



State of Wisconsin
GOVERNOR'S STATE TRAILS COUNCIL

Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, January 12, 2016 – Teleconference

Public Participation

- Room 613, GEF 2 Building, 101 S. Webster Street, Madison
- Conference Room 1, DNR Service Center 107 Sutliff Avenue, Rhinelander

10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

State Trails Council Members present:

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

Leif Hubbard, *Wisconsin Department of Transportation* [non-voting]

Kricket Jewett [for Ken Carpenter], equestrian representative (member of *Wisconsin Horse Council*)

Doug Johnson, snowmobiling representative (member of *Association of Wisconsin Snowmobile Clubs*)

Skip Maletzke, tourism/business representative [non-voting]

Mike McFadzen, cross-country skiing representative (member of *WI Nordic Network, Northern Kettle Moraine Nordic Ski Club*)

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

Ken Neitzke, hiking representative (member of the *Ice Age Trail Alliance*)

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

John Siegert, off-road bicycling representative (member of *Bicycle Federation of Wisconsin*) [STC Vice-Chair]

Jim White, boards and small wheels representative

State Trails Council Members not in attendance

Ken Carpenter, equestrian representative

Phil Johnsrud, non-motorized water trails representative

Robbie Webber, road bicycling representative (member of *Bicycle Federation of Wisconsin*)

Others present

Lee Emmer

Dennis Gahagan

Hank Wozniel, member of *Wisconsin ATV-UTV Association*

WI DNR Staff present:

Brigit Brown, Daniel Buckler, Janet Hutchens, John Pohlman, Mike Repyak

10:02 A.M. – Welcome and introductions

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

10:04 A.M. – Agenda review/repair and approval of November meeting minutes

- Siegert noted that in the November minutes, the Council positions of Bryan Much and John Siegert were incorrect, and that the word “electronic” was misspelled.
- Johnson moved to approve the minutes as amended. McFadzen seconded. Motion passed.



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- Brown announced the appointment of Ben Bergey as the new Director of the Bureau of Wisconsin State Parks and Recreation. He will join the call at the beginning of the DNR Report at 11 a.m.
- Brown met with the Governor's appointments director at end of 2015. Johnson, Schneider and Harden were reappointed. Brown emphasized to the director that a decision on an equestrian representative has been pending for some time.

10:10 A.M. – Chair report

- Much said that meeting locations need to be decided. He suggested that Racine might be a good option for the April meeting that could tie in with Siegert's project (outlined below, under member reports). The August meeting could be held somewhere upstate, with the intention of tying it into a local or regional project or issue of interest to the Council.
- Much noted that user group presentations which still need to occur are for equestrians, road bicycling and non-motorized water trails.
- Much thanked Johnson for being the Council's representative to an advisory group for the Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP).

10:13 A.M. – Overview of 2017-2022 SCORP

- John Pohlman, a DNR planner managing the state's SCORP for 2017-2022, introduced himself to the Council.
- Pohlman explained that SCORPs are state-wide plans (though not limited to state-owned land) which analyze recreational opportunities and trends. States must complete SCORPs in order to apply for federal Land and Water Conservation Fund monies. Additionally, communities have to do their own recreation plans to then access money from the state. The specific amount of money from the federal government allocated to the states has not yet been determined, though Pohlman thought it likely that Wisconsin would receive more than \$769,000 this year.
- Pohlman then recapped the [two most recent Wisconsin SCORPs](#) and discussed the emphasis on understanding supply and demand of recreational facilities, as well as connections between recreation and public health and urban access to the outdoors.
- Because of previous SCORPs, there is a good understanding of recreational participation in the state. This upcoming SCORP will be incorporating new kinds of uses.
- Pohlman said that we know a good amount about statewide trends as well as our supply of recreational facilities, but a goal of the SCORP is to answer: where do they merge? Where are those trends occurring?
- The 2017-2022 SCORP will build on recreational supply and demand documented previously, determine visitation patterns and user satisfaction, and explore funding mechanisms. It will also look into travel related spending. How much is being spent where? The SCORP will also be used to help:
 - Identify best surveying techniques
 - Establish ongoing surveys
 - Encourage other landowners to survey land
 - Apply data to local and statewide plans
- Much asked if there is potentially a "rec card", like some other states have, which is purchased for broad or dispersed activities. Pohlman said that is an option. Much said it would be difficult to capture data on dispersed activities. For instance, dual-sport motorcycles do not have a central parking lot. Pohlman said there are ways of capturing data and extrapolating it, but that a goal of this SCORP is to figure out the best surveying methods.
- Much commented that in the previous SCORP, motorized uses were all lumped together. Schneider said that the explanation given to her was that the federal government mandated that motorized uses be lumped together. Pohlman said he did not think that motorized would be lumped together.
- Johnson noted that sometimes trails are on public and private land. There are situations where the trails are on state properties, but it is not like the trail is the user's entrance onto a state trail system. Rather,



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it is more like the trail user is “passing through”. Brown compared that to Much’s note about difficulty in gauging those dispersed areas.

- Pohlman said that a long-term goal is to collect so much information, that in the future if they might not have to be so robust with data collection. They could instead extrapolate based on information gathered in this SCORP.
- Schneider asked about whether the plan will document Wisconsinites going elsewhere for activities. Pohlman said that that will be incorporated into the surveys. Brown also noted that it might be good to look at the barriers to access in Wisconsin.
- Much encouraged all Council members to submit notes on the SCORP to Johnson.

10:53 A.M. – Council discussion and vote on nonmotorized water trails representative applicants

- Much reviewed the [process for Council appointments](#).
- Siegert, speaking for the application review subcommittee, said that Greg Farnham is their recommendation. McFadzen and Neitzke said that Farnham would be an excellent choice. Schneider noted that all three were excellent applicants and was very happy to see that strength in the application pool. McFadzen moved to recommend Farnham to the Governor’s office for appointment as the Council’s nonmotorized water trails representative. Neitzke seconded. All approved.

11:00 A.M. – DNR Report

- Brown said that an initial draft is complete for the [Bikeways Project](#). A more robust draft will be done in a few weeks, and then in about a month or so a draft will be released for a 21-day public comment period.
- Brown noted that some changes to the administrative code are being proposed, a few of which could affect Council interests, such as those regarding special events on public lands and electric bicycle use on public lands. The proposed changes should come out in the next few weeks and a [public hearing is scheduled to be held on February 1](#) in Fitchburg.
- Bergey called into the teleconference and introduced himself. He expressed great enthusiasm for trails, saying that he is an open communicator and encouraged everybody to contact him.
- Bergey then reviewed the status of a few master planning efforts. The master plan amendment for [Blue Mound State Park](#) is going to [Natural Resources Board](#) late this month. The process is still underway for a second draft of the plan for the [Sauk Prairie Recreation Area](#). The amendment for [Rib Mountain State Park](#) regarding Granite Peak is still in a data gathering stage.
- Much asked Brown to elaborate on the Bikeways Project. Brown recapped the plan. Much asked about the [Adventure Cycling Association](#) and how that organization fits into the project. Brown replied that the ACA is working closely with the project.
- Brown said that the result of the project will be maps, routes and GPS coordinates, along with recommendations for signage. DNR will be hosting the GIS data for the project.

11:17 A.M. – State Trails Council member reports

- *Snowmobiling.* Johnson said that the new regulations for trail passes are firmly in place. As of the end of December, more than 44,000 trail passes have been sent out (full and discount pass). As snow conditions improve, more people will seek out the passes. Club membership has increased across the state. The Association of Wisconsin Snowmobile Clubs has increased its membership by 1,000 members and 20 new clubs have been created. Snow conditions around the state have led to subpar snowmobiling conditions, but the recent cold has been good for them. Johnson noted that there is an incipient program called Snowmobile Friendly Communities. There are several snowmobiling events occurring soon. The [World Championship Snowmobile Derby](#) will be in Eagle River January 14-17. January 28-30 will be the [MS Snowmobile Tour](#) at the Potawatomi Carter Casino and Hotel in Carter. February 14-15 is the [Celebrate Wisconsin Snowmobiling Event & Snowmobile Ride](#) in Siren. That same weekend on February 13-14 will be youth championship racing in Siren as well.



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- *Tourism.* Maletzke reminded the Council that the [Wisconsin Governor's Conference on Tourism](#) is March 13-15 in Ho-Chunk Convention Center in Wisconsin Dells. Registration is now open, and Maletzke encouraged Council members to register soon to take advantage of reduced fees.
- *Cross-country skiing.* McFadzen noted that though there has been marginal snow across much of the state, the south has had good coverage. The American Birkebeiner is going on as planned next month, though some routes are slightly changed due to the change of ownership of Telemark Lodge. The Birkebeiner Ski Foundation gave \$30,000 in grants this year for youth skier development programs. A local team in the northern Kettles received \$2,500 and it used that money on skis and coaching. There is an encouraging expansion of youth team skiing that is having a big impact on the sport. Parents are attending these practices and events, such as the youth team meet in Iola, which brings more interest and involvement than just the youth. The [Wisconsin Nordic Network](#) board is trying to coordinate all cross-country skiing activities in the state and they are discussing whether they will do it under their umbrella or team with the [Central Cross Country Ski Association](#). Brown noted that the new director of the Birkebeiner was just appointed to the Nonmotorized Recreation and Transportation Trails Council.
- *Hiking.* Neitzke said that the First Day Hikes on New Year's Day continue to be very popular. The Lapham Peak event had 165 people come out while in Lodi, 50 hikers attended the event at Gibraltar Rock. Each event was hosted by local Ice Age Trail chapters.
- *All-terrain vehicles and utility terrain vehicles.* The one-day [Wisconsin ATV-UTV Association \(WATVA\) annual meeting](#) will be held on April 16 in Rothschild. Harden also noted that there have been some misconceptions in the media related to proposed new rules for youth engine sizes. Currently, the maximum engine size for 4-wheel traditional straddle seat ATVs for youth under the age of 12 is 90cc. WATVA was asked by one of the ATV manufacturers what our stance was on allowing the maximum to be up to 130cc, which is still a relatively small increase. All other safety regulations would be in place. WATVA was also asked about a proposal by the same manufacturer proposing a new youth category for utility terrain vehicles with an UTV engine size at 200cc for 12-15 year-olds.
- *4-Wheel Drive Vehicles.* Schneider said that there are many online 4WD groups, but it's difficult to exploit their numbers because they only get together virtually. However, there is potential to tap into those users. Schneider is seeing more plans for caravans on back roads. There was recently a successful caravan ride in the Green Bay area in which 135 people participated, raising a significant amount of money for Toys for Tots. [Wisconsin Off-Road Vehicle Park](#) is restructuring. They are trying to find a new spot for an off-road park. Most of the big activities in which the 4WD community is interested are out of state. An off-road park would be a great attraction, but so would more plentiful trails.
- *Equestrians.* Jewett said that on January 27 equestrians are going to be at the Capitol to discuss issues with legislators and aids. The Wisconsin State Horse Council is hosting a [trail school](#) June 15-18, with a location to be determined. They still have openings for that class, so please talk with Jewett. The [Midwest Horse Fair](#) is April 15-17 in Madison.
- *Department of Transportation.* Hubbard had no report.
- *Boards/Small wheels.* White had no report.



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- *Off-highway motorcycles.* Much said that motorcyclists have been waiting for the ice to arrive, only just recently getting the appropriate conditions to ride. There is a big [3-Hour Motorcycle Endurance Ice Event](#) in Dundee on January 17. McFadzen asked about off-highway motorcycle legislation. Much said that the process has been going well and that it is almost complete. Much said that the language is structured off of the ATV program, and he thanked ATV advocates for their advice in the process.
- *Mountain Biking / Off-Road Bicycles.* Siegert submitted a written report due to technical difficulties on the call. He said that winter brings out the cyclocross races and fat bikes. There is a new [7-race fat bike series](#) this season primarily held at County Parks from Evanston, IL to Appleton, WI and from November through February. Siegert was recently hired by the Rails-to-Trails Conservancy as a Project Manager for their "Route of the Badger" project. This RTC project "of national significance" will identify and map bicycle routes in a seven-county region of southeast Wisconsin, with the goal of strengthening the trail network in this part of the state. The project will involve GIS data collection and evaluation, engagement of multiple stakeholder groups and the formation of a partner network for fundraising, event organization and promotion. Lastly, there is a national partnership between Rails-to-Trails Conservancy and REI to host an [Opening Day for Trails](#) on April 16, 2016.

11:45 A.M. – Public comment

- No public comment.

11:46 A.M. – Identify future agenda items

- Siegert will give a longer presentation on his project.
- Need to identify locations for August and November meetings
- SCORP update by Johnson.

11:49 A.M. – Adjourn

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