

**Minutes of the
Nonmotorized Recreation and Transportation Trails Council (NRTTC)
April 8, 2015, 11:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.
Teleconference**

1. Meeting was called to order by Dana Johnson. Members in attendance: Dana Johnson, Debbie Peterson, David Phillips, Geoff Snudden, Blake Theisen. Staff: Jill Mrotek-Glenzinski (Department of Transportation), Brigit Brown (Department of Natural Resources).
2. Meeting minutes from the January 14, 2015 meeting approved.
3. Brigit Brown provided an update on the [Bikeways Project](#). The first round of Open House meetings will be taking place across the state to provide the public an opportunity to review the proposed methodologies that will be used to arrive at draft proposed bikeway routes. To represent NRTTC, participate in the open houses, and hear what the public has to say, Dave Phillips will attend May 21 in Madison, Dana Johnson will attend May 27 in Milwaukee, Geoff Snudden will attend May 28 in Appleton (Grand Chute) and June 9 in Wausau, and Debbie Peterson will attend June 2 in Eau Claire. All of the open houses will run from 4:30 - 7:30 p.m. There will also be Focus Groups as part of the Bikeways Project to have more in-depth discussions with key stakeholder groups and to solicit information and feedback. The proposed Focus Groups are Tourism, Municipal and County Planners, Engineers, and Commissioners (e.g. Highway Commissioners), Other States and Provinces, and Business and Commerce. Dana Johnson and Geoff Snudden expressed an interest in being included in the Focus Groups.
4. Brigit Brown asked the NRTTC if they would be interested in potentially serving as a reviewing body for water trails requesting State Trail status. This review would be a key step in the designation of new State Water Trails, which were made an official part of the State Trail System in 2014. NRTTC members were in agreement that this would be a good role for the NRTTC to play. It is expected that a draft framework for the overall program will go out for public review this summer. Brown also solicited interest from NRTTC members who are paddlers to assist with field reviews of water trails applying for State Trail status. As volunteers, their level of time commitment would be flexible. Blake Theisen and Dave Phillips are both interested. Dana Johnson mentioned another group that may also be interested and will put Brown in touch with them.
5. Committee Chair Reports.
 - a. **Funding.** No report.
 - b. **Outreach/Education.** Blake Theisen has started to plot survey responses by location, in GIS. NRTTC will do an email blast to survey respondents with information about the survey and

Bikeways Project open houses. Theisen and Brown will provide information about the survey and Bikeways Project open houses to Johnson for the message. Goal is to get the email out by May 1.

6. Joel Patenaude was unable to attend but submitted items for discussion. The first was to address vacant seats on the Council; the second was allowing motorized events on nonmotorized trails.
 - a. The NRTTC does not currently have a formal process for filling vacant seats on the NRTTC such as the State Trails Council does (see: "How to apply to the State Trails Council" on the STC web page: <http://dnr.wi.gov/topic/parks/stc/index.html>). Geoff Snudden recently spoke to Birkebeiner Foundation Director Scott Chapin about his potential application, or that of Foundation Executive Director Ben Popp. Interest was positive and Snudden will encourage one or both of them to apply for the position (link to application: <http://walker.wi.gov/governor-office/apply-to-serve/boards-commissions>). Theisen mentioned that Will Andresen with UW-Extension in Iron County would also be a good future candidate.
 - b. Brown explained that the DNR has traditionally allowed county partners who operate state trails to permit special events on their properties via local process. Due to a request by a county partner for the DNR to be involved in such decisions, the DNR has provided a determination that special event requests that include uses not otherwise allowed on a trail need to go through a formal decision process, including public input, to amend the trail's plan to allow the requested use (for a special event). Phillips thought that allowing such use to be considered on a case-by-case basis made sense. Johnson stated that it seems that there is no need for NRTTC involvement unless there is a proposal that would change the use of a trail or potential for damage, then NRTTC could get involved.
7. Phillips introduced a resolution in support of the Knowles-Nelson Stewardship Program. NRTTC members will hold a special meeting on Friday, April 10 at 9 a.m. to ensure that consideration and action on the proposed resolution is properly public noticed.
8. The next meeting of the NRTTC will be Wednesday, June 17, 10 a.m. - 3 p.m. at the [Schmeeckle Reserve](#), Stevens Point.
9. Adjourned 12:30 p.m.