

**NORTHERN REGIONAL TRAIL ADVISORY COMMITTEE
(NoRTAC)
MEETING AGENDA**

**Thursday, January 27, 2011
Sawyer County Courthouse
Assembly Room
10610 Main Street
Hayward, WI 54843
10:00 a.m.**

1. Approve Agenda
2. Committee Introductions and Recognition of Guests
3. Accept October 27, 2010 meeting summary
4. Update on Water Regulations & Storm Water Discharge – All
5. Report on Wisconsin County Forests Association meetings relevant to NoRTAC - All
6. County Coordination Efforts towards Connectivity/Linkages & Possible DNR Project Submittals for Spring 2011 - All
7. County updates to trail development and other projects of interest
8. Other trail coordination efforts for discussion purposes only
9. Next Meeting – April 28, 2011

Questions may be directed to Sheldon Johnson, NWRPC at 715-635-2197 or by email at sjohnson@nwrpc.com

Northern Regional Trail Advisory Committee

Meeting Summary of January 27, 2011 (Draft)

Hayward, WI

Members Present

Jim Nemec, Bayfield County; Susan Ingalls, Burnett County; Donald Chell, Burnett County; Dan Thole, Barron County; David Moin, Barron County Alternate; William Stoll, Chippewa County; Larry Jepsen, Polk County; Bob Blaszkowski, Ashland County; Dan Hubin, Washburn County; John Robinson, Douglas County; and Brett Rondeau, Bayfield County.

Others Present

Jeremy Koslowski, Polk County Forester; Terry Jordan, Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources; Dan Carlson, Burnett County Snowtrails Association; Mike Peterson, Washburn County; Edward Moewfelder, Citizen; and Sheldon Johnson, NWRPC.

Approve Agenda

Motion by Jepsen to approve agenda, seconded by Nemec. Approved

Committee Introductions & Recognition of Guests

Members and Guests were introduced.

Accept October 27, 2010 meeting summary

Motion by Chell to accept meeting summary, seconded by Nemec. Approved

Update on Water Regulations & Storm Water Discharge

Mike Peterson reported that area foresters met with water and wetland staff of the DNR to discuss water and storm water permits. Based on the meeting DNR staff is preparing a protocol (template) for wetland identification for use in preparing permit requests by county foresters/recreational staff. The draft template will be shared with foresters/recreational staff for further comment and a meeting in late spring/early summer is planned for a training session. The template, when completed, will be for linear trail construction.

Report on Wisconsin County Forests Association meetings relevant to NoRTAC

Mike Peterson reported there has been some discussion to look at changing routes versus trails language in NR64 (admin code). Efforts are also underway to look at increasing maintenance mileage from \$450 to \$600. This would likely also increase the registration fees for recreational vehicles. Work has commenced on creating proposed final legislation on allowing UTVs. Current legislation enabling UTVs in counties that adopt UTV use is set to sunset in July 2012.

County Coordination Efforts towards Connectivity / Linkages & Possible DNR Project Submittals for Spring 2011 and County Updates to Trail Development and other projects of interest (both taken together)

Ashland County no report. Barron County is exploring 6 different projects for grant submittal. Reported the Almena intensive use motorized recreational area is getting good use and is having little enforcement problems. Barron representatives encouraged Washburn County to look at a intensive use area just north of the Barron County line near STH 53. Rice Lake withdrew their proposal to asphalt the

Wild Rivers Trail. Bayfield no activity had occurred over the quarter regarding the 7th District Court of Appeals hearing comments on the rail bed/property issue. At the last meeting (October 2010) Burnett County had reported 520 feet of bridge decking would be replaced north of Danbury. However, underwater diving of the pier supporting the bridge has found extensive scouring. As a result, the redecking is on hold until pier improvements can be determined and made. The bridge is now posted at 1,000 pounds. Chippewa County noted they are working with Rusk on a trial connection. Douglas County reported the Brule Snowmobiling Club has constructed a warming house at the intersection of trails 4/41/9. The building has a wood stove, lights generated by solar power. Polk County reported trails are in great condition. Rusk County no report. Sawyer County no report. Washburn County reported continued discussion with the Village of Minong and City of Shell Lake on a campground targeting recreational use (ATV). Washburn County will be finishing GPSing and then marking trails with 911 markers at ½ mile intervals on the ATV system.

Members discussed the tourism and economic development potential of rail beds that criss-cross the region. A motion was made by Moin and seconded by Blaszkowski to draft a letter on behalf of NoRTAC to the State of Wisconsin requesting their support of using old railroad beds as a tourism and economic development effort. The letter should be sent to the governor and secretary's of transportation, tourism and natural resources. Motion passed unanimously.

Other trail coordination efforts for discussion purposes only

It was suggested that anyone attending Superior Days might mention the importance of abandoned rail beds for tourism and economic development, should the opportunity arise. Elections and 2012 budget will be reviewed at the April meeting.

Next Meeting Date

The next NoRTAC meeting will be held April 28, 2011 at 10:00am in Hayward at a location to be determined.

Motion to adjourn by Blaszkowski, second by Moin. Approved