

**Minutes  
Nonmotorized Advisory Workgroup  
August 9, 2017**

NAW members present: Nancy Krupiarz, John Morrison, Kristen Wiltfang, Mary Bohling, Carol Fulsher, Melissa Werkman and Jim DuFresne. Absent: Andrea Ketchmark.

DNR-PRD staff: Nikki Van Bloem, Barbara Graves, Kriss Bennett, Emily Meyerson, Paul Gaberdiel and Nicole Toman.

Guests: Bob Wilson, MTGA; David Engelhardt, EMCOG; Brian Beauchamp, TART Trails.

### **ACTION ITEMS**

Melissa Werkman moved to approve the August 9, 2017 meeting agenda. Mary Bohling seconded and it was supported unanimously.

Melissa Werkman moved to approve the May 16, 2017 meeting minutes. Kristen Wiltfang seconded and it was supported unanimously.

### **BUSINESS ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION**

### **UPDATES**

- P.A. 288 of 2016 – Nikki Van Bloem reported that staff reviewed all public comments and made changes accordingly. Emily Meyerson said the recommendations will go live and be available for public comment again. The department will then present a Land Use Order of the Director for information at the Natural Resources Commission meeting in October. The timeline and other information are available at [www.michigan.gov/forestroads](http://www.michigan.gov/forestroads).
- Pure Michigan Trails Administrative Rules – Nicole Toman. Kirk Lapham submitted the proposed Administrative Rules to the Office of Regulatory Reform (ORR) and they were approved. The required public hearings to review and provide comment on the proposed rules are: tonight from 6 p.m. – 8:00 p.m. at the Demmer Sports Center in Lansing, and from 5:30 p.m. – 7:30 p.m. at Jaye's in Gaylord on 8/22/17. Individuals can also provide written comment to Kirk Lapham at [laphamk1@michigan.gov](mailto:laphamk1@michigan.gov). The department will send the final rules back to ORR for review and final approval. ORR will file them with the Office of the Great Seal. The Department then confirms that it is their intent to adopt them and submit the Certificate of Adoption to ORR where they would then go into effect.

## OLD BUSINESS

- Trail Maintenance Funding – Bob Wilson and others have been working on putting together something for trails in the natural resources bond proposal. They hope to draft some bills this fall and look at November for a vote in the legislature. He can provide an update at a special meeting of the workgroup, if need be.

## NEW BUSINESS

- Roundtable Updates
  - Nancy Krupiarz – Her term ends next January and she asked members to think about who they would like to see as the new NAW chair and bring their suggestions to the November meeting. It will be on the November agenda.

The Boyne to Charlevoix trail is getting a segment paved right now. It should be done within the next few weeks.

- Kristen Wiltfang - The City of Pontiac has acquired a 4.5 mile stretch of former railroad; hopefully bringing it closer to connecting the Clinton River Trail in downtown Pontiac. The Michigan Airline Trail in Commerce, Wixom, and Walled Lake has an RFP out right now to do design engineering work for their section of trail. The bridge over M-5 is still on track for a letting this fall and a completed construction hopefully this time next year. She has a meeting this afternoon with Brandon Township and their trail subcommittee; hopefully coming up with some recommendations to the township for the Iron Belle Trail section. The Clinton River Trail just ordered some mile markers.
- Carol Fulsher – They had a millage that was approved at 65% for the Iron Ore Heritage Trail. Several NAW members have terms that expire on January 1, 2018. She does not have time anymore and she will not be asking for reappointment. The next meeting they should decide who wants to stay on the committee.
- Bob suggested a proposed bill to provide liability protection for trail managers that build and operate trails according to a set of developed standards; mirroring the protection farmers are given. He has spoken to Anna Mooney already. Nikki will bring Nicole Toman into the conversation.
- John Morrison - MDOT's Grand Region Non-motorized Plan for the region is just about complete. They are working with a few MPOs for Grand Rapids, Holland, and Muskegon to create a signage system for the region. There is a lot of

positive feedback. The White Pine is slowly moving forward. Possible construction this fall on Leroy to Reed City section (11.8 miles). There is an old culvert that needs replacement, but they will need almost \$750,000. The next 29 miles between Big Rapids and Sand Lake is probably \$8.5 million. It will require a lot of fund raising efforts. The IntraUrban trail between Grand Rapids and Kalamazoo has some momentum. Public meetings are being held and they are getting a lot of positive feedback. They should have a plan in place by the end of this year. They are working with a consulting firm on a new strategic plan. They will be announcing what comes out of that at their October 12 annual meeting at Frederick Meijer Gardens.

- Bob Wilson reported there are three E-bike bills in the Outdoor Recreation Committee. Holly has two of them and she's committed to, as soon as they are back in September, to do a hearing on the bills and report the bills out the following week.
- Bob organized a kayak trip with several legislators, Marcy Hamilton from the Southwest Michigan Planning Commission, Harry Burkholder from their board, and a number of people from the local media. It will be a two-hour trip on the Paw Paw River from Watervliet to Coloma. Afterwards they are gathering to talk about water trails. Harry is going to give an overview and Marcy is going to talk about work done in Southwest Michigan; a chance to promote water trails. Two host organizations, the Michigan Restaurant Association and the National Federation of Independent Businessmen are underwriting the entire cost of the trip and they have committed to doing it every year on a different body of water to emphasize the expanding water trail system.
- Mary Bohling – There are 43 different water trails in the state of Michigan that are now on [www.michiganwatertrails.org](http://www.michiganwatertrails.org), managed by Land Information Access Association. They are contacted frequently by people who want to add more water trails. It has turned into a great, one-stop shop as it was intended to be. Michigan Sea Grant – they have been invited to do a proposal for an aquatic invasive species program for water trails. Their proposal is going to be training a group of volunteer stewards on the water trails around the state to identify invasive species and to notify the proper authorities when they see new invasive species. The full proposal is due in September. It is federal funding that goes through the Office of the Great Lakes.
- Melissa Werkman – MMBA has been doing some considerable reorganization this summer. They will be totally overhauling their board in the next eight months and moving all of their chapter leaders off of their board of directors and into a chapter advisory council, and then making room for community leaders,

stakeholders, other user groups, retailers, to join their board of directors so they can have a more statewide view and support in moving the organization forward. They have just built a new membership platform that runs off of their own hosted platform as opposed to the IMBA. They are bringing a 12<sup>th</sup> chapter on; Central Michigan Mountain Biking Association. It will encompass Isabella, Midland, and Clare Counties. They have some significant potential trail projects happening there; one on the Chippewa Land Conservancy.

- Jim DuFresne – they just finished producing a map for the Porcupine Mountains State Park and it came out really nice. They could see a big need for the area for high quality maps. Isle Royal has a nice one also. Their philosophy is promoting the trails with good maps. If any organization needs a detailed map made, they are always there to do that. They were approached by Meridian Township and they just GPSd their trails. [www.michigantrailmaps.com](http://www.michigantrailmaps.com)
- Kriss Bennett – A 1 ½ mile section of the Iron Belle was recently completed near North Higgins Lake State Park. Next year they will start to work their way north along the Cradle of Forestry Trail and continue to work Gaylord and south.

They received \$5 million from the general fund for next fiscal year and are working with the Michigan Fitness Foundation to leverage that money as well as seek private funding.

She spoke at the NCTA meeting last week about the Iron Belle and the collaboration efforts. She thinks it was informative to the Michigan chapters because they were unsure exactly what that meant to the North Country Trail.

They are currently overhauling the online map for the Iron Belle Trail to more clearly show finished and non-finished segments.

Bob Jacquart from Stormy Kromer and about 15 others are doing a promotional ride across the Upper Peninsula August 15 – 19. They are starting in Ironwood at the zero-dot-zero of the Iron Belle and riding all the way to St. Ignace. They will have some strategic stops, including one in Escanaba during the U.P. state fair. Details will be on the Iron Belle Facebook page.

- Bob Wilson – Michigan Trails Week is September 24 – September 30 this year. He worked with MLive's writer Julie Hoogland to use that week to celebrate the trails in our state through a Name Your Favorite Trail contest. People will call, write, or email in their suggested trails. At end of week or following week, results will be announced of the favorite trail in Michigan.

- Emily Meyerson said there is major bridge work being done on the I-75 near Grayling on the Wayne C. Koppa Trail. It took perseverance of the Grayling bike group who has been pushing for the bridge for about 20 years and it is finally going in.
- Bob announced a memorial ride in Bill Olson's honor on Saturday, Sep 16. They will present a plaque in his honor on the Betsy Valley Trail. Emily said the celebration will be at 1:00 at the Beulah Trailhead.

Meeting adjourned.