trail in northern Wisconsin and Upper Michigan with the recent major snowstorm that hit the area.

Off-Highway Motorcycles

The single-track off-highway motorcycle trail project in Vilas County is progressing nicely. Construction is underway. Changes in uses for the Northern Highland – American Legion State Forest include a provision for up to 36 miles of single-track motorcycle trail there. The DNR is also interested in doing more to make it easier for dual sport motorcyclists to navigate primitive roads in the forest by using a tour concept with designated paths. Fall has been our busiest season for structured dual sport riding events. Demand is exceeding capacity for these rides and rides are filling up fast – one in less than 12 hours. There is a great demand for more off-highway motorcycle riding opportunities in Wisconsin. GPS guided off-pavement motorcycle rides continue to be popular



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during the summer riding season. The Central Adventure Motorcycle Riders Rally was based in Boulder Junction 4-13 August. Riders came from around the US and Canada to participate in fellowship and informal rides in the area. Some GPS guided paths on primitive roads in the Northern Highland American Legion State Forest were particularly popular as were other routes in county, state, and federal forests in the region. As ice forms on lakes around Wisconsin, motorcyclists will be setting up their bikes with studded tires to enjoy ice riding.

Off-Road Bicycles/Mountain Bikes User Group report

- Chequamegon Area (<http://www.cambatrails.org>)
 - Recent heavy, wet snow has closed the trails, pending dry-out or freeze
- Eau Claire (<http://chippewaoffroad.org>)
 - Working with City of Eau Claire on invasive buckthorn removal
 - Hosted the 4th annual “Fall Back Blast” trail run on S 11-4
- Madison area (<http://www.madcitydirt.com>)
 - Building new trail at CamRock County Park
 - Participating in IMBA’s “Dig In” fundraising campaign for a new trail system in Cross Plains
- Milwaukee-area (<https://www.metromountainbikers.com/home>)
 - Multiple trail work days/projects throughout Milwaukee County, as well as Minooka County Park in Waukesha
 - The City of Wauwatosa has finished the installation of the Rob (Sugs) Hofmann Workstation presented by Metro Mountain Bikers. Installation is trailside in the heart of the downtown village area. Nice collaboration between the mountain bike club and the City.
- Northeast Wisconsin (<http://www.newtrailswi.org>)
 - Publicizing the recent opportunities to weigh in on the Recreational Opportunities Analysis
 - New trail building opportunity near the Waukau Dam near Omro
- River Falls (<http://www.kinnioffroad.com>)
 - Hosting the Icebox 240 night ride relay race on S 11-11
- Trail work at Silver Lake County Park in Kenosha; also Participating in IMBA’s “Dig In” fundraising campaign for a new mountain bike park in West End Park – a former gravel pit in Western Kenosha County.
- Upper St. Croix Valley (<http://www.woollybikeclub.com>)
 - Hosting Woolly Global Fat Bike Day on S 12-2
- Wausau (<http://cwocc.org>)
 - Participating in IMBA’s “Dig In” fundraising campaign for a new trail system in Ringle
 - Hosting a screening of the documentary, *Blood Road* on Th 11-16. *Blood Road* follows the journey of ultra-endurance mountain bike racer, Rebecca Rusch, and her Vietnamese riding partner, Huyen Nguyen, as they pedal 1,200 miles along the infamous Ho Chi Minh Trail



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through the dense jungles of Vietnam, Laos, and Cambodia. Their goal: to reach the crash site and final resting place of Rebecca's father, a U.S. Air Force pilot shot down over Laos some 40 years earlier

- Wisconsin High School Cycling League (<http://www.wisconsinmtb.org>)
 - 44% growth in participants from 2016

Snowmobiles

This is the time of year volunteers from the over 600 snowmobile clubs across Wisconsin work in earnest to prepare approximately 25,000 miles of snowmobile trail for winter use. Many hours of brushing, mowing, and placing signs are required in order to open the system.

With passage of the State Budget, the sunset clause on the snowmobile trail pass was eliminated paving the way for an increase in the reimbursement rate for trail maintenance and grooming from \$250 per mile to \$300 per mile. To coincide with the increase the Governor's Snowmobile Recreation Council recommended some grooming rate adjustments and a variety of equipment and labor rate adjustments that would not have been possible without the trail pass. The DNR awards grants each year to counties based on the number of miles of funded trail in each county. (The snowmobile account consists of funds provided by snowmobilers through snowmobile registrations, trail passes, and gas tax.) Those grants are used by the counties to reimburse the local clubs for the trail work they do.

This season the annual Celebrate Wisconsin Snowmobiling Invitational Ride will be taking place in Eagle River (The Snowmobile Capitol of the World) on the 18th and 19th of February. Preparations are already underway.

We are looking forward to a great snowmobile season across the State. Many snowmobilers are already working on their Snow Dances.

Stower 7 Lakes update – Polk County is still at the beginning stages of updating usages and formulating a Master Plan acceptable to most.

THINK SNOW!

Submitted by Doug Johnson, Snowmobile Representative