

**Minutes of the  
Nonmotorized Recreation and Transportation Trails Council (NRTTC)  
September 14, 2016, 11:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.  
Telephone: 888-291-0312, passcode 9812 334#**

1. Meeting was called to order by Joel Patenaude. Members in attendance: Joel Patenaude, David Phillips, Anne Murphy, Bill Hauda, Geoff Snudden, Rod Bartlow, Blake Theisen. Michelle Barker (Midwest & Pacific Northwest Region Director, International Mountain Bicycling Association). Staff: Jill Mrotek-Glenzinski (Department of Transportation), Jennifer Laack (Department of Transportation), Brigit Brown (Department of Natural Resources).
2. Meeting minutes from June 15, 2016 were approved.
3. **Electric bicycle (eBike) discussion with Michelle Barker of IMBA.** Michelle provided information about IMBA's position and involvement with motorized bicycle use. IMBA's board of directors determine the organization's positions, and generally supports decision-making on an individual and trail-by-trail basis, based on a variety of factors. Regarding eBikes, IMBA's position is that they support the use of motorized mountain bikes anywhere that they could also support motorized use. (IMBA's current position statement is posted [online](#).) IMBA has participated in a study of eBikes (pedal-assist/Type one electric bicycle). Study was limited in scope (e.g. geography). One element of the study was an online survey, with 4,000 responses. Two strong opinions from that survey: 1) Bicycles with motors, regardless of type of motor, are motorized (eBikes are motorized) and 2) The use threatens access. There were marked differences in opinion between European and U.S. survey respondents – European respondents demonstrated significantly greater acceptance of electric bicycle use (perhaps due to the greater & longer presence of that use in Europe).

Geoff outlined the pedal-assist, electric motor segment of the motorized bicycle market. Dave Phillips expressed concern about speed differential between motorized and nonmotorized uses, Anne Murphy echoed the concern.

Joel suggested that this be an ongoing agenda item, and that consulting Bike Fed to coordinate efforts would be a good next step. Bill Hauda noted that the Bike Fed has an intern researching the issue. It was agreed that NRTTC is not yet ready to take a position on the issue.

4. Committee Chair Reports.
  - a. **Funding.** Bill Hauda noted that there may be some discussion of increasing the gas tax but that at this time it was unclear on any funding that might be available in the future.

- b. **Outreach.** Joel Patenaude and Dana Johnson will be putting together a survey for those who have indicated an interest in staying in communication with NRTTC. Discussion took place later in the meeting about NRTTC having a presence at events such as Canoecopia and the Bike Expo, participating in conferences and workshops. Once NRTTC has informational/educational materials to provide at such events, this should be investigated further.
  - c. **Education.** Blake Theisen discussed follow up on previous discussion regarding a library of information for planning; looking to better define the scope of the project and need that it intends to meet. Joel Patenaude does see the need for providing a central location for trail-related information and resources. Blake and Joel will work together to look at scope for the project.
5. **DNR Report.** Brigit Brown provided an overview of the current status of storm damage in northern Wisconsin. DNR is setting up a meeting with stakeholders to discuss coordination to ensure trail availability for the upcoming winter season. Brigit and Jill Mrotek-Glenzinski gave an overview of the recently funded Transportation Alternatives Program projects. Brigit also gave an overview of the [SCORP](#) project. There is a link to an outdoor recreation survey on the SCORP [web page](#).
6. **Meeting schedule.** Joel Patenaude will send out a Doodle poll to set up 2017 meeting dates.
7. Anne Murphy reiterated the importance of bicyclists communicating with horse riders when passing, particularly from behind.
8. Future agenda items/tasks:
- a. [S.3205 - Human-Powered Travel in Wilderness Areas Act](#); invite Michelle Barker to participate
  - b. Joel Patenaude and Dana Johnson will put together a survey for those on the NRTTC mailing list
  - c. Coordinate with Bike Fed regarding electric bicycles, continue discussion at next meeting in anticipation of developing a position
  - d. Blake and Joel will draft a scope for the resource/information project
    - i. Outreach (NRTTC presence) at events nonmotorized users are likely to attend
  - e. Joel will send out a poll to determine dates for 2017 meetings