

Minutes
Nonmotorized Advisory Workgroup
August 14, 2018

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

DNR Staff present: Nikki Van Bloem, Barbara Graves, Kristen Bennett, Michael Morrison, Greg Kinser, and Anna Mooney.

WELCOME

Chair John Morrison called the meeting to order at 1:30 p.m. and asked everyone to introduce themselves.

ACTION ITEMS

Mary Bohling moved the approval of the August 14, 2018 amended meeting agenda. It was seconded by Andrea Ketchmark and it carried unanimously.

Andrea Ketchmark moved the approval of the May 22, 2018 meeting minutes. It was seconded by Kristen Wiltfang and it carried unanimously.

BUSINESS ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION

MTAC Appointment Process – Anna Mooney introduced herself as the department’s legislative liaison. She gave a brief background on the Michigan Trails Advisory Council and the appointment process. The Council, created in statute, consists of 11 members that meet certain requirements and whom are appointed at the discretion of the Governor. Anyone interested in applying can do so at Michigan.gov/gov, select “appointments”, and then “apply”. Workgroup members expressed that they would like a direct connection between MTAC and NAW. There was previous discussion within the Workgroup when Nancy Krupiarz announced her retirement that her successor on MTGA would be a good replacement for MTAC and NAW as well. The next NAW agenda will contain an action item regarding the process of which NAW reports to MTAC.

Water Trails Program – Michael Morrison introduced himself as the new water trails coordinator for the department. He gave a brief history of the water trails program and updated the workgroup on the most recent occurring events and where they are at currently. The application and manual are in the final stages and 5 communities have been invited to apply during the pilot year of 2019. The goal is to have the program in full swing by 2020. Any questions can be referred to him; his contact information is morrisonm4@michigan.gov.

Pure Michigan Program – Kriss Bennett gave a brief update of the Pure Michigan program. The website contains the handbook and application. Maintenance, marketing, and economics were the three main criterium. Mary suggested adjusting to add a criteria list to the site. Any questions can be referred to Kriss or Michael. The

website can be accessed at: https://www.michigan.gov/dnr/0,4570,7-350-79133_79206_87346---,00.html.

State Trails Implementation Plan – How the NAW Can Help Address Objectives – Kriss Bennett said there is a 2019 RTP grant that will be available to them and they will be hiring a consultant to help them layout a better process for the trails plan. The goal this time would be a revision and creation of a plan that is created by them and stakeholders, with clearly defined roles.

Chair Morrison reported that he would like to step down as Chairman of the NAW in January and have someone else take on the role. Selection of a new chairman will be on the November agenda. Nikki would like workgroup members who have a term expiring in the next year let her know if they wish to continue serving or would like to step down. This will also be placed on the next agenda.

UPDATES

Melissa Werkman

- The MMBA is co-hosting the first annual MTB State Summit in Grand Rapids, November 6 and 7th. The Summit is designed for local, state and regional mountain biking associations across the US and Canada to come together to share ideas, best practices and network.

Kristen Wiltfang

- The Michigan Air Line Trail received a \$2.2 million grant from the Ralph C Wilson Jr Foundation to complete the trail from Old Plank Road to Haggerty Road. Construction on the trail surface for Phase One (Wixom Road to Haggerty Road) should begin in early 2019. Design for Phase Two (Old Plank to Wixom) is anticipated to begin in late 2018. The bridge construction over M-5 is expected to be completed by November 2018.
- The cities of Berkley, Ferndale, Huntington Woods, Oak Park, Royal Oak and Detroit are working with MoGo on a regional expansion to bring bike share to local residents. This project is being funded through a Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP) grant awarded by the Southeast Michigan Council of Governments (SEMCOG). The total grant award is \$495,380, which covers a significant portion of the capital costs and the expansion is planned for Spring 2019.
- Oakland County is working with Bob Wilson, MTGA to plan the next Great Lake to Lake Trail Summit in October.

Andrea Ketchmark

- They have been celebrating the 50th Anniversary of the National Trail System Act all year. They added a 50 Mile Challenge to their Hike 100 Challenge and they have a patch for the 50 or 100. This fall October, when the actual act was signed, they will be doing a lot of promotion of it. It is also the 50th anniversary of the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act. All of the national trails organizations are working with American Rivers to do some promotion there.
- They are in the process of releasing a new map. They decided last year to abandon their maps for sale, and they are doing a technical series of the entire trail that is all

free for download. They have released Lower Michigan. The Upper Peninsula will be released next week.

- They launched the Next Generation Coalition this year. They brought on an intern to fill the coalition of young people across their seven states. There are about 20 members representing the seven states; several from Michigan. They are engaging them in outreach and advocacy and trying to get them involved in volunteer work with their chapters. One of the goals of the program is to improve diversity as well.

Mary Bohling –

- Michigan Sea Grant received funding from the MDEQ Aquatic Invasive Species Grant Program to develop a volunteer stewardship program for paddlers. They are working with Land Information Access Association and MSU Clean Boats, Clean Waters and 12 water trail managing groups to develop the program and conduct a series of 12 workshops to train volunteers how to identify and report invasive species on the water trails. LIAA will also be developing informational videos on the program.
- Many water trails around the state are reporting an increased incidence of emergencies with paddle craft, exposing a gap in programming and information around paddler safety. Michigan Sea Grant currently partners with the Great Lakes Water Consortium on their Dangerous Currents Water Safety Program and are seeking funding opportunities to develop a similar program on Paddling Safety.

John Morrison

- A lot of great multi-use trail projects happening in West Michigan, one being the completion of the Fred Meijer Berry Junction Trail between North Muskegon and Whitehall. It has been in the works for more than 15 years, hitting numerous major snags along the way. Numerous other trail connections and extensions happening as well.
- WMTGC is working toward a capital campaign with a major component being completing the Fred Meijer White Pine Trail State Park, a 93-mile multi-use trail between Grand Rapids and Cadillac. In addition the campaign will help them fund a regional way finding/signage guidebook, regional maintenance guidebook plans, and funding to leverage other trail connection projects. They are also developing our board of directors and operations systems. The campaign and development is guided by a consultant group for nonprofits.

Bob Wilson (written) – Legislative Update

- He is working with a number of conservation groups on legislation to expand Recreation Passport to opt-out and to push for passage of SJR O during lame duck session after the election.
- They are also going to be part of the DNR's water trails announcement and will be sponsoring a Trails Week (9/23-30) celebration on both the House and Senate floors, with Rep Wentworth and Senator Zorn as their spokesmen. Their Annual Awards Ceremony will be on 9/27 in the Rotunda of the Capitol at 9 am.
- They have received a \$255,000 grant from the Ralph Wilson Foundation to fund the trail manager position for the Great Lake to Lake Trail.

The next meeting will be Friday, November 16, 2018.

With no further business, the meeting adjourned at 3:30 p.m.