

**Minutes
Nonmotorized Advisory Workgroup
March 15, 2019**

MEETING ATTENDANCE

NAW Members Present: Chairman John Morrison, Bob Wilson, Jim DuFresne, Mary Bohling, Kristen Wiltfang, Andrea Ketchmark

DNR Staff Present: Nikki Van Bloem, Mike Morrison, Jill Sell, Dakota Hewlett, Kasey Mahoney, Rob Katona, Jeff Kakuk

Guests: Taylor Reynolds – Orion Township Pathways Committee; Kenny Wawsczyk – NCTA Regional Trail Coordinator; Katie Alexander – Director of Safe Routes to School

WELCOME

Chair John Morrison called the meeting to order at 10:03 a.m. and asked everyone to introduce themselves.

PUBLIC APPEARANCE

There was no public comment at this time.

ACTION ITEMS

Bob Wilson moved the approval of the March 15, 2019 Meeting Agenda. It was seconded by Andrea Ketchmark and it carried unanimously.

Bob Wilson moved the approval of the January 18, 2019 Meeting Minutes. It was seconded by Mary Bohling and it carried unanimously.

BUSINESS ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION

NAW Report to MTAC – Bob Wilson reported that he was reappointed to MTAC as the non-motorized trail representative. The next MTAC meeting is on April 17, 2019. There is an opportunity to have a stronger connection with MTAC and the executive branch activities and policies. We can help bring awareness and steer the direction of the Governor's Office. Bob will be taking recommendations from today's meeting to the next MTAC meeting. Nikki Van Bloem reported that MTAC has a new chair, the April 17th meeting will be his first as chair.

Trail Related Policy Recommendations – Bob Wilson explained that we are wanting to provide more direction from NAW to MTAC in the form of specific policy and programmatic recommendations. Bob will present the priorities to MTAC. MTAC communicates directly with the Governor's Office.

Andrea Ketchmark suggested categorizing the list to help consolidate and organize the various ideas.

Bob Wilson will present the revised list of policy ideas at the April 17th MTAC meeting.

Action Item: John and Bob will consolidate and reorganize list of policy ideas to send back out to the group for review.

State Trails Plan Timeline Update (*moved agenda order at the time with no objection*) – Nikki Van Bloem provided an update on the State Trails Plan. DNR Trails Staff has been meeting internally to develop a process for the plan, requirements for the Request for Proposal and to research plans from other states and DNR Divisions. Staff is also looking into any legislative requirements that need to be met. Public input and committee input will be extremely important throughout the entire process. Nikki will be presenting the plan timeline to DNR Section Chiefs in early April, it will then be presented at the April 17th MTAC meeting. The Request for Proposal timing is still being worked out. The goal is to start the public outreach portion of the plan by the end of summer/early fall. Several members commented that it would be helpful to have a diagram of the planning process.

NEW BUSINESS

Discuss SJR O – Bob Wilson provided an update on SJR O. If SJR O passes in November 2020 it will become an amendment to Michigan's constitution. SJR O allows for more development funds (up to 75%) to be available from the MDNR Trust Fund. There is a campaign committee that is currently fundraising for promotion and education surrounding SJR O. Education vs. advocacy was discussed. We can serve as an educational tool to talk about the importance of the Trust Fund in the work that we do. The campaign committee will be distributing materials designed to provide an educational message in the coming months.

E-Bike Land Use Order of the Director and signs – Kasey Mahoney from the DNR introduced herself as the Cadillac District Supervisor. Dakota Hewlett introduced himself as the DNR's Iron Belle Trail Coordinator. Kasey and Dakota explained that there is an internal DNR workgroup focused on discussing various topics surrounding E-Bike usage on state land. The workgroup will help form recommendations and messaging for the Department.

Dakota explained that they are working to come up with a consistent, statewide signage plan to help educate and inform trail users about E-Bike usage on state land. Various

signs have already been installed at some locations around the state by different Friends groups.

Andrea Ketchmark suggested providing some signage examples for the group to review and provide comments on. She also asked if anyone has gone through the process of opting out of allowing E-Bikes. Dakota responded that no DNR managed trail has gone through the opt-in/opt-out process.

Dakota also discussed the idea of targeting bike shops to provide education on E-Bike usage. The idea of hangtags on E-Bikes that are for sale at bike shops was discussed. Several members thought this was a good idea.

Kristen Wiltfang shared that the Paint Creek Trail system went through the public process to not allow Class 3 E-Bikes. No formal enforcement is happening so education is much more important than rule signage.

Andrea Ketchmark feels that a public information campaign is very important.

John Morrison expressed interest in being included in future E-Bike workgroup discussions and information.

Kasey Mahoney and Dakota Hewlett will send out examples of signage to the group along with some links containing E-Bike information.

Statewide Trails Rally in Lansing – Bob Wilson shared that he has reserved the South Lawn, Steps and Rotunda of the Michigan State Capitol building for a Statewide Trails Rally on Wednesday, September 25th from 9 a.m. until 2 p.m. The Rally will be used to present key issues to legislators and the public. Bob is also working on putting together a luncheon with members of the legislature and filling in the agenda for the day. He asked for support from other non-motorized groups to make this event a success.

Mary Bohling asked if there was event information available that she distribute to her groups. Water trail groups are supportive of this idea.

Bob Wilson also discussed that there will be costs involved and that he is already working with some sponsors but is still looking for additional sponsors.

Bob Wilson requested a motion to move forward with planning the Statewide Trails Rally. Mary Bohling moved to support Bob Wilson moving forward with planning the Statewide Trails Rally. It was seconded by Andrea Ketchmark and it carried unanimously.

Bob Wilson will work on putting together details for the event to share with NAW and MTAC. He will also present information about the Trails Rally at the March 27th Equine Trails Subcommittee Meeting.

UPDATES

Roundtable Updates –

Lori Hauswirth – Not present. No update.

Bob Wilson – In Lowell on June 7 in celebration of National Trails Day there will be a legislative hike on the North Country Trail. June 22 is Michigan Mountain Biking Day. August 19 is Michigan Water Trails Day, there will be a legislative kayak event on The Blueways of St. Clair.

Jason Jones – Not present. No update.

Kristen Wiltfang – The Clinton River Trail continues to celebrate their 15th anniversary and have had some good local press on the events that they have held so far. They received a generous \$500 donation from Hanson's Running Shop. Depending on the weather, the Michigan Air Line Trail construction is scheduled to begin on Monday, March 19th. The Trail Council is looking forward to having the inaugural Great Lake to Lake Trail Route 1 ride pass through the area in September. Oakland County Planning is assisting the City of Pontiac with their 5-Year Parks and Recreation Master Plan. Once the plan is complete, the City will begin to seek funding to make trail improvements to make connections with surrounding trails, parks, neighborhoods and the downtown.

Andrea Ketchmark – The North Country Trail Association annual celebration is coming up the first weekend in May at Shanty Creek. Please join us. <http://nctacelebration.org/>. The North Country Trail community is celebrating the passage of the John Dingell Conservation, Management and Recreation Act, which permanently reauthorized the Land and Water Conservation Fund and changed the route for the NCT in Minnesota and Vermont. <https://www.mlive.com/news/ann-arbor/2019/03/trump-signs-major-land-conservation-act-in-honor-of-john-dingell.html>.

Jim DuFresne – Attended the Quiet Water Symposium, had a great turnout. Recent article written about the closure of Valley View Trail in Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore received a lot of feedback.

Mary Bohling – Attended the Quiet Water Symposium, which will now be called the Quiet Adventure Symposium. Sea Grant Michigan will host twelve, one-day MI Paddle Stewards workshops around the state teaching paddlers about protecting water trails from aquatic invasive species.

John Morrison – WMTGC has hired a Development Coordinator to help with fundraising. WMTGC is hosting their first-ever West Michigan Friends' Summit on Saturday, March 23rd from 8:15-11:15 a.m. at Ottawa County Parks. MATAG (Mid America Trails and Greenways) Conference will be held in Grand Rapids August 30-September 2, 2020 at the Amway Grand Plaza Hotel. MATAG covers nine states

around Michigan, including Ohio, Indiana, Illinois, Kentucky, Wisconsin, Iowa, Minnesota and Missouri. There will be a 200-mile relay running event on the White Pine Trail this year. The White Pine Trail received a \$3 million appropriation and WMTGC is working on raising the additional \$6 million to complete the last 29 miles.

Pure Michigan Trails & Trail Towns Designation Update – Mike Morrison, DNR Water Trails Coordinator, provided an update on the Pure Michigan Trails and Trail Towns Designation announcement. Announcements are on hold until coordination with Pure Michigan and the Governor's office is complete. Mike has also been meeting with various communities about water trails and trail town designation applications. The applications for Water Trails, Pure Michigan Trails and Trail Towns are being revised for 2019.

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

With no further business, the meeting adjourned at 11:36 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted by:
Jill Sell