

**Minutes of the
Nonmotorized Recreation and Transportation Trails Council (NRTTC)
June 6, 2017, 10:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.
Schmeckle Reserve, 2419 Northpoint Drive
Stevens Point, WI 54481**

1. Meeting was called to order by Dana Johnson. Members in attendance: Dana Johnson, David Phillips, Debbie Peterson, Joel Patenaude, Anne Murphy, Geoff Snudden, Rod Bartlow, Blake Theisen, Ben Popp. Speakers: Gary Speckmann and Patty Dreier (Portage County). Staff: Brigit Brown (Department of Natural Resources), Jill Mrotek-Glenzinski (Department of Transportation, by phone for part of the meeting).
2. Approval of meeting minutes from April 12, 2017 moved by Theisen, seconded by Murphy; passed.
3. **Officer elections.** Phillips announced the slate of candidates: Chair- Joel Patenaude, Vice Chair - Blake Theisen. Phillips moved, Peterson seconded to cast unanimous ballot. Passed unanimously.

Also, Funding Committee Chair - Rod Bartlow, Bylaws Committee Chair - Dave Phillips, Outreach – Geoff Snudden (Joel Patenaude will serve on committee). Bill Hauda nominated for Education Committee Chair. Phillips will get in touch with Hauda regarding the nomination.

Council members expressed thanks to Dana Johnson for her years of service as Chair.

4. **Recreational Opportunities Analysis** update. The department hosted three open house meetings in Arbor Vitae, Park Falls, and Antigo on April 24, 25, and 26, respectively. These open houses were designed to gather public comments, ideas, concerns, and perspectives on the existing recreation opportunities available in the region and future needs in the Northwoods Region (region map [here](#)). The open houses were also an opportunity for the public to provide comments and perspectives on existing and potential future recreation opportunities at the NHAL State Forest. The meetings were well attended with over 150 people signing in. More than 2,700 people filled out survey forms, with 60% of those coming from outside of the Region. Department staff are currently reviewing the input received from the public and will prepare a summary and draft report for the Northwoods Region that will go out for public review in the near future.
5. **Agency report.** Update on DNR's Alignment process. The department is shifting resources to best meet the needs of the public and the DNR mission. Changes are currently being implemented and will continue throughout the year and into the future. There was discussion among council members regarding Blue Mound State Park and Sauk Prairie State Recreation Area. Legal actions regarding both properties are ongoing.

Jill Mrotek-Glenzinski shared that the Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality solicitation is currently open, with applications due June 19. ([Link](#) to more information and application materials.) [Transportation Alternatives Program](#) (TAP) applications will be available in the fall. Government entities are eligible to sponsor TAP applications. For a complete list of eligible applicants, see page 4 of the [program guidelines](#).

6. **Open records training.** All members present passed the quiz. Link mentioned in the training with more information on the topic: <https://www.doj.state.wi.us/office-open-government/office-open-government-resources>. *Note: Bill Hauda watched the training and passed the quiz on 6/15/17.*
7. **Portage County Executive Patty Dreier and Gary Speckmann, Portage County Parks Director** spoke to the council about trails and trail-related issues and projects in Portage County. Patty Dreier welcomed the council to Portage County and provided an overview of the importance of trails to the quality of life and other positives about living in Portage County. Gary Speckmann gave a very informative overview of the trails and public recreation facilities in Portage County, including information such as the recent history of winter bicycle use, invasive species and other maintenance concerns that he and his staff address, and the fact that there is no county forest land in Portage County.
8. **Electric assist bikes.** Geoff Snudden provided a demo of Trek electric-assist bicycles. Council members learned about electric-assist bicycle and had an opportunity to ride on area trails. Discussion about the variety of types of motorized bicycles, and more in-depth talk specifically about electric motorized bicycles followed after the ride. There was discussion about legislation being drafted to allow use of electric bicycles where nonmotorized bicycles are currently allowed. (Geoff Snudden sent out a copy of the draft legislation to the council on April 20, 2017.) Some members of the council had concerns about electric bicycles that do not require pedaling to provide electric power (throttle-powered). Jill Mrotek-Glenzinski noted that to her knowledge WisDOT has not yet provided analysis of the proposed legislation. Council members will review the proposed legislation and continue discussion at the September meeting.
9. New business and recap of agenda items and goals for next meeting:
 - a. Electric bicycles
 - b. Recreational Opportunities Analysis
 - c. Hauda as Education Chair
 - d. Patenaude will send out information about Facebook and Twitter posting/participation
10. Next meeting is moved from Wednesday, September 6, 11:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m. via conference call to Wednesday, September 20, same time and mode.

11. Bartlow moved to adjourn, seconded by Snudden. Motion passed.