

DRAFT Minutes
Nonmotorized Advisory Workgroup
June 21, 2019

MEETING ATTENDANCE

NAW Members Present: *John Morrison, Jim DuFresne, Kristen Wiltfang, Jason Jones and Bob Wilson.*

NAW Members Not Present: *Mary Bohling, Andrea Ketchmark and Lori Hauswirth.*

DNR Staff Present: *Mike Morrison, Kasey Mahoney, Jill Sell, Paul Gaberdiel, Jeff Kakuk, Kim Kennedy and Greg Kinser.*

Guests: *Elizabeth Gray-Oakland County Health Division, Kenny Wawsczyk, NCTA Regional Trail Coordinator*

WELCOME

Chair John Morrison called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m. and asked everyone to introduce themselves.

ACTION ITEMS

Bob Wilson moved the approval of the June 21, 2019 Meeting Agenda. It was seconded by Kristen Wiltfang and it carried unanimously.

Bob Wilson moved the approval of the March 15, 2019 Meeting Minutes. It was seconded by Kristen Wiltfang and it carried unanimously.

BUSINESS ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION

MTAC Report out (Bob Wilson)— Bob Wilson shared that MTAC has a new chair, John Matonich. Bob presented the NAW recommendations to MTAC and they were received favorably. MTAC has the opportunity to be one common voice for all trail user groups and can make good recommendations to the legislature and department. The next MTAC meeting is July 10. Bob will discuss the Recreation Passport Opt-Out legislation at the July MTAC meeting.

Trail Related Policy Recommendations (Bob Wilson and John Morrison)— Updates in bold below.

NAW Policy/Programmatic Ideas as of March 15, 2019

Legislative

1. Establish a Water Trails Funding and mini-grant program.

In progress- working on mini-grant program from existing waterways funding.

2. Monitor assorted specific trail-related appropriations items.
3. Advocate for passage of Recreation Passport Opt-out.

In progress

4. Develop a briefing document and social media content/campaigns that can be used to raise awareness of Senate Joint Resolution O, Recreation Passport, etc.

In progress

5. Establish a maintenance endowment fund that might be tied to the Pure Michigan campaign. Provide opportunities for the public/businesses to donate or purchase trail related merchandise and proceeds to go toward endowment fund.

Harder issue but working on it.

6. Extend advocacy work to include outreach to Congress to emphasize the importance of TAP (Transportation Alternatives Program), RTP (Recreational Trails Program), LWCF (Land and Water Conservation Fund), and SRTS (Safe Routes to School) too.

Procedure

7. Consider how we can do more to pull together our non-motorized communities to make sure we are representing their needs. Develop and implement efforts like a statewide Trails Rally and develop a common agenda to move all nonmotorized trails forward. ***Trails Rally set for September 25th***

Internal Agency (DNR) Policy

8. Ensure what nonmotorized groups have a definite role in the drafting of the state trails plan and then a role in its implementation should be a high priority.
9. Monitor rule or legislation that is impacting our trail systems.
10. Ensure that the funding and promotion of natural surface, single track trails such as hiking and backpacking trails are a high priority for the department.

Education and Promotion

11. Create and implement a plan to educate voters on Senate Joint Resolution O.
12. Either create a new economic impact study and user counts for various trail types/water trails (used in grant applications and fundraising) or work with existing and ongoing studies to help demonstrate the economic impact of land and water trails.

TART Trails has a completed economic impact study. St. Clair County has one in progress. The Huron River Watershed Council also has one that's a great example to work from.

13. Assist the DNR Parks and Recreation Division to increase the awareness and funding of state forest pathways. Encourage a private-public partnership to develop a series of geo-reference maps for the system.
14. Emphasize the importance of trails as active transportation corridors that allow us to reduce our use of motorized transportation reducing the wear and tear on our roads.

Bob Wilson also provided an update on SJRO. MTGA is working with the Nature Conservancy to determine messaging for the campaign. The Campaign Committee now has a Treasurer in place for the campaign effort. Polling will be happening to figure out the messaging strategy. The Campaign Committee will be advocating for the passage of SJRO. Bob is also looking for Trust Fund success stories to share.

E-Bike Land Use Order of the Director and signs (Kasey Mahoney, DNR)— Kasey Mahoney provided an update on E-Bikes. The draft Land Use Order of the Director (LUOD) regarding e-bike usage went out for review in February and is not in effect yet. Doug Donnelly, DNR developed a fact sheet with common e-bike information such as law and trail information. The first draft of the fact sheet should be out this week. It will eventually be posted on the DNR website. A sticker for carsonite trail posts has also been developed. Bob Wilson reiterated that the e-bike law is flexible to allow communities to regulate based on what local citizens want. Jason Jones shared that the DTE mountain bike trail has extensive signage saying “No E-bikes” allowed and DNR Conservation Officers have been out patrolling to enforce. Kasey Mahoney and Dakota Hewlett are still working on the hangtag idea for e-bike education and internal discussions are ongoing about e-bike “best practices”.

Statewide Trails Rally in Lansing (Bob Wilson)— The Statewide Trails Rally will be held at the Capitol on Wednesday, September 25. Bob is going to expand the awards this year to recognize both non-motorized and motorized volunteers. Bob will send out a list of categories for the awards.

Bob Wilson left the meeting at 11:00 a.m.

UPDATES

Roundtable Updates –

Lori Hauswirth – Not present. No update.

Bob Wilson – Not present. No update.

Jason Jones – A new Land Use Order of the Director (LUOD) was just approved to allow for enforcement of violators of closed mountain bike trails during erosive conditions.

Kristen Wiltfang – There were two successful MDOT Training Wheels sessions in Ferndale with Toole Design. There is another advanced training being offered in Ferndale on August 1, 2019. For additional information, please visit: https://www.michigan.gov/documents/mdot/TrainingWheelsAnnounce_529107_7.pdf

A number of events took place to celebrate National Trails Day:

- The Paint Creek Trail hosted a Bike safety demonstration in Lake Orion.
- The West Bloomfield Trail dedicated a new kiosk at the Arrowhead Trailhead with ITC
- Clinton River Trail hosted a bike ride in Pontiac led by the manager of American Cycle & Fitness Bike Shop

On June 15th, the Healthy Pontiac We Can coalition and the Sheriff's PAL program hosted the Pontiac Fit Fest and gave away over 300 new and refurbished bicycles to students. The bridge between Dutton and Silverbell Roads is being replaced on the Paint Creek Trail. That portion of the trail is expected to be closed until September. The Michigan Air Line Trail construction is progressing. The contractor intends to pave before the 4th of July holiday, weather dependent.

Andrea Ketchmark – Not present. No update.

Jim DuFresne – Has been busy with georeferenced map training. The Isle Royale maps are done and available.

Mary Bohling – Not present. No update.

John Morrison - West Michigan Trails & Greenways Coalition hosted a Friends' Summit in Ottawa County for our regional friends groups and trail enthusiasts. We had a small program on what WMTGC is, what is happening in the region, and then round table sessions on different topics that participants could move around to and learn or share information. Response was incredibly positive with excitement for friends groups to host future summits, with the next one being planned for the Kalamazoo area in September. WMTGC hosted its first "Trail Mixer" this week as a fundraiser and chance to share our mission to new people. Again, received incredibly well and was a very successful fundraiser for the coalition. Fundraising efforts are getting organized around the Fred Meijer White Pine Trail to secure the remaining \$6 million to go with the state appropriated \$3 million to pave the final 29 miles of this important West Michigan Trail. Have also secured numerous grants toward the way finding/signage guide for the MDOT Grand Region and will be putting an RFP out for a consultant in the near future to complete this project. Reminder that MATAG (Mid America Trails And Greenways) conference will be in Grand Rapids August 30 - Sept. 2, 2020, representing the nine states of the MATAG region.

Pure Michigan Trails & Trail Towns Designation Update – Mike Morrison, DNR Water Trails Coordinator, provided an update on the Pure Michigan Trails & Trail Town program. The applications for 2019 are now posted on the DNR website. The deadline to apply is September 28, 2019. New sign logos are out through Pure Michigan. Mike asked committee members to let him know if you know of communities that are interested in applying. Mike reported that he's working with a couple communities to apply to become state designated water trails.

State Trails Plan Update – Jill Sell, DNR SW Trails Specialist, gave an update on the State Trails Plan update. The final RFP documents are on their way to Purchasing. The RFP should be posted in the next couple weeks with a tentative October kick-off meeting with the chosen consultant. The Trail Plan update process is expected to take about 18-20 months and will include ample opportunities for workgroup and public input.

NEW BUSINESS

None.

PUBLIC APPEARANCE

There was no public comment at this time.

NEXT AGENDA

Next meeting is a conference call scheduled for August 16, 2019 at 10am.

Chairman John Morrison asked members to send Jill Sell their roundtable updates.

With no further business, the meeting adjourned at 11:30 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted by:
Jill Sell