

Governor's State Trails Council Meeting Minutes - Final

Monday, January 12, 2004

9:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.

Via Teleconference, Headquartered in Room 774A, DNR Central Office, 101 S Webster St, Madison

Council Members Present: Mike McFadzen, Bill Pfaff, Tom Huber, Dave Phillips, Joe Parr, Connie Loden, Chris Kegel, Jeff Butson

Council Members Absent: None.

DNR staff present: Laurie Osterdorf, Mike Willman, Peter Biermeier, Brigit Brown

Others: Luana Schneider, Marsha Cooper, Karen Kroll, Chuck Strawser

TIME	PRESENTER	ITEMS & TYPE	KEY POINTS	OUTCOMES NEXT STEPS, ASSIGNMENTS
9:00 a.m.	Mike McFadzen, Chair	Introductions / Agenda changes and Approval of October meeting minutes	Agenda passed. Minutes passed.	
9:10 a.m.	Mike McFadzen, Chair	Chair Report: STC member appointments update, 2004 STC officers, follow-up on STC resolutions, SCORP (Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan), ATV Advisory Committee, use of Wisconsin's National Scenic Trails	One position has been filled on the Council. Don Kirn of Willard has been appointed and will hopefully attend the next meeting. Overview of officer elections. Update on outcome of STC resolutions from October meeting: ATV resolution: STC supports the proposed increase in biennial ATV registration fee from \$12 to \$30, this was submitted to WATVA and appropriate DNR staff; Trail etiquette: text appears on the back of the 2004 state trail pass; Bearskin resolution: went to Governor's Office, Secretary Hassett, DNR officials. The Bearskin resolution has been somewhat controversial. Rick Henneger will talk about actions relating to this during his report. SCORP: Jeff Prey, DNR's SCORP planner, submitted a written report to STC. STC has been asked to appoint a member as STC representative to SCORP advisory committee at today's meeting. Tim Miller submitted a written report on the ATV advisory committee. There may be a need in the future for an STC representative to be appointed to an ATV committee. National Park Service submitted a written report regarding National Scenic Trail use.	<i>(continued)</i> McFadzen let Council members know that Greg Marr, editor of Silent Sports magazine passed away. He was a strong trails proponent and a major force behind the silent sports movement in Wisconsin. Tom Huber and Bill Pfaff moved and seconded a motion to support a resolution commending Greg Marr, most hopefully from the Governor's office. Dave Phillips will serve as the STC representative to the SCORP advisory committee. Tom Gilbert of the National Park Service will be invited to attend and speak at the April 12 meeting. Brigit Brown will work to get a resolution of support/commendation of Greg Marr from the Governor's office.
9:45 a.m.	Peter Biermeier, WIDNR Bureau of Parks and Recreation	DNR Report: Budget and potential impacts on trail program, railroad acquisition, Code 45 changes, Parks and Recreation Bureau Director position, major projects update	Mike Willman, PR Bureau Director, reported that the Position Description for the Parks and Recreation Bureau Director should be done by the end of this week. The position will be advertised nationwide. The target is to have a new Bureau Director hired in April/May. Budget- 16 of the 30 lowest income properties in the State Park System are trails. Required budget reductions for the remainder of this fiscal year will come from trails. Originally, the Park System had a budget reduction of 4.6%, which were taken care of without affecting trail budgets, but additional costs have been passed on from other programs dealing with their budget reductions. This amounted to about a 2% hit, which will be absorbed by the trails. There will be enough funding to operate trails through July 1. Mike McFadzen asked what can be expected after that. Mike Willman said that it is likely cuts won't be noticeable. There will be a budget update on the April agenda. Peter Biermeier talked about the need for a revenue generator, a stable funding source for trails. The \$1/license plate idea is one possibility - the STC may be looked to for support.	<i>(continued)</i> Administrative Code changes from last year are in effect re the \$15 annual trail pass fee and \$4 daily fee. There are also many changes to camping rules that go into effect 03/01/04. There are potential code changes proposed for this year, including some to the reservation system that would address some of the concerns voiced previously by STC members. There are six master plans currently underway as well as SCORP, which will be done in large part by the UW. Brigit Brown stated that the last rail corridor acquisition from Canadian National has closed and Counties are moving forward with planning and development. There is one major project that will be submitted for Transportation Enhancement grant funding this year: a connector from the Great River State Trail across to Winona, MN.

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10:15 a.m.	Tom Huber	Officer Elections	Slate of McFadzen, Chair, Kegel, Vice-Chair, and Phillips, Secretary was moved (Connie Loden) and seconded (Bill Pfaff). Passed unanimously.	2004 Officers of the Governor's State Trails Council: Mike McFadzen, Chair; Chris Kegel, Vice-Chair; Dave Phillips, Secretary.
10:30 a.m.	Rick Henneger, WiDNR Legal Services	Rail Abandonment Issues	Based on feedback, the Bearskin may not be the best place to try and test the Mauler decision. Turtle Lake to Comstock may be where we (DNR) try it. This section is currently related to the Cattail State Trail and owned by CenturyTel.	Agenda item at April meeting.
10:45 a.m.		Public Comment	Karen Kroll stated that the Capital Springs plan for a horse trail head with parking lot would have requirements of the user group. Council needs to understand equestrians from the area would be required to negotiate with private landowners to form horse trails. Peter Biermeier noted that the trailhead and loop trail were advanced at the last guidance team meeting. Luana Schneider said that the 4WD Vehicle Patrol program is in the process of training participants and is aiming to have good relationships between federal, state, and counties. Name of program is Eyes, Ears, Education, and External Relations. They are looking forward to working with Don Kirn. Marsha Cooper thanked the Council for being here. Chuck Strawser thanked the Council for being in existence and participating in the issues.	
11:00 a.m.		Adjourn	Moved by Phillips, seconded by Huber. Passed.	