



State of Wisconsin
GOVERNOR'S STATE TRAILS COUNCIL

Meeting Minutes

Monday, April 7, 2014

Horicon Marsh Education and Visitor Center
N7725 Hwy 28, Horicon 53032
10:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

State Trails Council Members present:

Ken Carpenter; *Wisconsin State Horse Council (equestrians)*
Randy Harden; *Wisconsin ATV Association (ATVs/UTVs)*
Doug Johnson; *Association of Wisconsin Snowmobile Clubs (snowmobiling)* [Secretary]
Phil Johnsrud; *(non-motorized water trails)* [Vice Chair]
Kine Torinus for Mike McFadzen; *WI Nordic Network, Northern Kettle Moraine Nordic Ski Club (cross-country skiing)*
Bryan Much; *Wisconsin Off-Highway Motorcycle Association (off-highway motorcycles)* [Chair]
Ken Neitzke; *Ice Age Trail Alliance (hiking, backpacking)*
Luana Schneider; *Wisconsin 4-Wheel Drive Association (4-wheel drive vehicles)*
John Siegert; *Bicycle Federation of Wisconsin (off-road bicycling, mountain biking)*
Dave Schlabowske for Robbie Webber; *Bicycle Federation of Wisconsin (bicycle touring)*
Jim White; *(boards/small wheels)*
Skip Maletzke; *(Tourism/business)*
Leif Hubbard; *(Wisconsin Department of Transportation)*

State Trails Council Members not in attendance:

None.

Members of the Public Present:

Hank Wozniel, Wisconsin ATV Association

WI DNR Staff present:

Peter Biermeier, Dan Schuller, Brigit Brown

10:00 A.M. – Agenda review/repair and approval of April meeting minutes

- Much called the meeting to order. Motion for approval of the January 28, 2014. Moved by Johnson
Seconded by Harden. Minutes approved as amended.

10:03 A.M. – Chair Report

- Much emphasized the importance of responding to a call for early agenda items to get items on an upcoming STC agenda. Particularly regarding new ideas that members may encounter as they travel to other places to recreate. The idea is to best accommodate everyone's recreational interest. The idea is to have advance notice via agenda items so that action may be taken at meetings.

10:06 A.M. – Bylaws

- Harden conducted a review of the bylaws as requested by the council. Harden handed out copies of the current STC bylaws and corresponding statutes and reviewed his findings with the council.



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- Recommend change from 9 to 11 members
- Emphasis: next to last meeting appoint ad hoc nomination committee so that vote on officers can take place at the last meeting of the year
- Discussion of agenda items. How to make sure that items are followed up on and are not forgotten. Call for agenda items and the minutes are the main ways currently employed.
- Review of the definition of quorum. According to the Governor's Office, "membership" is equal to the entire membership (11) of the council. Thus, action of the council can only be taken if six or more voting members are part of the action.
- Proposed changes:
 - Section III. A. : change from nine to eleven, add "voting", make into Section 1
 - Section III. A. : Add a Section 2: "The Department may appoint additional non-voting, advisory members to include:
 - Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources
 - Wisconsin Department of Transportation
 - Wisconsin Department of Tourism or designee
 - Accessibility Expert knowledgeable in Accessibility Issues and Standards"
 - Section III. A. : Add a Section 3: "Appointees shall serve at the pleasure of the appointing authority. Members whose terms expire will continue to represent their user group until they are replaced by a new appointee unless the member resigns or is otherwise formally relieved from appointment."
 - Section VII: Strike "present"

10:50 A.M. – SharePoint Site

- Much reviewed and demonstrated the new document sharing site (Microsoft SharePoint) established for STC members.

11:03 A.M. – Scheduling STC Meetings

- Much led a discussion of tools for scheduling meetings, lead time, what works best for council members.
- Motion to schedule meetings for the upcoming year at last meeting of the previous calendar year, with January as a teleconference, and the additional three in-person meetings will be scheduled on a Monday, Wednesday, or Friday. Moved by White, seconded by Johnson. Approved.

11:15 A.M. – Connecting Trails, Towns, and Businesses

- Harden introduced the concept of "trail use" friendly businesses and handed out examples of signage that WATVA will be using in discussions with business owners.
- Bicycle Friendly Business program through the League of American Bicyclists may be a good example of criteria/application.

11:30 A.M. – Lunch and Film on Horicon Marsh

12:00 P.M. – Walk on Horicon Marsh Pan-supported Boardwalk led by Leslie Herschberger, Executive Director of the Horicon Marsh Education Center

12:30P.M. – DNR Report

- Recent supreme court decision
- Two pieces of legislation are being signed into law tomorrow. One eliminates the existing blanket restriction on hours on State Trails, the other eliminates the list of activities allowed on state trails and officially authorizes water trails as part of the State Trail system.



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- Master plans. Sauk Prairie Recreation Area: DNR is currently drafting alternatives. Mukwonago River Unit of the Southern Kettle Moraine is also in the current planning process. For more information about master plans on all DNR properties: <http://dnr.wi.gov/topic/lands/masterplanning/>.
- The process for temporary repurposing of trails for special events was reviewed. Proposals must follow the Master Plan amendment/variance process; in the future the Master Plan process should include consideration of repurposing /allowing other uses so that an extensive variance or amendment process does not have to take place for each proposal.
- Currently compiling a report of impacts and issues from the first full year of hunting in state parks that will be presented to the Natural Resources Board in June. Discussions will continue on specific seasons at individual parks; overall seasons have gone well with few issues.
- The State Park System is going through a strategic planning process. Will have documents for review at the next council meeting.
- Land and Water Conservation funding is undergoing reauthorization discussions.

1:00 P.M. -- State Trails Council Member Reports

- *Mountain biking / Off-Road Bicycles.* Fat biking is bringing out new riders, new volunteers, and the popularity is challenging some of the existing trail capacity. Fat bikes are looking at creating their own advocacy.
- *Wheels/Small Boards.* No report.
- *Hiking/Walking.* Cold and snow hasn't deterred hikers. Area foot trails well packed down. This was the third of First Day Hikes (January 1). They were scheduled at nine state parks across the state. 190 participants hiked 605.7 miles. At Lapham Peak alone, there were 77 participants.
- *4-Wheel Drive Vehicles.* There have been a few events over the winter, mostly on private lands. WOHVA had their annual meeting last weekend; Wi4WD Association will have their annual meeting April 26.
- *Tourism/Business.* Unable to attend the Governor's Conference on Tourism (March 2-4 in Lake Geneva). The latest Wisconsin Tourism ad has received national attention. The northwoods are slowly coming out of the winter.
- *Cross-Country Skiing.* Great year for skiing; still taking place up north. With the extreme cold, snow texture has been great. The Zillmer area trails (Kettle Moraine) have a relatively new shelter building which helps, along with well-groomed trails, to attract skiers. No self-pay station at Zillmer for paying a trail pass.
- *All-Terrain Vehicles.* Governor's Conference on Tourism had both motorized trails and nonmotorized trails as agenda items. The WATVA Annual meeting took place at the end of March. The volunteer Trail Ambassador program entered its 14th year: 74,000 miles of patrolling, xyz hours. May 15-16 the Youth Expo will be held at the McKenzie Center.
- *Snowmobiling.* Fantastic snow season so far; most trails open since mid-December. Some northern counties stayed open continuously until last week, when the season officially ended. Current registration numbers are currently 229,000 and almost 25,000 non-resident trail passes – a significant increase over last year. MS Society event raised almost \$25,000. Held first annual Snowmobile VIP Ride event near Trego. AWSC representatives are in Washington D.C. talking with legislators about issues of concern to snowmobilers, including Recreation Trails Program funding. Act 142 recently passed which affects many changes in the snowmobile trail pass and registration program. The amount



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of funding available to the snowmobile program is expected to increase with this new program. Older snowmobiles are more popular; a free trail pass for snowmobiles 30 years and older will now be available. A proposed Holiday Hunt (part of the Deer Trustee Report) will not take place in northern Wisconsin. The extended snowmobile season has been great but has taken a toll on volunteers and funding. Legislation is anticipated to address potential maintenance funding needs. The AWSC annual meeting took place last weekend and had nearly 800 registrants.

- *Water Trails.* Used the Department of Tourism's trail conditions report for the first time this year. Very easy process. Have been working with Waupaca County to establish water trails in the county. The Chamber of Commerce has recently become involved and it looks like things will be moving forward.
- *Off-Highway Motorcycles.* Small town in northern Wisconsin looking to receive a grant from the AMA for a sound meter. Will be used for courtesy sound checks at events and trails. Was able to use a DOT motorcycle simulator. Presented to Forest Supervisors on OHMs; went well.
- *Equestrian.* Horse Fair will take place this coming weekend. It is an event for both riders and non-riders. The WSHC-sponsored Trail School will take place Loew Lake, Washington County, July 9-11. Training is open to all trail volunteers and public land staff. Working with Palmyra to become a multi-use trail town. It will be a connection from the Kettle Moraine Southern Unit. Ken Carpenter will be moving out of state; this is likely to be his last meeting.
- *Bicycling.* The Wheel and Sprocket Bike Expo took place this past weekend. By the second day of the event, it had surpassed the previous year. This was a great winter for the growing fat bike segment of cycling. Last year, no major manufacturers made fat bikes; this year all of them do. More than 150,000 fat bikes are expected to be "on the road" this year. Two-wheel drive Rocon motorcycles or older snowmobiles (narrower). The key to managing the growth of the use will be education and making sure there are legal places to ride. Working with the DNR when there are complaints about illegal use to educate and manage this type of situation. As popularity grows and price comes down, it will be important to develop and publicize locations to ride legally. The Vulnerable User (bicyclists, pedestrians, emergency responders, in-line skaters and farmers driving farm equipment) legislation was significantly amended but did pass the legislature with a requirement for education on vulnerable users.

2:00 P.M. -- Snowmobile user group orientation briefing

- Snowmobiling has an estimated \$1 billion economic impact in Wisconsin
- 80% of the almost 25,000 miles of snowmobile trails are located on private lands
- Funded through registration dollars, non-resident trail pass, and a percentage of the gas tax.
- Funds go to pay for trail maintenance, new trails, law enforcement, signage, administrative costs, and safety and education efforts.
- Johnson showed a video on snowmobiling from *Discover Wisconsin*.

2:25 P.M. – Hiker user group orientation briefing

2:38 P.M. – Sled Towns

- Parking lots, areas to put on gear, helmet racks, Trail-based tourism benefits many communities in Wisconsin. Economic benefits Trail-friendly town concept could be applied statewide, with an application that communities could fill out with sections for specific trail uses. Harden, Maletzke,



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Johnson, and Neitzke will form an ad hoc committee to investigate creation of a formal trail town program.

2:50 P.M. – Public Comment

- None.

3:00 P.M. – Identify Future Agenda Items

- Form nomination review committee
- RTP report from grants person
- Vote on bylaw changes
 - Section III. A. The DNR Secretary may appointment advisory members that provide consultation to the STC.
 - Section V. Unless otherwise determined by proper authority, members whose terms expire will continue to represent their user group until they are replaced by a new appointee unless the member resigns or is otherwise formally relieved from appointment.
- WSPS Strategic Plan
- Sled Towns concept as a statewide program
- Trails Town ad hoc group report
- X-C ski report
- Boards/small wheels

3:05 P.M. – Adjourn

- Motion to adjourn by Johnson. Seconded by Harden. Meeting adjourned.