

## **Ad Hoc Committee to Recommend Improvements to the Structure of the Governor's Wisconsin State Trails Council**

### **Discussion Summary from January 8, 2009 and March 2, 2009 Meetings**

*Note: The Ad Hoc Committee used the January and March meetings to draft and finalize their report the State Trails Council. The following discussion summary supplements the recommendations vetted and explained in the Ad Hoc Committee Report.*

Committee members agreed to add “trail etiquette” and “funding” to the STC Mission Statement, as well as “promoting cultural diversity.” In addition changing the language of the STC Mission Statement regarding cultural diversity, outreach could be done through an STC User Guide. Other changes to the Mission include replacing “trail sharing” with “trail use,” and adding “trails easily accessed by the people of Wisconsin,” as the STC should promote the use of trails in all areas of the state.

Members recommend two biennial reviews, one for RTP criteria and one for major trail uses, and noted these two reviews would work best held in opposite years.

The committee reviewed information about the structure and operation of RTP advisory councils in other states. Members agreed the information they reviewed should be summarized and included as an Appendix in the report.

In forming their recommendations, Committee members voted to have the Department of Transportation (DOT) and Disabled representatives on the STC as Ex Officio/Advisory Members, not as voting members. The committee also voted to include a Department of Tourism representative as an Ex Officio/Advisory Member. The committee voted against including hunters/anglers or legislators on the STC as advisory or voting members. The DOT representative's current role is similar to that of an advisory member. A physically challenged person with a wheelchair is considered a pedestrian if using a device for mobility, but depending on the device could be a motorized, non-motorized or mechanized user.

To help people understand the three major trail use categories better, the category of “mechanized” should be changed to “non-motorized/mechanized” throughout the report. “Ex-officio” will also be changed to “advisory” for less confusion.

The terms for a number of STC seats expire in July 2009. STC seats are filled on staggered terms, and the three different trail use categories should also be set up on staggered terms so that all the seats of one category do not expire at the same time, and to sustain a balanced representation.

Members clarified that the major trail uses identified within each of the three trail use categories (motorized, non-motorized/mechanized, and non-motorized/non-mechanized)

would be the seats on the STC. These major trail user groups would be determined by a biennial review. The application process the committee outlined in the report would be used to select a candidate for a vacant seat from that major trail user group.

Members went over the PowerPoint presentation and updated it to reflect the changes made to the report. Members agreed that the primary trail use for each member, as well as a list of all their uses listed on their application to the Ad Hoc Committee, should be added to Appendix A to show the balance of representation for different trail users on the committee. Committee members agreed to include the current STC vacant seat on Appendix E and add a table of contents to the first page of the report. The presentation should say “nearly unanimous support,” not “unanimous support” since not all members of the committee were present for or supported all recommendations.

The Governor and all Legislators will be invited to the AHC presentation on April 28. Members discussed the time during the April STC meeting that would best work for the presentation to the State Trails Council and determined that this is the most important topic on the agenda and should be discussed first. The presentation will take place first, and other items such as STC Member and DNR reports will be moved to after lunch.

Ken Linzmeyer, Ron Bergin and Bryan Much will be the presenters. Ron will present the introduction, Bryan the body and Ken the closing. The presenters and any AHC members in attendance will take questions at the end of the presentation, not during.