

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

**Thursday April 28, 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 January 27, 2010 meeting summary
4. Election of Officers
  - a. Chairman
  - b. Vice Chairman
  - c. Secretary/Treasurer
5. 2012 Budget Review and Approve
6. Update on Water Regulations and Storm Water Discharge
7. Update on Letter to State of Wisconsin Leaders regarding rail right-of-way use for trails
8. Potential impacts of Wisconsin State Budget on recreational programs/trail development - All
9. County updates to trail development and maintenance applications and other projects of interest
10. Other trail coordination efforts for discussion purposes only
11. Next Meeting – July 28, 2011

Questions may be directed to Sheldon Johnson, NWRPC at 715-635-2197 or by email at [sjohnson@nwrpc.com](mailto:sjohnson@nwrpc.com)

## **Northern Regional Trail Advisory Committee**

Meeting Summary of April 28, 2011 (Draft)

Hayward, WI

### Members Present

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; John Robinson, Douglas County; Randy Tatur, Rusk County, and Paul Teska, Rusk County.

### Others Present

Jeremy Koslowski, Polk County Forester; Terry Jordan, Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources; and Don Mrotek, Sawyer County Snowmobile & ATV Alliance.

### Approve Agenda

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

### Committee Introductions & Recognition of Guests

Members and Guests were introduced.

### Accept January 27, 2011 meeting summary

Motion by Robinson to accept meeting summary, seconded by Moin. Approved

### Election of Officers

Chairman: Open nominations for Chairman, Dan Thole nominated from floor. Motion by Tatur to close nomination and cast unanimous ballot for Dan Thole as Chairman, seconded by Moin. Approved

Vice Chair: Open nominations for Vice Chair, Larry Jepsen nominated from floor. Motion by Chell to close nomination and cast unanimous ballot for Larry Jepsen as Vice Chair, seconded by Tatur.

Approved

Secretary/Treasurer: Open nominations for Secretary/Treasurer, Jim Nemec nominated from floor.

Motion by Tatur to close nomination and cast unanimous ballot for Jim Nemec as Secretary/Treasurer, seconded by Blaszkowski. Approved

### 2010 Budget Review

Motion by Blaszkowski to accept 2010 Financial Summary, seconded by Chell. Approved

### Update on Water Regulations & Storm Water Discharge

Paul Teska reported there will be storm water permit trainings for foresters in the beginning of June.

Susan Ingalls reported there will be a template to assist in preparing permit applications. The trainings and permit template were discussed at the April 15, 2011 WATVA Annual Meeting.

### Update on Letter to State of Wisconsin Leaders regarding rail right-of-way use for trails

A March 21, 2011 letter was sent to the State of Wisconsin on behalf of NoRTAC to request the

Departments of Natural Resources, Tourism and Transportation to support and assist counties in their

actions to bring the federally granted rail right-of-ways to county ownership. A response letter was received from Mark Gottlieb, Secretary of the Department of Transportation. Both letters were reviewed and discussed by the committee. Dan Thole will send a letter to Mr. Gottlieb thanking him for his response.

Dan Thole introduced the idea of inviting the Secretary of Tourism Stephanie Klett and other State representatives to the area for an ATV ride in July. The ride would be a good way to promote the area, and could be done in conjunction with the July meeting. Larry Jepsen recommended that each county put together a 10-minute presentation to inform the visitors on what they have and need in their county. A motion was made by Blaszkowski and seconded by Moin to pursue having a trail ride and meeting during the last week of July. Motion passed unanimously.

#### Potential impacts of Wisconsin State Budget on recreational programs/trail development

David Moin reported that the impact of the State budget on trails was discussed at the WATVA Annual Meeting, and it was said that the budget should not affect trail funding. The State's promotion of tourism should help trail funding. The increase in the maintenance rate from \$450 to \$600 per mile is still pending.

#### County updates to trail development and maintenance applications and other projects of interest

Ashland County reported problems with expanding the County's ATV system. Landowners in the northern part of the County are not receptive to ATVs, and the south end of the County utilizes a large number of town road routes. Barron County submitted grant applications for 5 different projects. The Cameron to Rice Lake project is moving along. The mayor of Rice Lake wanted to open all city streets to ATVs, but the Chief of Police and the Sheriff convinced him to only open a small number of connector streets. Bayfield no report. Burnett reported an 8-mile trail graveling project will be starting soon. The St. Croix River Bridge on the Gandy Dancer Trail remains posted at 1,000 pounds. They are still waiting for the river to go down so further investigation of the damage can be done. The early estimate from MNDNR is approximately \$1 million to repair the bridge. Chippewa County noted they are working with County Forest and ATV funds to fix a trail. Portions of county roads are being opened as ATV routes with a 10 mile per hour speed limit. The county is also part of the UTV Pilot Program. Douglas County reported on a reroute in Hawthorne that will move the trail off a road and through the woods. A 34' bridge will be required for this reroute. A trails group is working to repair damage from the snow and ice storms that took place over the winter. The Wild Rivers Trail will be repaired when road limits come off. Polk County has finished GPSing all snowmobile trails and will be producing a new map. They also applied for a grant for new limestone for the Gandy Dancer Trail. Rusk County is working on a trail to Sawyer County. Five bridges were put in over the winter. They would like to connect Hawkins to the Flambeau State Forest Trail. Sawyer County Snowmobile & ATV Alliance is working with WATVA to connect Sawyer, Bayfield, and Ashland counties. There is a 5-year plan to build the trail. The U.S. Forest Service would like to turn trail miles over to Sawyer County to maintain. Washburn County no report.

#### Other trail coordination efforts for discussion purposes only

David Moin inquired about opening and closing dates for ATV trail systems in member counties. The possibility of establishing uniform opening and closing dates throughout the region was discussed. Another option would be to find a way to inform the public on the opening and closing dates for each county in the NoRTAC region. This topic will be a future agenda item.

Terry Jordan discussed the use of Transportation Enhancement (TE) funds on the Gandy Dancer Trail. He reminded members not to use TE funds on a trail if there is a possibility that ATV use will be desired in the future, as ATV use is not allowed under the funding conditions.

Next Meeting Date

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

Motion to adjourn by Blaszkowski, seconded by Moin. Approved