

**Minutes of the
Nonmotorized Advisory Workgroup
February 19, 2015**

The regular meeting of the Nonmotorized Advisory Workgroup (NAW) was called to order by Chair Nancy Krupiarz at 1:35 p.m., Thursday, February 19, 2015, at the Constitution Hall Building, 525 West Allegan, 5rd Floor Lansing MI 48933 and via conference call. The following members were present:

*Nancy Krupiarz, Chair
Andrea Ketchmark*

*Via Phone
Carol Fulsher
Scott Tenbrink*

The following member(s) were absent: *Dennis Hansen*, Emily Meyerson and Mary Bohling

The following Department of Natural Resources (DNR), Parks and Recreation Division (PRD), Liaisons were present: *Kristen Bennett*. *Claire Stevens from MDOT was also present.*

Members of the Public: Bruce Geffen (MMBA), Scott Post (Prein & Newhof, Inc.), Brad Garmon (Michigan Environmental Council).

INTRODUCTION AND WELCOME

Chair Krupiarz called the meeting to order and extended a welcome. Introductions of the NAW members and others followed.

PUBLIC APPEARANCE

There were none.

ACTION ITEMS

Approval of the February 19, 2015 Agenda

MOTION: Ms. Ketchmark moved to approve the February 19, 2015 Agenda of the Nonmotorized Advisory Workgroup. The motion was seconded by Ms. Fulsher and it carried unanimously.

Approval of the September 23, 2015 Meeting Minutes

The last set of minutes did not get distributed prior to the meeting. Cheri Lee will send them out to the committee.

BUSINESS ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION

UPDATES

October 28, 2014 MTAC – Chair Krupiarz

Priority Criteria

Administrative policy on on logging and equestrian trails

Vice Chair of MTAC- Jason Rollings

Pure Michigan Trails

Economic Impact for VASA and TART

US Bike Routes and Non-motorized planning

ADA and Trails

Leadership Academy Project

MTAC meetings will be held in April, July and October in 2015

Ms. Krupiarz updated the committee on the MTAC meeting from October 2014. She outlined what was discussed on each of the topic above. Minutes from the meeting are available at www.michigan.gov/dnrtrails

MRPA Trails summit – Chair Krupiarz

Everyone in attendance at the meeting attended the MRPA Trails Summit. The group felt the comments from Director Creigh and Director Stiedle were very good. The breakouts were very good, but the information on Grants could have been focused more on case studies and Friends Group successes/ problems with the granting and project processes. A survey evaluation of this summit will be going out to all attendees shortly, and MRPA would really like your responses.

Pure Michigan Trail Rules – Kristen Bennett

Ms. Bennett explained that the Pure Michigan bills that were passed last year gave the DNR the program of designating Pure Michigan Trails, Water Trail and Trail Towns. Donna Stine started through the Administrative Rules Process to make this program work and then retired passing it on to Kriss. The committee is tasked with sending Kriss their interpretation of the definition for the State Trail Network as this was very confusing in the rules draft. The committee discussed several other aspects of the rules and Kriss will be taking comments until the end of February. The draft will then go to the AG's office and will follow the rule making process.

OLD BUSINESS

Framework for Trail Funding- Chair Krupiarz

Ms. Krupiarz is going through her research on what other States are doing and will report out at a later date. There is concern with the Road funding bill on the ballot that this is not the time to be making new initiatives on this. The Road ballot initiative is very confusing. Claire Stevens will provide more information to the Committee from MDOT's perspective.

NEW BUSINESS

All Trails Legislative Day, April 28, 2015 - Chair Krupiarz

Ms. Krupiarz passed out the postcards made for Legislative Day 2015. She is working on sponsorships. Ron Olson and Paul Yauk from DNR-PRD will be speaking at the event. They plan on discussing the benefits of trails and why the Trust Fund should not be changed. The goal of this day is to expand the legislators' knowledge on all trails at the same time and show that as a group we are all committed to furthering the goals of trails.

Liability Act Extension for Non-Motorized Trails - Chair Krupiarz

Ms. Krupiarz explained that IMBA is working with the legislature to come up with draft legislation to cover volunteers that are working on all non-motorized trails. They are using the Equine Activity Liability Act as a model. Brindley Bird was going to be present to discuss more, but was not able to attend. Chapters and Friends groups have to pay for volunteer insurance currently and that can be cost prohibitive. Kriss Bennett is going to check with Richard Kennedy to see what coverage Motorized trail users have and Nancy is going to check with Bill Manson.

NAW MEMBER REPORTS

Andrea-

Ms. Ketchmark discussed the NCT and their role with the Iron Belle Trail. They will be working with the DNR to discuss signing, making progress on the gaps and improving the existing trail. They have recently received Federal LWCF funding for the Marquette area and the Lowell area of the NCT trail.

Carol-

Director's orders issue. There is a concern, that when the DNR acquires a new corridor it takes a long time to get a Director's Order to prohibit cars and trucks on that corridor.

Railroad Crossings. For events on the Iron Ore heritage Trail, there is a concern with the railroad crossing. The railroad does not provide schedules, therefore the trail volunteers do not know if there will be a train coming during an event. Claire Stevens will make some inquiries and Scott Tenbrink sent out a couple of webpages on Freight trains to Carol to see if they would be useful for looking at schedules.

Commercial Forest Properties. Trails on commercial forest properties do not benefit from the tax benefits on this land. It is restricted to hunting and fishing and this should be expanded to all recreational interests.

Scott-

Lakelands Trail. Meeting with Department of Corrections and DNR to help plan a route through Jackson County. This piece of trail will be part of the Iron Belle Trail. The city of Jackson has Trust Fund money to complete a portion of the Inter urban trail through

downtown. MDOT will be adding non-motorized access to the bridge over I-94 on Cooper St. that may end up being part of this route.

Nancy-

Sam Lovall is under contract with MTGA for to determining a trail route across Calhoun County. This route has 4 identities: Iron Belle Trail (IBT), North Country Trail (NCT), Great Lake to Lake trail, and the Calhoun County Trail. Meetings are being held in several locations in the county in an effort to get stakeholder consensus in order to formalize the route.

Open Trail Portal. Ms. Krupiarz explained the DNR partnership with Marquette County to create an Open Trail portal to house trail data using the nationally recognized Code for America, a set of database attributes. Marquette County is serving as a demonstration partner because of the volume and diversity of trails located there. After the trails are all coded for the database, partners in Marquette County will develop the website framework for the public to access this data.

Meeting Adjourned at 3:50pm.

2015 Meeting Dates:

May 13

August 12

November 3

1:30 to 4pm Constitution Hall, Lansing