



State of Wisconsin
GOVERNOR'S STATE TRAILS COUNCIL

Meeting Minutes

Thursday, July 31, 2014

James P. Coughlin Center Conference Room A
Winnebago County Office Building
625 East County Road Y Oshkosh, WI 54901
10:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

State Trails Council Members present:

Randy Harden; *Wisconsin ATV Association (ATVs/UTVs)*
Doug Johnson; *Association of Wisconsin Snowmobile Clubs (snowmobiling)* [Secretary]
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)*
Jim White; *(boards/small wheels)*
Skip Maletzke; *(tourism/business)*

State Trails Council Members on speakerphone

Ken Carpenter; *Wisconsin State Horse Council (equestrians)*
Robbie Webber; *Bicycle Federation of Wisconsin (bicycling)*

State Trails Council Members not in attendance

Phil Johnsrud; *(non-motorized water trails)* [Vice Chair]

Others present

Leif Hubbard; *(Wisconsin Department of Transportation)*
Marian Webber; *(River Valley Trails)*
Jim Webber; *(River Valley Trails)*
Bill Zager; *(Friends of Wisconsin State Parks)*
Hank Wozniel; *(Wisconsin ATV-UTV Association)*
Kelly Froelich; *(Bay Lake ATV Club)*
Angela Pierce; *(Bay-Lake Regional Planning Commission)*
John Schnorr; *(Wisconsin Off-Highway Vehicle Association)*
Ada Duffey; *(Southern Kettle Moraine Horse Trail Association; Glacial Drumlin Horse Trail Association)*
Sam Tobias; *(Fond du Lac County Planning and Parks)*
Dave Peterson; *(snowmobiling/biking)*
Judy Peterson; *(snowmobiling/biking)*
Alex Bub; *(Wisconsin Off-Highway Motorcycle Association)*
Mary Faydash; *(Friends of Black River Forest)*
Kathleen Rammer; *(Friends of Black River Forest; NEIGHBors for Trails)*

WI DNR Staff present:

Brigit Brown, Daniel Buckler



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

- Much called the meeting to order. McFadzen motioned for approval of the April 7, 2014 meeting minutes with word replacement to bylaws (*Section III. A. : Add a Section 3: "Appointees shall serve at the pleasure of the appointing authority."* Correction noted in final April minutes). Also word replacement to scheduled STC meetings (*...will be scheduled on a Monday, Wednesday, or Friday.* Correction noted in final April minutes). Seconded by Johnson. April minutes approved, as amended.

10:06 A.M. – Chair Report

- Much called for a committee to review applications for the touring/road bicycling representative. Siegert, Neitzke, and Schneider volunteered. Much motioned to approve this committee. McFadzen seconded. Approved.

10:10 A.M. – Officer nominations

- Hubbard took nominations for 2015 STC officers. Harden nominated Much for Chair, and White seconded. No other nominations were made for Chair. McFadzen nominated Neitzke for Vice Chair, and Siegert seconded. No other nominations were made for Vice Chair. McFadzen nominated Schneider for Secretary, and Harden seconded. No other nominations were made for Secretary. These nominations will be voted upon at the November meeting.

10:16 A.M. – Equestrian application review and Council vote

- Maletzke, a member of equestrian application review ad hoc committee (with Carpenter and White), praised the three applicants. It was a tough choice, with everybody being very qualified. The ad hoc committee recommended Krickett Jewett to become the equestrian user group representative. White moved to vote on the recommendation, and Schneider seconded it. Approved. Jewett's application will be sent to the Governor's office.

10:22 A.M. – Vote on proposed bylaw changes

- Much led discussion on bylaw changes presented at the April 7 STC meeting:
 - 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"
- Much motioned to approve the bylaw changes. Johnson seconded. Approved.

10:30 A.M. – Trails in highway rights-of-way and highway bridge crossings

- Hubbard gave presentation on Department of Transportation resources and policies. Hubbard handed out information packet to STC members. DOT manages for transportation, whereas DNR manages for recreation, though there is often overlap. A lot of DOT rights-of-way utilized by snowmobilers, equestrians, ATVs, etc.
- Hubbard discussed DOT regional contacts and broke down the organizational structure. Explained the DOT budget, revenue sources and expenditures.



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- Wisconsin Statute 23.33 was just implemented and is in place. Primarily has to do with use of DOT facilities for ATVs and UTVs. DOT is finalizing its own policies based on this statute.
- In order to utilize bridges, have to make sure to have county and municipal ordinances in place.
- Discussion on when to build pedestrian bridges over busy roads. Crossing over Hwy 83 is an example. DOT would look at many things such as traffic count, cost and nearby crossings, though some members expressed frustration at having to go significant distances out of the way or have to wait in islands between lanes. Hubbard said it is less costly to have tunnels beneath the road than bridges above it.
- Current budget modifies formula for calculation of fuel tax transfer from the Transportation Fund to the snowmobile account of the Conservation Fund beginning in FY 14. Transfer projected to increase \$961,000 over 2013-15 biennium.
- Maximum of 1-2% of a highway project budget can go to art elements for individual projects. The higher the daily traffic, the higher this percentage can be.
- Buckler brought up DNR published guidance on trails within ROWs. Policy is in members' meeting packets.

10:52 A.M. – ATV user group initiatives with Trail Towns

- Harden led discussion on Trail Towns and passed out a promotional packet for members to peruse.
- Concept is designed to promote businesses that cater to a user group; in this case, ATVs. These businesses should be on a trail or route system.
- Harden and others put together a guidebook. They wanted to get at least 25 businesses to promote and are working on signage and stickers to identify those businesses as Trail Town locations, or Trail Town Certified.
- A discussion was had about signage on State Trails and whether businesses can be identified on signs along the trails. This is not possible per current policy, though there might be possibility of identifying business districts or downtowns on signs, just not identifying specific businesses.
- Neitzke said North Country Trail Association has a good Trail Town program based on the Appalachian Trail, though much of the signage is on municipal land. Neitzke went on to talk about the Ice Age Trail Alliance starting to designate Ice Age Trail Communities.
- Harden clarified that the 'Trail Town' would not necessarily be some kind of official, governmental certification, but rather it would be more of a marketing campaign to promote businesses and communities that provide resources and support for user groups. He said a published guidebook listing businesses would be a hit.

11:15 A.M. – Taking on user groups as a Trail Town

- Much related story about dual-sport motorcycles in Boulder Junction, Wisconsin. Some members of the community did not like dual-sport cycles and did not want to be a part of any kind of trail town designation. It was brought up in the Chamber of Commerce and all but one member supported it. The town chairman was interested too. From an economic standpoint, promoting dual-sport bikes or any other particular user group provides more "drops in the bucket". It allows more people to get outside and it means more money for the communities.
- The dual-sport community was active in trying to make people understand that nobody was tearing down the streets in dirt bike races or being too loud. On the contrary, all the riding is done out of town while spending money is down in town. Bikes were in the Fourth of July parade and people saw that it wasn't as bad as they thought. Understanding brings acceptance.
- The point is that taking on user groups is beneficial to towns.
- Wabeno, Wisconsin calls itself "The Dual Sport Capital of the World..."

11:25 A.M. – Role of STC in developing Trail Town concept



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- Much led a discussion on how the STC can be involved in Trail Towns. STC can bring all user groups together with a State Trail Town concept, along with DNR, Tourism and DOT.
- STC should get a recommendation or statement out to the DNR to partner with Tourism to get behind the Trail Town concept because it benefits all user groups and communities.
- Much requested an informal paper for the next STC meeting regarding how the STC can be involved with Trail Towns, including signage, technical issues and the role of the DNR and Tourism. Much asked Maletzke to work on this, with help from Neitzke, Harden and Johnson who volunteered.

11:37 A.M. – Lunch

12:07 P.M. – DNR Report

- A bicycle route study project of the DNR, DOT, and Bike Fed has solicited potential contractors and interviews with four different firms have already taken place. One has been chosen, but negotiations will take place with the firm over the next couple months. The project is expected to take one year.
- An approved negotiation price has been reached for the Madison-Reedsburg line. The Surface Transportation Board needs to approve it, however. They do not have a deadline for approval or denial and the DNR will not be able to negotiate with DOT on trail use until the STB gives approval. There is optimism this will be done by the end of the year. Meanwhile, DNR is working with local governments in section from Sauk City to Devil's Lake to plan the trail. Through 2015 there will be a lot of public meetings to discuss everything from trail name to uses permitted. It will help provide a link between Reedsburg and Middleton.
- Working with Michigan on a number of trail connections, particularly a nonmotorized connection at Hayward and a motorized connection at Iron Mountain.
- The new Recreation Trails Program manager is Diane Conklin. She will attend November's STC meeting.
- Master plans were discussed. It is unknown when the Sauk Prairie Recreation Area master plan will be completed, but once it is, the Driftless Area Streams and Door County parks master plans will be worked upon, two projects of particular interest to trail groups.

12:30 P.M. -- State Trails Council member reports

- *Mountain biking / Off-Road Bicycles.* Volunteers at John Muir and Emma Carlin trail systems were out working this summer. There will be signs at the Alpha Trail celebrating the 10 year anniversary of Milwaukee County's first mountain bike trail. CAMBA is having a fundraiser in support of their five year plan. Cyclists of the Gitchee Gumees Shores are planning a 100 mile single track in Duluth city limits. They raised \$200k for this and will hire professionals. IMBA held its World Summit recently in Colorado. There will be a new northern Midwest IMBA representative hopefully transitioned in September. \$7k was raised to help purchase a UTV for rescues in the Kettle Moraine.
- *Off-Highway Motorcycles.* Wabeno, Cross Plains and the Kettle Moraine all have events coming up this summer and early fall. WOHMA and District 16 of the American Motorcycle Association received grant to purchase sound test kits. Low end sound testing equipment is about \$250, with high-end kits costing thousands of dollars.
- *Snowmobiling.* Snowmobile enthusiasts are still busy in the summer water skipping or grass dragging. A new snowmobile law was passed this year. In 2015 everybody in Wisconsin will need a trail pass, including residents. The pass is at two levels – one for snowmobile club members and the other for non-members. The AWSC will determine who qualifies. They will be the sole distributor of club trail passes. The cost of snowmobile registration will change next year. It will be \$30 for three years rather than for two years. AWSC has a new website. Clubs researching how to get more money into snowmobile fund because it's funded for about 19,000 miles, but there are about 25,000 miles total.



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Grooming costs have increased dramatically. The USFS has to look at snow vehicle use on all lands because of lawsuit brought by Winter Wildlands Alliance which USFS lost.

- *All-Terrain Vehicles.* ATV and UTV groups are merging, partially because the user groups are aging. The DNR was just in Jackson County doing sound checks on ATVs. The Department of Tourism will have ATV handouts at State Fair. WATVA going around state visiting different clubs, going for rides and discussing issues. WATVA purchased a drone. Maintenance for existing trails went to approximately \$600/mile from \$450/mile primarily because of fuel costs.
- *4-Wheel Drive Vehicles.* The wet spring forced a lot of rides to be canceled. There is a lack of 4WD trails in the state, particularly in the south. W4WDA wanted to promote the activity and NBC15 did a piece on 4WD riding in Columbus. Schneider showed the news clip NBC15 produced. 2400 acre parcel in Forest County to be purchased. Jeep Jamboree was held at Mole Lake in June. A 4WD sticker program didn't go through this year, but hopefully it will next year.
- *Tourism/Business.* It was a wet and cold winter, but a lot of people are out on the trails now. There seem to be a lot of young families using UTVs to get out on the trails. There also seems to be more hikers and bikers than usual in northern Wisconsin, possibly because of cool weather.
- *Hiking/Walking.* It was a long winter and a planned hike for April 26 required snowshoes! Ice Age Trail Alliance and North Country Trail Association celebrated National Trails Day on June 7. IAT has been working hard – there have been 119 events since April. The Mobile Skills Crew has been very active. They completed a ten day work period in the Blue Hills in Rusk County in June. The National Scenic Trails Parity Act is in the U.S. Senate. It would clarify the status of the NCT, IAT and New England National Scenic Trails as units of the National Park system, providing greater and more accessible resources for these trails.
- *Boards/Small Wheels.* Went to the Nonmotorized Recreation and Transportation Trails Council in June and related news of the NRTTC to the STC. He then promoted Tourism's Official Biking Guide.
- *Cross-Country Skiing.* Report pushed into the cross-country skiing orientation presentation.
- *Water Trails.* No report.
- *Equestrian.* A Recreational Trails Program funding bill was passed in the U.S. Senate earlier this week, though one Senator unsuccessfully tried to strip off a lot of enhancements. It was sent to the House, but they were about to adjourn for their summer recess.
- *Bicycling.* Discussed the bike route system report DNR, DOT and Bike Fed have been working on (referenced in the DNR Report). The requirement to start projects funded under Transportation Alternatives Program (federal funding under MAP-21) and Transportation Enhancements (federal funding under SAFETEA-LU) has been very difficult for many communities. Because of the need for land acquisition, planning, and sometimes delays because of historic and Native American finds, almost any project of any size will struggle to start work in four years.

1:30 P.M. – Cross-country skiing user group orientation briefing

- McFadzen discussed the equipment, events, trends, partnerships, outreach programs, health benefits and economic impact of cross-country skiing and snowshoeing.



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2:00 P.M. – Small wheels user group orientation briefing

- White discussed the characteristics of use of small wheels, such as the low equipment cost, young user base and lack of formal organizations. He then described all of the different types of equipment and examples of venues they might utilize, including skateboards (skate parks), in-line skates (rinks, sidewalks), roller-skis (to train for snow), strollers (sidewalks, trails), wheel chairs and other mobility aids (sidewalks), elliptical bicycles (sidewalks), red wagons (sidewalks), and RC (radio controlled) toys (parking lots).

2:20 P.M. – Public comment

- Mary Faydash stated her objection to any potential easement or property given to the Kohler Company from the DNR for an entrance to a golf course the Company has discussed building in the Town of Wilson.
- Kathleen Rammer echoed Faydash's concerns and provided background to the work she and others have been doing in the area to establish and maintain trails for many years.
- Peter Biermeier (DNR) called in to comment on this issue. He said there has been no formal proposal to the DNR so there is nothing official yet to address. He and Brown provided contact information to Rammer and Faydash for future discussions.
- Marian Webber promoted River Valley Trails and described the trail development occurring in the Hudson area. Jim Webber noted that there's great opportunity to provide a trail system for a large number of people from the Twin Cities region. They want to bring money into the state from Minnesota recreational trail users.
- Bill Zager encouraged everybody to take advantage of Friends groups in Wisconsin. 80% of WSPS properties have Friends group full of eager volunteers. If there's not a Friends group, Zager told people to get in touch with Patty Loosen or Brown to help establish one.
- Dave Peterson identified a potential conflict between snowmobiles and bicyclists, or dog sleds and bicyclists, especially at night. Most bicyclists do not use lights at night. Brown said there is a law requiring bicyclists to use lights at night.
- Kelly Froelich talked about the Bay Lake ATV Club and the ATV trail network in Kewaunee. The ATV park is 350 acres of County land that is designated for a landfill. 40 acres were purchased with ATV money and will always be ATV land.

2:55 P.M. – Identify future agenda items

- User group orientations: mountain biking and touring/road bicycling. If not the latter, then off-highway motorcycles
- RTP report from Diane Conklin
- Ad hoc Trail Town committee recommendations. Maletzke and others will present informal paper
- Strategic plan review for WSPS
- Review touring/road bicycle applicants
- User group reviews
- Elections
- Set next year's schedule; Luana noted her appreciation for in-person meetings and Much encouraged others to seek out no-cost facilities for future meetings.

3:08 P.M. – Certificates of appreciation for Ken Carpenter and Robbie Webber

- Much presented certificates of appreciation for outgoing STC members Carpenter and Webber.

3:11 P.M. – Adjourn

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