

Minutes of the  
Equine Trails Subcommittee  
November 3, 2014

The regular meeting of the Equine Trails Subcommittee (ETS) was called to order by Chair Mike Foote on November 3, 2014, in the Frank Millard Conference Room in Constitution Hall, 525 W. Allegan, Lansing MI 48933. The following committee members were present:

Mike Foote  
Gabrielle Hume-Teleconference  
Sarah Nicholls  
Dick Kleinhardt - Teleconference  
Joni Gleason – Teleconference

The following Department of Natural Resources (DNR) staff was present:

Jim Radabaugh  
Kriss Bennett  
Matt Lincoln  
Earl Flegler  
Maia Turek - Teleconference  
Anna Sylvester – Teleconference

Chair Mike Foote welcomed everyone and reviewed meeting protocol; public and committee/staff introductions followed. It was noted that Joni Gleason and Anna Sylvester were in attendance through teleconference.

**AGENDA**

Approval of the July 14, 2014 Meeting Minutes

**Motion:** Sarah Nicholls made the motion for approval with Gabrielle Hume seconding and approved unanimously.

Approval of the November 3, 2014 Meeting Agenda

**Motion:** Mike Foote moved for approval of today's agenda and Gabrielle Hume seconded. The agenda was approved unanimously.

Discussion of the work list from 2013-2014. How to make a list that is efficient and effective for use by the ETS. Mike introduced a spreadsheet as a starting point on evaluating column status and placing enough columns and titles best used for tracking purposes. The committee will review this spreadsheet and discuss it again at a future meeting to come to conclusion and finalize this project.

Anna Sylvester mentioned that the current project list is just for the parks and does not include trail proposal process or the new campground proposal projects. These projects should be included in this spreadsheet.

Gabrielle Hume asked that the spreadsheet also add columns for date of the approval and whether the project is active. She referred to the project at Waterloo that was a very old whip and was approved a long time ago and never acted upon. Matt Lincoln said it should be under "status," however Mike Foote suggested added a "comment" column to define the status of the project.

Kriss Bennett also suggested that the approval of the project be defined/identified by who is approving the project listed as well.

Mike said he would get together with Matt Lincoln and revise this list and then send it out back to members for their review and comments.

Next Maia Turek by teleconference explained how along with the Recreation Programming for parks, the equestrians can start to think and develop programs that can enhance the education of the public about horses, safety and the trails. Partnerships can develop programs, trips or educational classes at no cost or minimal cost to the public. Maia indicated that the DNR is developing the protocol for insurance needs and how they will utilize them in the program without having to become a "vendor."

Discussion was engaged regarding the laws of riding horses, liability etc. and it seems that there is still work to be done in that regard if trail riding programs are going to be established in the parks and recreation.

Matt Lincoln discussed the updated project and priority list. Different variations of what would be on the list and what needs to be on the list was brought up by various members. Matt noted the suggestions and requests and said they would be worked on.

Jim talked about the review of the Trail Plan. He reviewed what the trail plan included and what Needed to be done next was to develop a scoring criteria that could be used by ETS to grade our campgrounds. This will help us visualize what campgrounds need work or funding for improvements. That led him to have the committee look at the map that was included in the agenda packet for the Designated Equestrian Recreation Opportunities in Michigan. This draft map is the first visual that has been put together to get a grasp of the where the campgrounds and trails are located. It will help to see where projects and connectivity may be valuable or not worth pursuing. This map is still being worked on but is the beginning with all of the data we currently have available.

Next on the agenda was to review ETS Representatives Regions. Dick Kleinhardt asked that we table this topic until the next meeting when members can provide visuals.

Jim Radabaugh moved the next agenda topic of updating on the ETS appointments. He announced the re-appointment of Sarah Nicholls and Mike Foote. The Central Lower Peninsula candidate appointed is Kristie Walls and the Upper Peninsula candidate appointed is Janet Holmstrom.

Joan Duncan and Joni Gleason have asked to remain on the list to receive meeting dates and information on the ETS. They would still like to be active in helping to make progress for equestrian trails in the Upper Peninsula.

Gabrielle Hume presented 4 additional topics for the agenda:

#1. Issues with temporary electric corrals. Difference on the rules and regulations between upper and lower part of the state, no consistency. Land Use Rule language has to be changed. Would like to have a discussion about containment matters and define what the containment system is. She would like the ETS to present something to the DNR.

Anna Sylvester stated that the DNR does not have a definition of a corral and is something the DNR would like to define. It's not a Land Use Order; it is our administrative rules and is passed by the legislature. This gives us the authority to enforce them. If we had a definition of a corral a Land Use Order can be put in place and defined. That might be the way to go with this. so there is clarity in the parks and the enforcement. Currently a corral is not allowed in a state park.

The state administrative rule needs to be brought forward and sent to the ETS members for their review so that it can be edited and revised to be made as a recommendation to DNR.

#2. Camping cost based on amenities. Fees lowered for northern parks with hand pumps, outhouses and no showers the cost has been reduced to \$13.00. Parks in the southern portion of the state will raise their rates to \$18.00 on November 1, 2014. The new fee structure will effect on November 1, 2014 for the lowered rates and the rates increased to \$18.00. Gabrielle would like to investigate this issue further and would like the support of the ETS committee. If a park does not have amenities such as bathrooms, water and showers, the rates should not be the same as those parks that do offer those items to the camper. Jason Fleming would be the DNR contact to obtain fee structures and costs.

#3. Reservation for the Buddy Site/CAMIS Reservation System  
Working with Jason Fleming on the "buddy sites" as the DNR realizes there are changes that need to be made in the reservation system.

#4. Number of Horses:

Camp with a horse. In a designated campground in a state forest campground is no more than 4 horses per camp site. In equestrian campground it is stated as 1 horse per person on the site and since it is restricted to 4 people per site, it still remains at 4 horses per site. Mike Foote stated that more and more people are coming out with the minis and carts with 2 horses per cart. This will create a problem. Anna Sylvester stated that is where the ETS has to make the changes and needs of equestrians and make the recommendations to the DNR.

Dick Kleinhardt. Right to Ride legislation. Make a motion to the Director to have the Right to Ride legislation be revisited. He believes that the ETS needs to make that request to the Director for that to happen. Gabrielle Hume put together a packet over a year. She was to send the packet to Darlene Moore so that those that would like to review that packet can. Kriss Bennett would like a copy of Gabrielle's packet.

Discussion of the start time for 2015 Equine Trails Meetings was confirmed to be 1:15 p.m. as stated on the agenda. Discussion was about efficiently using the time they have to complete the meeting and cover agenda items successfully.

MEETING ADJOURNED 4:30 P.M.