

**Minutes
Nonmotorized Advisory Workgroup
November 16, 2018**

NAW members present: Chairman John Morrison, Andrea Ketchmark, Kristen Wiltfang, Melissa Werkman, Mary Bohling, Lori Hauswirth, Bob Wilson and Jim DuFresne.

DNR Staff present: Nikki Van Bloem, Jill Sell, Barbara Graves, Dakota Hewlett, Michael Morrison and Carter Helinski.

GUESTS

Katie Alexander, Safe Routes, Safe Schools; Claire Stevens, MDOT.

WELCOME

Chair John Morrison called the meeting to order at 9:32 a.m. and asked everyone to introduce themselves. Jill Sell introduced herself as the new Trails Specialist in Parks and Recreation. Her office is at the Plainwell office and she will cover the southwest lower portion of the state while Nikki Van Bloem covers the southeast lower portion.

ACTION ITEMS

Mary Bohling moved the approval of the November 16 meeting agenda. It was seconded by Bob Wilson and it carried unanimously.

Bob Wilson moved the approval of the August 14, 2018 meeting minutes. It was seconded by Mary Bohling and it carried unanimously.

BUSINESS ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION

NAW Reporting Process – The workgroup agreed there needed to be a process on how they should report out to MTAC. Bob produced the attached.

2019 NAW Meeting Dates - The workgroup agreed to meet on January 30 after the January 29 Trails Summit in Kalamazoo, or sometime during the Summit as a short meeting, and then the third Fridays of March, June, August, and November at 10:00 a.m. Bob suggested keeping the meetings efficient and effective. Andrea reminded them that these are public meetings and the public has to have access to them. Bob will check to see if there is enough time on January 29 to fit in a NAW meeting during the Summit.

NAW Member Terms – Melissa will send notice to Paul Yauk, after she knows her new work schedule, to let the department know if she wishes to continue on NAW. Jim DuFresne, John Morrison, and Kristin Wiltfang expressed their wish to be renewed.

Mary Bohling made a motion to support the renewal of terms for Melissa, Jim, John, and Kristin. Andrea Ketchmark seconded and it passed unanimously.

New NAW Chair – John Morrison agreed to stay on as Chair for another year and Bob Wilson agreed to be Vice Chair and then eventually take over as Chair.

Mary Bohling made a motion that Bob Wilson will take over as Chair of the NAW after a year. Kristin supported and the motion carried.

UPDATES

Roundtable Updates:

Lori Hausworth - A number of trails are already being groomed in the U.P. Looks like snow may be here to stay. They are working on a number of land access projects in Marquette area affecting large tracts of land. More details are forthcoming.

Melissa Werkman - The MMBA co-hosted the 1st Annual MTB State Summit in Grand Rapids, Michigan November 6-8th. Designed for mountain biking organization leaders, the Summit was designed as an opportunity to share best practices, resources and innovations. It was attended by leaders from around the US and Canada, as well as stakeholder groups such as the MDNR, youth cycling programs and CVBs. Topics covered included diversifying the sport, board governance, advocacy through marketing, trail tools and membership programs.

Kristen Wiltfang - The Clinton River Trail is celebrating their 15th Anniversary in 2019. They are working on a calendar of events for the year and will have programming along the trail in each of the five cities. She will pass along the final schedule of events when it becomes available. The Paint Creek Trail has hired Melissa Ford as their new trail manager. The Michigan Air Line Trail has submitted final plans to MDOT for construction. February 1, 2019 is the anticipated letting date. The Great Lake-to-Lake Route 1 Trail Summit #3 was held in Pontiac and had a trail ride in the morning followed by lunch and trail related presentations in the afternoon.

Andrea Ketchmark - The North Country Trail Association is working on easement and land acquisition deals across the state. The National Park Service just purchased the first property for the trail here in Michigan. The NPS Superintendent for the Trail is retiring. Their Annual Celebration is coming up in Shanty Creek May 2-5 2019. Always looking for volunteers to help plan.

Jim DuFresne – There was an announcement on the hiking forums a few months ago that they were stripping the forum of all comments on the Manistee River Trail because of the number of people using it and the trash left behind that was getting overwhelming. They came in and wrote that they think it is true, but the lack of knowledge was not the best way to regulate the number of people on a trail. They said that if that is the case then they need to implement a payment system or a charge and somehow regulate it.

Mary Bohling – Several water trail managers around the state have expressed an interest in submitting an application for State Water Trail Designation. They really appreciate the deadline being extended to Nov 30, 2018. Mary will be sending out an email today to all water trail managers on her distribution list reminding everyone of the

upcoming deadline. Quiet Water Symposium – Many of their water trails will be represented at the symposium March 2, 2019 at Michigan State University in East Lansing. Exhibitor space is still available. <https://10times.com/quiet-water-symposium-east-lansing>.

John Morrison - WMTGC is considering hosting the 2020 MATAG Conference (Mid America Trails and Greenways) in Grand Rapids. MATAG represents 9 states including, Michigan, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kentucky, Minnesota, Missouri, Ohio, and Wisconsin. The conference is typically Sunday through Wednesday including pre-conference field trip, 20 sessions, keynotes, awards, State of the States, and post-conference intensive workshops. They are putting together regional and local committees now. WMTGC is hiring a part-time development coordinator, the posting going out next week. Roger Sabine, long-time Director of Kent County Parks has retired.

Legislative Update – Bob Wilson reported that two initiatives were to take place in lame duck: SJR O, which would provide millions of more dollars for development of recreational parks and trails by changing the cap in the Trust Fund, and removing the opt-in from the Recreation Passport to opt-out and increasing the cap on local recreational grants.

Great Lake to Lake Trail - Route One is progressing well with the inaugural ride set for September 12-19. Third GLTL summit held in Pontiac in November and fourth coming up in Port Huron. Website to be launched in January. Our new Trail Ambassador, Andrea LaFontaine is building relationships along the whole corridor.

Iron Belle Trail Update – Dakota Hewlett said they are 69 ½ percent complete. They have 38 of the mini grants ongoing with projects. In 2016 they were given \$5M from the G/F for development that they are granting out in a challenge grant that requires matching money. So far they have 15, totaling \$14.1M, leveraging \$8.4M in match. That leaves them \$800K left to grant to be spent at the end of fiscal year 2018. The fundraising committee is actively making proposals and requests to foundations and individuals and potential donors trying to get private funds. They have receipted \$6M in commitment so far, which is a great start. The Ralph C. Wilson Jr. Foundation made an announcement last month of \$100M last month to support parks and trail in southeast Michigan; a big partnership for the Iron Belle.

Michael Morrison reported that the state Water Trail Designation program applications were sent out. The deadline has been extended to the end of the month in hopes of getting more applications.

Pure Michigan Trails & Trail Towns Designation Update – Michael Morrison reported that applications were due at the beginning of the month and they received about 12 between trails and trail towns. They are scheduled for review the beginning of December.

Nikki asked members to send the administrative assistant their roundtable updates.

With no further business, the meeting adjourned at 11:32 a.m.

NAW and MTAC Interaction and flow of information Process:

1. Each NAW agenda will contain a list of issues for discussion at each meeting. All members can put agenda items up for discussion.
2. Issues are then discussed with the option of recommendation made by a majority of members for the issues to be taken to MTAC with a specific policy position from NAW. Priorities can be assigned.
3. The NAW Representative on MTAC then takes those specific issues and policy positions and educates and advocates for that position before MTAC. Discussion at MTAC ensues and any resolution or response is then taken back to NAW for review and further discussion. Can result in an ongoing discussion back and forth.
4. Each NAW item can be prioritized for MTAC review and discussion in this way.
5. MTAC NAW representative will report out on MTAC meeting as a standing item on the NAW agenda.
6. For issues arising at MTAC where input from non-motorized groups is needed, MTAC NAW representative will notify NAW members asap so that they may confer with their constituents. This may be done through email or at NAW meetings, depending on time sensitive nature of the request. MTAC NAW representative will then convey responses back to MTAC.