

**DRAFT Minutes of the
Nonmotorized Recreation and Transportation Trails Council (NRTTC)
March 12, 2014, 9:00 a.m. – 10:00 a.m.
Teleconference**

1. Meeting was called to order by Dana Johnson. In attendance: William Hauda, Dana Johnson, Joel Patenaude, Debbie Peterson, David Phillips, Jeff Snudden, Rod Bartlow, Blake Theisen, Ned Zuelsdorff. Brigit Brown and Cameron Bump (Department of Natural Resources)
2. Meeting minutes from January 15, 2014 meeting approved.
3. Brown briefly described the recent Supreme Court case involving a federally granted railroads and disputed ownership rights in Wyoming. The Court decided that the former railroad property reverts back to the underlying landowners due to the specifics of the case. DNR, DOT and other state officials are looking into the issue to determine if this decision affects any trails in Wisconsin. Stay tuned.

4. Committee Chair Reports.

a. **Funding.** A discussion was held, led by Zuelsdorff, about the silent sports survey that was conducted at 2012 events in Bayfield, Sawyer and Ashland Counties. Zuelsdorff described that it was difficult to reach out to non-participants of the events, so the survey may have some short-comings. However, most of the survey participants were from outside the local area, suggesting that these events were successful at bringing in people to the area. It was also noted that over half of the participants in the survey stayed in private residences, as opposed to staying at hotels or resorts. Evidently many of these people have purchased 2nd homes in the local area and are inviting friends to stay with them. These homeowners pay property taxes that add to the local economy in subtle ways. The survey concluded that these silent sport events bring economic gain to the area and that trails are a critical component to these events being held. The Council agreed to continue to gather results of surveys like this one and the Ice Age Trail survey and then post on the Council website.

b. **Outreach.** Patenaude updated the Council regarding the database of non-motorized recreation and transportation supporters, including Ice Age Trail chapters, Friends of State Parks groups, other user groups and related businesses. Brigit will provide an updated list of the Friends Groups. Johnson suggested that this will enable the Council to bring the community of non-motorized trail interest groups together for the support of issues related to non-motorized recreation as well as contacts to produce more survey work. It was also noted that the Department of Tourism commissioned a study regarding outreach. It was suggested that the local Chambers of Commerce may need to be assisted to better understand the economic/tourism potential of non-motorized trails in their local area.

c. **Education.** Theisen brought up the Wisconsin DNR State Parks economic study co-authored by State Park Planner Jeff Prey: http://dnr.wi.gov/topic/parks/documents/WISC_ST_PARKS-ECON_REPORT_2013_FINAL_WEB.pdf sent out by Brown after the last NRTTC meeting. Interesting finding that Theisen found was that trail users were found to spend \$90 per person versus State Park

user who spends \$50 per person. Theisen also mentioned the Wisconsin Off-Road Vehicle Park (WORVPI) being discussed in Forest County. There is potential that WORVPI may be open to creating opportunities for non-motorized recreation trails. Theisen will contact Randy Harden from the Wisconsin ATV Association to find out more about this possibility. More background information on the off-road park effort can be found at this web address: <http://worvpi.org/>

d. Bylaws. Discussion took place about when NRTTC members can publically represent (speak, write, or otherwise communicate on behalf of) the NRTTC in situations such as public testimony on proposed legislation. Hauda provided an example of the Administrative Code NR 45 “open hours” repeal bill. Hauda asked the Council to determine when individuals are allowed to speak on behalf of the Council regarding non-motorized issues. Phillips proposed that the Council pass a resolution on an issue describing its position, and then could authorize any member(s) to communicate this position on behalf of the Council, consistent with the resolution. All Council members in attendance agreed with this approach. Johnson suggested that the bylaws be amended to reflect this agreed-upon mode of operation. The Council approved a motion to allow Hauda to speak on behalf of the Council in support of AB 730.

5. Next meeting. June 11, 2014. Location: Madison area in conjunction with the Governor’s Bike Council. Meeting will include continued discussion of opinion surveys, update to outreach database, and discussion on rules to represent the Council on issues.

6. Adjourn 10:05 a.m.