

July 17, 2009 Minutes – Attachment A

As of end of 7/17/09 STC meeting.

1. Recommended Changes to the STC Mission Statement

One of the objectives of the Ad Hoc Committee was to review the STC Mission Statement. This committee proposes the following recommendations:

- The STC should promote the use of trails, but review the charge of promoting multi-use trails. Designating a trail as multi-use should be the exception, rather than the standard. The focus should be higher quality trails, for specific user groups, with a more enjoyable user experience.
- The Department of Natural Resources has authority over the 42 designated State Trails and trails on DNR property; however the DNR also offers consultation and best practices for all trails (e.g. the Trail Etiquette and Safety guidelines that can be used for any trail in the state). The extent of the STC's authority over trails should be made clear.
- The STC should promote the use and development of trails in all parts of the state and for a variety of trail uses, including consideration for diverse ethnic and cultural populations.
- One of the responsibilities of the STC is to develop RTP criteria and the STC should encourage eligible trail project sponsors to apply for funding.

Specific changes to the language of the STC Mission Statement are proposed below.

(Strikeouts show deletions and underlines show additions):

Governor's Wisconsin State Trails Council Mission Statement

It is the mission of the State Trails Council to provide advice and consultation to the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources regarding the planning, acquisition, development, and management of state-owned trails, to make recommendations for all trails in Wisconsin, in order to preserve, protect, interpret, and enhance the scenic, natural, and cultural resources of the State, and to promote, outdoor recreational and educational opportunities for all the people of Wisconsin.

The Council shall represent the public, and provide advice and consultation to, the Department on:

1. Promoting and encouraging the safe and responsible use of trails and providing advice and consultation on sharing trails.
2. Advancing the concept of multi-use trails, and d Developing and promoting a trail sharing use ethic for a safe and positive user experience and to ensure a respect for natural resources.
3. Encouraging all governmental units to develop land-use plans that preserve rights-of-way and corridors for existing trails and the establishment of future trails.
4. Encouraging governmental units, organizations, and individuals to participate in establishing, developing, and maintaining trails.
5. Encouraging private/public partnerships for the purpose of planning, establishing, developing, and maintaining trails.
6. Recommending priorities for trail acquisition and development with an emphasis on trails that establish connections between existing trails and trails that are easily accessed by the people of Wisconsin.
7. Recommending and promoting trail acquisition, development, maintenance, and operations that result in quality opportunities for all trail user groups.
8. Recommending and promoting a rational and stable funding mechanism for trail maintenance and operations.
9. Reviewing funding criteria for the Recreational Trails Program and encouraging eligible sponsors to apply for trail funding grants.
10. Promoting and encouraging trails that meet diverse interests and abilities of Wisconsin citizens.

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Comment [beb1]: No decision made by end of 7/17/09 meeting on this yellow highlighted language.

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Deleted: Encouraging eligible project sponsors to apply for trail funding and reviewing funding criteria for trail grant programs.

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Comment [beb2]: STC considered and rejected language "...efforts to be more inclusive of ethnic and culturally diverse and physically challenged users."