

**Minutes of the  
Equine Trailways Subcommittee  
November 28, 2012**

Approved February 20, 2013

The regular meeting of the Equine Trailways Subcommittee (ETS) was called to order by Chair Sandra Batie at 10:00 a.m. November 28, 2012. The following members were present:

*Sandra Batie, Chair  
Jan Herrick  
Michael Foote  
Sarah Nicholls*

The following Department of Natural Resources (DNR) staff was present: *Jim Radabaugh, Annamarie Bauer, Paul Curtis, Debbie Jensen*, Parks and Recreation Division (PRD), and Valerie Frawley, Wildlife Division

Public attendees included: *Amy Trotter*, MUCC

**WELCOME and INTRODUCTIONS**

Chair Batie welcomed everyone and gave a brief review of the meeting protocol. Introductions followed. Mr. Curtis, who will retire at the end of the year, introduced his replacement, Ms. Debbie Jensen. Ms. Jensen is a landscape architect and joins the DNR with extensive experience and knowledge.

**AGENDA**

Chair Batie added two items to the Agenda: *Updates on the Trolz Property and Planning Efforts at Rockport State Park*. Chair Batie then asked for approval of the Agenda. There were no other changes and the Agenda was unanimously approved.

**MINUTES**

The minutes of the October 23, 2012 ETS meeting were acknowledged. A correction on the date (typo) was offered. There were no other changes to the minutes as presented. Chair Batie asked for approval of the minutes. A motion was offered by Mr. Mike Foote and supported by Ms. Nicholls to approve the minutes. **Motion to adopt the October 23, 2012 meeting minutes were unanimously carried.**

**PUBLIC APPEARANCE**

There were none.

**BUSINESS ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION**

**Equestrian Plan (Draft)**

Mr. Curtis provided an update on the inventory. The information is a draft and ready to post on the DNR website. There was discussion on the quality and format for the data. Initially it will be posted in a matrix format identifying equine designated trails.

Mr. Curtis provided an update on the Equestrian Chapter of the Statewide Trail Network Plan (Attachment 1).

Ms. Herrick provided information on Goal 6 regarding conflict resolution. There are qualified people who could offer assistance through Alternative Dispute Resolution. She answered a question about whether the DNR could accept the mediated solution and stated that they would have the final say in the decision. There was discussion regarding the cost, noting that the private parties would be responsible for mediation. Chair Batie noted that this process would need to be reviewed and supported by the Michigan Snowmobile and Trails Advisory Council (MSTAC).

Chair Batie shared comments provided by ETS member Mr. Dick Kleinhardt.

The following items were also noted:

Need to have a mechanism to update the plan periodically.

Need reference or discussion regarding restricted fund acquired or managed lands.

Chair Batie offered to draft language.

### **Michigan Snowmobile and Trails Advisory Council Comprehensive Statewide Plan (Draft)**

There was review and general discussion on the overall plan, sub-plans, and the coordination of the various parts. The next MSTAC meeting is scheduled for February 7, 2013. Results from the survey, *Trail User Survey Analysis* (Attachment 2), were distributed.

## **UPDATES**

### **Communication Strategy**

There was discussion on various methods for seeking input, communicating with the equine community, using a distribution list, protecting privacy, the need to keep contact information current, and the possibility of an interface between the ETS and MSTAC.

### **Trolz Property and Lakeland Trail**

Updates provided by Paul Yauk (Attachment 3).

### **Sleepy Hollow State Park**

A new trail connector has been proposed. The regional planner and the manager have signed off; however there are some remaining reviews.

### **Rockport State Park**

A new friends group has been formed and they are looking into the possibility of equestrian trails and campgrounds.

### **Thunder Valley Equestrian Trail**

The DNR has contacted Ms. Joni Gleason about what the equestrian needs are, and who the primary equine contact/representative is.

### **Pigeon River Country State Forest (PRCSF)**

It was decided that there would be no proposed changes to the destination equestrian campground. Satellite camp #1 is under evaluation. Consideration is being given to the potential of a campground location near Stoney Creek.

Chair Batie asked about a conversation with the feds regarding what can take place on lands encumbered by restricted funds. This conversation is ongoing. There has been some discussion about the possibility of lowering the speed limit on some of the roads in the Pigeon River Country State Forest.

### **Iron Ore Heritage Trail (IOHT)**

The IOHT has been a comprehensive planning and development effort to create a multi-use recreational trail. A Recreational Authority has been formed and the group has worked through many of the various user group needs. The trail utilizes a variety of land ownerships including some state rail-trail lands. The group is open to review and discussion regarding potential equine use. Ms. Gleason has been added to the meeting notice list, is forming a Friends group and actively participating in discussions.

### **Equine Use as it Relates to Transportation Grant Funds**

Facilities must have a transportation purpose to eligible for Transportation Grant Funds. The definition of transportation is not necessarily the how (by horse, bicycle, etc.), rather the why. Are people using the facility (and form of transportation) to go from point A to Point B instead of driving (substituted for motor vehicle trips)? This includes trips from home to work, home to school, home to shopping, home to social or recreational activity, etc. Recreational trips may also occur on the same facility.

### **STAFF REPORTS** (by exception)

### **ETS Meeting Schedule for 2013**

The ETS is required to meet four times per year. Dates and representative's availability will be polled prior to setting dates. The next ETS Meeting TBD.

Meeting adjourned.