Minutes of the
Nonmotorized Recreation and Transportation Trails Council (NRTTC)
March 14, 2013, 9:00am – 2:00pm
Schmeeckle Reserve, 2419 North Point Drive, Stevens Point, WI 54481

1. Meeting was called to order by Dana Johnson. In attendance: Dana Johnson, Joel Patenaude, Rod Bartlow, David Phillips, Ned Zuelsdorff, William Hauda, Anne Murphy, Geoff Snudden, Peter Biermeier (DNR staff), Brigit Brown (DNR staff)

2. Meeting minutes from Nov 15, 2012 meeting approved.

3. Bylaws Committee report. Phillips reminded council members that the draft bylaws were distributed for review before the November meeting. Brown reviewed the comments from DNR legal. Phillips requested a change to the first bullet of the mission of the NRTTC from “Secure funding that is sufficient…” to “Secure funding for trails that is sufficient…” Discussion on if this language covers all of the intended purposes of funding. Phillips also proposed a change to the fourth bullet from “Educate peers [...] and government on nonmotorized trails and related topics.” to “Educate peers [...] and government on the value of nonmotorized trails and related topics.” Amendments to draft bylaws accepted; passed as amended.

4. Outreach committee report. Patenaude reviewed the purpose of the list. Discussion about who to include on the list and for what purpose. Murphy stated that some people and groups she talked to did not want their contact information on a public list. Patenaude will set up a Facebook account and a Dropbox account to facilitate sharing of information. Once these elements are up and running, NRTTC can consider a press release to raise awareness about NRTTC.

5. Education committee report. Dropbox will also be used as a resource to allow people to share studies and other useful information to NRTTC activities.

6. Discussion of Administrative Code NR 45 regarding current closure of state trails concurrent with state park hours. Hauda will be pursuing legislative action to repeal this part of administrative code. NRTTC voted to support a proposal to exempt all state trails from state park closed hours.

7. DNR and WISDOT re the current status of funding for state trails. Biermeier and Brown reviewed the DNR budget process. Subsequent discussion regarding the future of gas tax funding and whether that is sustainable due to vehicle gas mileage increases and other demands on that funding. Phillips brought up projects like the Keystone pipeline and potential opportunities for funding for trails. License plates, license plate stickers, and other possibilities. Snudden will investigate possible funding ideas in the works with manufacturers. The council would like to hear about how other states have secured nonmotorized trails funding. Johnson and Brown will work on arranging an appropriate guest speaker for the next meeting.

8. Next meeting Thursday, June 20, 2013 (conference call). Snudden will work on setting up a web-based conference.