

# MINUTES

## NONMOTORIZED ADVISORY WORKGROUP (NAW)

**Friday, August 16, 2019**

10:00am – 12:00pm

*TELECONFERENCE*

### PRESENT FOR THE NAW ADVISORY WORKGROUP

John Morrison, Chair

Mary Bolling

Andrea Ketchmark

Kristin Wiltfang

Jason Jones

### ABSENT

Jim Dufresne

Lori Hauswirth

Bob Wilson

### DNR STAFF PRESENT

Nikki Van Bloem

Greg Kinser

Scott Slavin

Jeff Kakuk

Megan Lemarbe

Dakota Hewlett

Doug Donnelly

Michael Morrison

Anna Centofanti

Kasey Mahoney

### OTHERS PRESENT

Elizabeth Gray, Oakland County Health Division

### **WELCOME / ACTION ITEMS**

Chair John Morrison called the meeting to order at 10:08 a.m. and asked everyone to introduce themselves. Anna Centofanti introduced herself as the new Trails Administrative Assistant, Parks and Recreation. John Morrison motioned for approval of adding agenda item Shore-to-Shore Update, Andrea Ketchmark approved with Mary Bolling as second to approve, everyone else agreed in favor. John Morrison motioned for approval of the June 21 meeting minutes, Jason Jones approved motion with Kristin Wiltfang to second, everyone else agreed in favor.

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### **BUSINESS ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION**

#### ***BOB WILSON***

MTAC Report-: I made another pitch for more attention and more funding for trails within state parks based on Jason Jones continued concerns in those areas. And Paul Yauk took that to heart along with several others at the meeting that more focus will be made in those areas and potentially even more funding.

I gave an update on the Michigan mountain biking day resolution that was adopted by the house of representatives. We also are edging towards our Michigan water trails day on August 19 and our third annual legislative kayak outing is going well with both state and federal legislators attending.

Paul Yauk mentioned again that were edging towards the start of the process for the state trail master plan. And commented that it will be an all-inclusive comprehensive process. The chair John Matonich also echoes that same philosophy. We all agreed that with a great advisory Council working together that this will likely be the best master trail plan ever.

#### ***MEGAN LEMARBE***

##### **RIF**

DNR Trails Section grant programs have been removed from the website and brochures because they are not competitive grant programs that are reviewed and scored. NR does not have a budget allocated to manage non-motorized trails, RIF dollars are used, due to all the miles of non-motorized trails SOM owns. Based on a percentage of gas tax dollars, the appropriation is set annually for amount granted. Need to follow state guidelines to match local and federal grants. Grant funds support trails maintenance and projects. A25% set aside for ORV restoration is allocated when dollars are granted to ORV projects only. Partner matches are granted to projects. Cycle of RIF grants was presented via PowerPoint. October 1 grant funds are released. Example of grant funds spent in FY19 was broken down.

##### **RTP**

Federal money comes from Federal Highway Administration ((FHWA) as a set aside of the Transportation Alternative's Program (TAP). \$2.8M fiscal 2020 yr. Funds that are unobligated and have 3 years to carry-over. Obligated funds will not lapse within reason. SOM spending authority 3.9M of RTP per year allows unobligated balances to be used in addition to the annual apportionment. Can be used for planning, engineering, projects. It is an 18-month obligation process and needs to be well thought out with the requirements of using federal funds. Megan has responsibility to report fund usage to advisory board. RTP project funding is based upon a 30/30/40 requirement. Forty percent of funding is allocated to "Diversified" projects, meaning one or more trail uses whether it is two or more non-motorized, two or more motorized, or a combination of motorized and non-motorized. Thirty percent of funding is allocated to non-motorized project and thirty percent to motorized projects. Seven percent of the annual appropriation can be used for administration of the Recreational Trails Program and up to five percent for safety education. Changes with nonmotorized trails have occurred over past years with

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ebikes, federal highway defined ebikes as motor vehicle, legislation says non-motorized funds cannot be used on trails with ebikes ... they do understand the disconnect but are not working to rewrite legislation because RTP is such a small part of the annual FHWA budget.. RTP 18-month cycle was presented via PowerPoint. Internal applications are written from a three -year planning list ... review all priorities and consider funds to be obligated.... Utilize MDOT software to obligate federal money. Using this software ensures that All requirements are met within system. MDOT application review committee who are familiar with trail design and construction planning and costs. Next step DNR advisory board (August meeting) ...list cycle in PowerPoint. Federal money goes through public review process... up on TIP/STIP... 30-90 days ... RTP funds will not be available in same fiscal year you apply. Regional trail specialists will work with you to figure out best timelines. Trail funding priorities ...: Grant acts like MNRTF will work with RTP and a partner can use committed RTP funds to score higher if they plan far enough ahead. RTP is suitable if you have time to wait.

### **COMMENTS/Questions**

**Nikki Van Bloem** - RTP and TAP work together - dollars can match each other - fairly easy process -

**Mary Bolling**- Can RIF and RTP match each other? ... not typically done RIF and RTP are not competitive programs. It is better to ask for your full match need from one source. Can fund water trails / New State Trails (water and Pure Michigan)- how do they fit in? Work with RTS to determine eligibility. Talk to

**Michael Morrison**, he can introduce to planning meeting in OCTOBER.

**Andrea Ketchmark**- What dates are workshops for DNR grants division? **Dakota Hewlett** will send out a schedule, however the RTP and RIF programs are not covered in that training.

**Jason Jones**- Mountain biking trails. Most MB Trails do not connect. Trails in parks are not tied to our section; we can fund a connector outside of the park. Huge gap between miles of trails DNR has State Park and rec areas does not recognize the MB trails system. More trails to consider funding than linear and connecting. Waterloo/Pinckney working on connecting will not fall under RTP grant money. Example non-motorized needs, looking at lists from districts... timelines constructability ...immediate need for over 11M. Conversations are relevant to needs. **Jason** reiterates the funding is in deficit. **Megan** stated to make sure you are meeting the requirements for these funds.

**Greg Kinser**- Back to Jason's original question. Do natural surface trails qualify for funding? Limiting factor is natural trails do not fit design standards. **Megan** stated, RTP can fund a natural surface mountain/hiking trails that are not designed to AASHTO, however different assessments need to be performed, and an in-depth review is needed. **Jason** DTE trails 20-mile trail natural surface, optimized trail... could it have been a potential funding candidate: **Megan**, YES it could have been a candidate.

**John**- Multi use trails (ebikes) designates the RTP funds to be used in different ways

### **NIKKI VAN BLOEM**

#### Trail Plan Update

Received proposals and scored early this week to select a consultant. Name cannot be revealed until we come to terms and are past the protest period. The team was very happy with the ideas the consultant presented for pulling together the information we desire to see in the plan. Kickoff will be in October with the consultant and internal team. MTAC will be represented by John Matonich or his designee. Part of winter meeting in '20 will be meeting with consultant. Looking forward to moving forward.

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### **JOHN MORRISON**

2020 Member Renewals

Mary will renew

Andrea will not renew / Kenny will replace

Lori will renew

Bob will renew (being chair)

**NEXT STEPS:** MTAC limit everyone to 2 terms? **Nikki** will talk to **Paul** and **John Matonich** for input on extending terms beyond 2-years. Lori has not been present last two calls; **John Morrison** will check to make sure she will be attending if she wants to continue. **Nikki**, we will do a press release to public asking for interest to fill vacancies. **Nikki** asked **John** to talk to Lori.

### **DAKOTA HEWLETT**

EBIKES

Focus on outreach and education to public where they can and cannot be ridden within trails.

Information will be embedded on DNR website. Fill needs for public questions. Committee members review and provide comments. Fact sheet can be posted or printed out. References recent legislation and FAQ's. Will be posted to DNR website as well. Red tags idea on how to better educate public. Hangtags will be placed on handlebars of ebikes in bike shops. QR code will open DNR website with education materials and trail information. Looking for partner involvement for distribution of hang tags.

COMMENTS:

**Kasey** - expect comments from public. Edits can be made quickly being it is housed internally. Early September target date to go live. Spring 20 or Spring/Summer with review of page in the fall.

**Greg** - what will it take to provide a list where all ebikes are allowed. **Dakota**- can easily list the State DNR managed trails where ebikes are available, but difficult to list Statewide.

**John**- how will hang tags be paid for and distributed? **Dakota**: Partners hopefully will pick up the final designs/production and distribution. **John**: is there a State budget? **Dakota** -we don't have an identified budget- need to continue conversation.

**Nikki**- partners may volunteer for pieces of the process.

**Jason**- dealers may not want information that will be detrimental to a sale

**Kasey** - Traverse City - willing to help locally for distribution to jump start/pilot for feedback – she will give ideas of printing costs and utilized smaller budget to start -**Kasey** to go to NMMBA, next meeting to introduce idea. **Jason** will take to Potawatomi chapter as well. **EXPECT UPDATE** at next NAW meeting.

**Kristin**- loves hang tags idea, but should class II or III reminder not allowed on linear trails be added?

**Dakota** - add a line of information or into FQA's. Lastly, **PLEASE** can graphic artist place helmet on bicyclist?

**DAKOTA; actions items are:**

Post new E-bike website page, with the fact sheet and list of trails

**Kasey** will work with NMBA to pilot the hangtags in the Traverse City area

**NAW members** can provide comments on the E-bike items that we discussed on the call

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### UPDATES / ROUNDTABLE

#### **JASON JONES**

The Grand Opening of the 4th loop of the DTE Energy Foundation Trail at Waterloo State Recreation Area is scheduled for Saturday, August 24th at 10am. The 4th loop, called the "Sugar Loop", is 4 miles in length and brings the total mileage of the DTE Energy Foundation Trail to just over 20 miles. The DTE Trail is a mountain bike optimized, natural surface flow trail also opens to foot traffic.

The Clinton River Mountain Biking Association (CRAMBA) continues to work with Huron-Clinton Metroparks on a rework of the Sheldon Trails at Stony Creek Metropark.

The "Dragon", a 40+ miles mountain bike trail project spearheaded by the West Michigan Mountain Biking Association will begin construction up by the Hardy Dam, Newaygo Area in a few weeks. It is anticipated that this trail will become a regional destination trail for mountain bikers.

A lot of volume Around state Clinton River working Stony Creek on trial renovation The Dragon project MB trail press from MLive construction will start in next year.

#### **KRISTIN WILTFANG**

We have a number of events coming up this fall that may be of interest to NAW members:

The annual Oakland County Heritage Conference will be held at the Rochester Hills Museum at Van Hoosen Farm on September 19<sup>th</sup>. This year's theme is Storytelling the conference will provide communities with ideas and strategies to tell their stories.

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/heritage-conference-2019-telling-your-story-tickets-67051136755>

The League of Michigan Bicyclists is holding a Bike and Pedestrian Safety training course and Bike Rodeo training in Oakland County on September 27<sup>th</sup>.

<https://www.lmb.org/initiatives/law-enforcement-education/>

The Oakland County Trail, Water & Land Alliance Fall Celebration is going to be held on October 3<sup>rd</sup> at the Wixom Community Center with an optional walk or bike tour of the Michigan Air Line Trail. Agenda and registration information are forthcoming.

The Oakland County Health Division and Healthy Pontiac, We Can coalition are continuing to work on identifying a school in the City of Pontiac to participate in the Safe Routes to School program and ways to link with existing trails and pathways.

#### **ANDREA KETCHMARK**

Two volunteer deaths on North Country Trail. Heart attack in WUP and another in MN, both natural causes. Looking closer at how volunteers work, will incorporate being safe and self-aware into training. Look for upcoming changes in training policies.

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### ***MARY BOLLING***

Legislative Paddle being held Monday August 19 in Marine City on the Blueways of St. Clair water trail. Lake Erie Metropark has received funding for a shoreline restoration project that will include a kayak launch on the southern end of the Detroit Heritage River Water Trail.

Six MI Paddle Stewards workshops have been conducted this summer by Michigan Sea Grant with funding from the Michigan Invasive Species Grant Program with 70+volunteers trained so far in the identification of aquatic invasive species. Five additional workshops are planned through September 30, 2019.

Several water trails are interested in applying for state designation. Need more info about the application process and deadlines. Several water trail managers also manage land-based trails so information about all state designations is requested. **Mike Morrison** stated we are in the process of getting the new 2019-2020 State Designated Water Trail Designation Handbook/Application approved by PRD Management. Once approved the application will be available on the Trails website. In the meantime, interested applicants may use the old application, or contact Mike Morrison for the updated draft application (either can be used to apply). There is no specific due date as the State Designated Water Trail Program has a rolling application deadline.

### ***JOHN MORRISON***

Save the date reminder for Mid America Trails and Greenways (MATAG) Conference in Grand Rapids August 31 to September 2, 2020. MATAG covers a nine-state region including Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kentucky, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Ohio, and Wisconsin. West Michigan Trails & Greenways is hosting the conference in partnership with mParks and Michigan Trails and Greenways Alliance. Fundraising work continues to fund paving the remaining 29 miles of the 93-mile Fred Meijer White Pine Trail State Park. Completing the project will create an anchor destination trail for West Michigan.

Trails day at the capital expanded award ceremony - release sent out - State agency employee's Paul Yauk and Nikki Van Bloem will be recognized. NAW Member and Oakland County Planner Kristen Wiltfang will also be recognized. September 25 / 9 am State Capital Lawn.

### ***Nikki Van Bloem***

Shore to Shore Maps

As part of a GIS mapping project of EQ trails the Shore to Shore (S2S) trail has been mapped over the last two years. The S2S is both EQ and hiking. A DNR student assistant has been partnering with EQ folks, DNR staff, and others to ride trails. Maps are a 53-page packet which includes info on markers, what to expect, and general rules. Maps are still in approval process, once completed they will be in DNR website.

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Mary- plans to layer mapping with IBT trail? **Nikki** yes, discussions have taken place. Working internally with DNR divisions to collect data and work with pilots. **Kasey**, GIS information is on partner website for Northern Area. **Andrea** stated that North Country Trail GIS info is online.

Here is the link to the grants page:

([https://www.michigan.gov/dnr/0,4570,7-350-79134\\_81684---,00.html](https://www.michigan.gov/dnr/0,4570,7-350-79134_81684---,00.html)),

workshops are usually early in the year (January-February).

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

John asked for public appearance - no response received.

Nikki - next agenda items - none

With no further business, John Morrison adjourned the meeting at 12:00 p.m.

DRAFT