



Non-Motorized Advisory Workgroup (NAW)

Meeting Minutes

Location: DNR Lansing Customer Service Center
4166 Legacy Parkway (lower-level conference room)
Lansing, Michigan 48911

Date: Feb. 2, 2023

Time: 10 a.m. - Noon

Welcome – Roll Call

PRESENT FOR THE NON-MOTORIZED ADVISORY WORKGROUP (NAW)

- Andrea LaFontaine, Chairperson
- Kenny Wawsczyk, Vice Chair
- John Bollman
- Neal Glazebrook
- Jason Aric Jones
- Stephanie Swanberg
- Brent Bolin
- Bob Hendrickson (virtual)
- Lori Hauswirth (virtual)

PRESENT FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES (DNR) STAFF

Tim Novak, Annalisa Centofanti, Scott Slavin, Greg Kinser, Blake Gingrich, Jill Sell, Ron Yesney, Paige Perry, Nicole Hunt, Sage Hegdal, Jeff Kakuk, Scott Pratt, Rob Katona, Doug Rich, Gary Jones, Amy Matisoff, Christopher Stark, Peter Costa, Joshua Pellow, Thomas Bissett,

Others: Jenny Cook, Nathan Miller, Karin Reid Offield, Paul Griffith

Meeting minutes

ACTION ITEMS

Meeting called to order at 10:15 a.m. by committee Chair, Andrea LaFontaine.

Motion was made by Jason Aric Jones to approve the Nov. 17 draft meeting minutes as is and seconded by Kenny Wawsczyk. With all in favor, motion carried.

Motion was made by Brent Bolin to approve the Feb. 2 agenda as is and seconded by John Bollman. With all in favor, motion carried.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Jenny Cook thanks the DNR for fat tire biking season at Silver Lake State Park.

Karin Reid Offield, a Harbor Springs resident and President of Roaring Fork Valley Horse Council, is working with Jenny Cook on the trails safe passing plan. Karin is sharing information on an upcoming American Trails webinar taking place March 30. The safe passing plan will be introduced during this webinar along with facts about horses.

Nathan Miller, Executive Director of Copper Harbor Trails Club is asking the DNR to review trail proposals processes. Nathan is struggling with the long time it is taking for reviews and approvals from the DNR. His project has been halted by the review process and Nathan would like to know how he can we help to clear this up.

*NAW Committee is requesting an update at the April 6 meeting from the DNR.

BUSINESS ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION

NEW COMMITTEE MEMBERS INTRODUCTIONS

- Brent Bolin Executive Director for Top of Michigan Trails Council.
- John Bollman former Director of the Legal Division of the Legislative Service Bureau.
- Bob Hendrickson Chamber of Commerce Greater Ishpeming – Negaunee area.
- Stephanie Swanberg user services librarian at Michigan School of Psychology.

COMMITTEE OFFICER POSITIONS

ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

Andrea LaFontaine inquired within the committee on their interest in serving as a chair or vice chair. Kenny Wawsczyk recently filled the vice chair position and is content with the position. Neal Glazebrook expressed his interest in a chair or vice chair position. Any other interest from the board members should be passed on to Andrea LaFontaine and Annalisa Centofanti (DNR). Follow-up discussions will be held at the Q2 NAW meeting.

RESOLUTION 2023-01 / COMMITTEE VOTE

RECONCILIATION OF STEWARDSHIP COMPLIANCE WITH STATE TRAILS PLAN

Jason Aric Jones presented a resolution (see attached) to the committee.

John Bollman asked the committee to hold on a vote and John would like to see a response from the DNR along with more of an understanding of the "ask".

UPDATES

PURE MI TRAIL TOWNS

APPLICATIONS

Tim Novak, DNR, confirmed applications have been received and DNR staff is working together with staff from PURE MI reviewing them. Trail Towns chosen will be notified by Mid-March and be announced at Governors Conference in April.

John Bollman questioned the criteria needed to become a trail town, expressing Williamston would like to be recognized as a trail town to some level. Tim encouraged the city to fill out an application to be considered.

Jason Aric Jones asked to share the definition what trail designation means (below).

What a [PURE MI Trail Town](#) designation will get you:

1. A letter from the DNR state trails coordinator and a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the DNR and the applicant.
2. A DNR press release announcing the designation.
3. Pure Michigan® incorporates the trail into its maps and marketing material.
4. Signage with branding is placed in appropriate locations by the designee.

TRAIL PLAN IMPLEMENTATION

Jill Sell, DNR, shared a list highlighting 2022 in progress trail plan implementation goals. For 2023, DNR staff have been discussing a plan to hire a consultant to develop and assist with the implementation and execution plan.

Andrea LaFontaine inquired how hiring an outside consultant for execution will work. Greg Kinser, DNR, mentioned internally staff realized there is a need for assistance to stay on track facilitating, organizing, and executing goals, breaking them down into manageable pieces.

Jason Aric Jones expressed it is important for the DNR to stratify all the types of trails and their different needs. Jason feels this approach has not been taken historically.

Jason Aric Jones added natural surface nonmotorized trails falls under park operations or the forest division. Jason suggests to further define the org chart between divisions to open lines of communication for better structure. Greg Kinser mentioned there has been internal discussions to find solutions and ways to improve the communication and integration between trails and operations to bridge those gaps.

ARPA PROJECTS

Tim Novak, DNR, provided information about recent funding. Through the American Rescue Plan Act, \$250M has been funded to Michigan State Parks. Of the \$250K, \$38M has been designated to trails. The majority of the trails funding will be spread across linear trails and pathways. Out of the \$38M, \$3M will be designated to restore natural surface nonmotorized trails within park systems. Internally, there has been a project list developed, which is in the process of approvals.

Bob Hendrickson inquired about the current conditions for state trails overall. Tim Novak said a lot of linear pathways do need work which is why most of the \$38M is going towards them.

2023 MEETING SCHEDULE

The committee discussed future meeting dates and whether they be held in-person or virtually. The consensus was to meet in-person for the October meeting and hold the April and July meeting virtually.

REGIONAL TRAILS SPECIALISTS' HIGHLIGHTS

Sage Hegdal is the new Southeast Lower Peninsula Trails Specialist, replacing Nick Van Bloem.

Paige Perry, Northern Central Lower Peninsula Trails Specialist, provided a presentation highlighting projects in her region.

Rob Katona, Central U.P. Trails Specialist, provided a presentation highlighting projects in his region.

ROUND ROBIN/CLOSING COMMENTS

Jason Aric Jones announced the Michigan Mountain Biking Association (MMBA) has dissolved and is becoming part of League of Michigan Bicyclists (LMB).

ADJOURNMENT

Meeting adjourned at 12:13 p.m.