

**Minutes of the
Nonmotorized Recreation and Transportation Trails Council (NRTTC)
September 19, 2018, 11:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.
Via teleconference**

1. Meeting was called to order by Joel Patenaude.

a. Members in attendance:

- i. Rod Bartlow,
- ii. Anne Murphy,
- iii. Joel Patenaude,
- iv. Debbie Peterson,
- v. Ben Popp,
- vi. Geoff Snudden,
- vii. Blake Theisen
- viii. David Phillips,
- ix. Staff: Kathryn Gehrke (Department of Natural Resources),
- x. Jill Mrotek-Glenzinski (Department of Transportation).

2. Discussion of meeting minutes from June 6, 2018. Popp moved approval of the minutes, seconded by Theisen; passed.

3. Committee Chair Reports

- a. Funding. (Bill, Deb, Rod, Dave)** Reported that not much has been done yet but are researching specifically into what states are doing with the marijuana revenue coming in. Would like to think about this as a possible revenue source if this does become legal.
- b. Outreach. (Anne & Joel & Geoff)** Have not contacted each trail organization about their success stories but will continue to try. Would like to ask these organizations about their fundraising and suggestions. If there are any other ideas I'm open to it.
- c. Education. (Blake, Geoff)** Trail network completions I'd like to talk later. Could we get a quick update on OutWiGo to see if people have pledged or how the rollout is going. DNR reports that

rollout has been active on social media through use of hashtag and through various councils and events with partners and friends groups. Word is getting out and feel it will continue to grow as the word gets out.

Should we relook at going to events or conferences as a council, we did look at this last year? We could create a running list of events/conferences of 'must go' type of events that would be of value to us.

I think having a working knowledge of what the trail needs are for the state so when we have funding we are ready.

4. DNR Report. (Kathryn) start at 25:15

ROA draft is with administration and hope by the fall it will be finalized. Cameron Bump will be in contact about the future of the ROA, it is not meant to be a one and done document. When document is complete it will be on the DNR website search "ROA".

Master plan for Northern Lake Michigan Coastal was completed in August. Northeast Sands, Superior Coastal Plains, Northwest Lowlands, Northwest Sands and Western Prairie are in progress. Southwest Savannah soon to be in progress. A link has been sent out for the Master Planning page and reminder that you do need to sign up for each region separately that you'd like updates on.

SCORP is still due at the end of this year and the draft will be out at the end of fall.

Mountain bike groups have reached out about building trails on state properties and we are working with them to find the best properties and finding those through the master plan.

Current Conditions update I have from August 30, current properties with significant damage include Wildcat Mountain, Elroy Sparta State Trail, 400 Trail State Trail. Sugar River State Trail is currently open, Badger State Trail is open but in poor condition, Military Ridge State Trail has a 8 mile stretch beginning in Verona that is currently closed, all but one bridge was reset.

Do you know anything about FEMA flood assistance? I do not know yet.

Ice Age Trail on DNR property? I do not have notes on that. Council member talk about Ice Age Trail damage he heard from Mike Wollmer.

Eisenbahn State Trail and Wild Goose State Trail are both in poor condition.

Northern part of state received FEMA earlier this year and work is still in the evaluation stages.

5. WISDOT Report. Grant program update press release and list of TAP awards that just went out last week and emailed to everyone this week. 15.7 million dollars were announced, awarded for

construction in 2021-2022 years. Next round TAP applications likely in fall of 2019. I can send out the link to the TAP application page, there are regional coordinators to help.

Governors Bike Coordinator Council, focus specifically on all types of biking, subcommittee worked on bike event toolkit. Toolkit walks you through preparation and FAQ of hosting bike event and it is hosted on BikeFed website.

In past there have been 2 studies, 2006 and 2010, on economic impact of biking in Wisconsin. Looking at what Minnesota has done and seeing what we can do that is similar- including the health, economic, event, and industry side of biking. We don't have funds to do this so there is no hard deadline.

Education or outreach, there is a Wisconsin Active Together, looking at trying to get communities at local level to have some recognition and see what they're doing to get people out and about. There are a lot of efforts going on at a local level vs state level.

Tourism has just put together a lot of advertising for biking, 'snackable' short videos.

Maybe this council can start by putting together a blog of these different initiatives that are going on throughout the state.

Jill will send Dept of Health report on key data resources and some suggested products to make from that data. Dept of Tourism has JEM (joint event marketing) report that you could look at how much money has been spent on bike events.

Discussion:

Joel could you please summarize the original mission of NRTTC? Yes, it is to provide dedicated source of funding for nonmotorized trails, like motorized trails have. Funding did not pass so while we still had the go ahead to start a council we did not have funding. So we suddenly existed but we did not have the financial means to have a stable source to fund maintenance and build new nonmotorized trails.

Do we have an advocate or legislative body to lean on or a direct vehicle or agency we can continually advocate with? That is the reason we have a council, this council came out of a legislative committee, most of those people are no longer in the legislature but we have that study group/information to lean on.

6. Discussion items:

- a. Blake – new linkages I’m aware of include the City of Burlington, White River Trail and Racine County Trail so now there is a continuous East – West linkage from Walworth and Racine. All but four blocks on street but rest is on road. It is multiuse.

Other is in Vilas County, Iron County has wrapped up their efforts from Mercer to Manitowish Waters Trail, all is off road. 16 or 17 miles added this summer.

- b. Reauthorization for the Land and Water Conservation Fund – Expires on the 30th of this month but can be renewed. This fund has done a lot in trail funding throughout the years. There is a group that is dedicated to having this funding renewed.

Rod – Federal side helps allocate land for all these projects other part of the program is the state side, which provides grants for local park development. The last item I know of is the house of natural resources committee finally passed it out of the committee last Thursday. On senate side bill is wrapped up in a bill. As far as the Wisconsin delegation, Senator Baldwin is very enthusiast for it, Senator Johnson seems to be on board, on House side all democrats have endorsed the bill but none of the republicans.

Is there any place for the council to voice or add their pressure?

You could call Ryan’s office. Or write a letter. Blake suggests the council writes a letter of support and Rod offers to write the letter. Joel suggests to have a call Monday to vote on an approval of a letter of support for LWCF. Blake asks if he can vote by proxy and Kathryn agrees to check on this.

Rod suggests Monday at 11:30 for a call to vote. Joel agrees. Kathryn agrees to post the public meeting notice by Friday.

7. New Business:

Council members discuss recent email exchanges regarding lawsuit in which NRTTC is mentioned

Follow up – DNR will email council member Bill Hauda’s testimony

Anne - Horse council is forming work group that complies with copyright restricts that I can provide economic impact study to everyone. Trail sharing info is available and I will share that.

- 8. Next meeting** will be Monday, September 24 11:30 am, same call in information. Following meeting will be Wednesday, December 12, 11:30 a.m. – 1 p.m. via phone

- 9.** Blake moved to adjourn, seconded by Anne. Motion passed.