

Michigan Trails Advisory Council Meeting Minutes - Final

Wednesday, July 10, 2019

I. Call to order

Chairman John Matonich called to order the regular meeting of the Michigan Trails Advisory Council Meeting at 10:00 A.M. on Wednesday, July 10, 2019 at Ralph A. MacMullan Conference Center.

II. Introduction of Attendees

- A. Members that were present: Bob Wilson, John Matonich, Jenny Cook, Jesse Adler, PJ McCaughn, and Robert Wilson. Members that joined via telephone were Steven Davis, Jason Rolling, and Ron Yesney.
- B. The following Department of Natural Resources (DNR) staff present were: Mike Morrison, Kriss Bennett, Anna Sylvester, John Morey, Paul Yauk, Jessica Holley and Greg Kinser.
- C. Guests: Kristen Thrall (USDA Forest Service), Laura Underhill (National Park Service), Ron Corbett (MI Snowmobile Association), Bill Manson (MI Snowmobile Association), Jim Kelts (MI Snowmobile Association), Cash Cook (Village of Kalkaska), Ray Wlosinski (St. Helen Snow packers/Dirt packers) and Jay Simmons (concerned guest)

III. Approval of minutes from last meeting

- A. Approval of the April 17, 2019 Meeting Minutes
- B. Motion to allow the Chairmen to take agenda items out of order
- C. Requests for additional Agenda items: Change of Jesse Adler's name on previous Meeting Minutes
- D. Approval of the July 10, 2019 Meeting Agenda

IV. Open issues

- a) Recreation Passport OPT OUT Update

Paul Yauk commented that we need to promote our parks and the Parks Pass to bring in more people in our parks. Garry Howell also commented local parks can apply for money (15%) and state parks (85%) to update their parks.

- b) Water Trail Update

I. Michigan Water Trails Day

This event will be held statewide August 19, 2019. Mike Morrison has mentioned the MI DNR website and where to find the water trails. Mike had also mentioned there are state designated trails and some non designated trails. Mr. Morrison had mentioned that he plans to work to with the community and organizations.

II. Legislative Kayak Outing

Several members on the board have discussed and mentioned multiple times safety concerns when kayaking in open waters especially rougher waters. Couple members have suggested safety training and classes to those who would sign up to help decrease future incidents to adults and also younger individuals. One MI DNR individual had mentioned that it would be possible to reach out to local organizations and offer these classes.

V. New business

- a) Mountain Biking Day resolution
- b) National Hike Day Legislative Hike
- c) Michigander Ride
- d) Great Lake to Lake Trails Route One Ride
- e) Natural Surface Trails in State Parks

VI. Public Appearance

Jay Simmons from St. Helen approached and commented about the ORV trail that has high traffic use and that the trail needs much needed maintenance and repair. Ray Wlosinski also from St. Helen has approached had furthered commented that their equipment is starting to show wear and tear from years of use. Paul Yauk has made a comment of seeking better equipment by talking to one of their contacts that could help them find better equipment.

VII. Upcoming Meeting Dates

September 11, 2019 located at Marquette; the venue has yet to be determined at this time in conjunction with the NRC meeting on September 12, 2019.

VIII. Upcoming Events

- ~~A. Free ORV weekend Statewide, August 6 & 7, 2019~~
- ~~B. Michigan Water Trails Day Statewide, August 19, 2019~~
- C. Trails Week- Statewide, September 22-29, 2019
- D. Trails Rally-Statewide, Capital Lawn-Lansing, Michigan, September 25, 2019 from 8AM to 2PM
- E. Mid-America Trails-Greenways Conference, Grand Rapids, Michigan, August 30-September of 2020