

NONMORTORIZED ADVISORY WORKGROUP (NAW) MEETING

AGENDA

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 15, 2019

10:00AM – 12:00PM

CALLIN INFO:

(877) 336-1829, Access Code 2663581#

NOTES:

ATTENDEES:

NAW

John Morrison

Mary Bohling

Andrea Ketchmark

Kristen Wiltfang

Jason Jones

Bob Wilson

Lori Hauswirth

Jim DuFresne - ABSENT

Guest

Sherry Faust

DNR

Nikki Van Bloem- Trails Unit Manager

Dakota Hewlett- Iron Belle Trail Coordinator

Anna Centofanti- Trails Admin Support

Doug Donnelly- Communications

Mike Morrison- Water Trails Coordinator

Jill Sell- Southwest MI Trails Specialist

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10:06 am John Morrison started meeting

INTRODUCTIONS

Sherry Faust

Heard about this meeting from Mary Bohling. Sherry is coordinating trail projects and working with funders, both private and public. Her trail projects will extend over the next couple years. Application will be made in 2020 for funding. Part of these projects are pursuing gaps in trails systems.

NAW members introduced themselves.

John Morrison - this will be his last meeting as chair

Mary Bohling - Water Trails

Andrea Ketchmark - Hiking - also her last meeting as member

Kristen Wiltfang – Non-Motorized Trails

Jason Jones - Mountain Biking

Bob Wilson - Will take over NAW as chair in 2020

Lori Hauswirth - Nordic Trails

BUSINESS ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION

Approval of Aug 16 meeting minutes approved with confirmation that Mary's name is spelled correctly.

Approval of November 15 agenda. Change Bob to go first. Approved with noted change to move Bob.

ACTION ITEMS

Recreation Passport Opt-Out

Bob Wilson

Three bills were introduced into House. An overwhelming amount of support letters were turned in. Currently, the Bills are being negotiated between the Secretary of State (SOS) and DNR. SOS wants an increase in funding; thus compromise is requested. The groups will resume discussions after Thanksgiving. It most likely will not be final until the beginning part of 2020. Bob does thank the entire trail community for their support and attendance at the committee session.

MTGA Awards Ceremony

Bob Wilson

This is the second year for the Michigan Trails and Greenways Alliance (MTGA) awards ceremony. The focus was expanded, tripling the number of awards, with over 100 people in attendance. All trail users were recognized. Next year may include an entire series of trail related events during

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Michigan Trails Week including an event on the Capital lawn. Early planning is needed. Trails Week is always the last week of September (Sunday - Sunday). Wednesday seems to be the better day during the week for Legislator availability. Doug Donnelly requested to talk to Bob regarding the 2020 Trails Week dates, changing start day to Saturday to following Sunday. Sept 19-27. John Morrison thanked Bob Wilson for all his hard work pulling this ceremony together.

DNR Budget & Water Trails Amendment

Bob Wilson

Bob did get an amendment added to the 2020 DNR budget which will help to develop designated water trails through a new Waterways Commission grant program. Mary Bohling said it is nice to see this moving forward.

MTAC Update

Bob Wilson

Bob Wilson was not at the last MTAC meeting. Bob did commit to staying on MTAC, as a Governor appointee, representing the NAW committee. His involvement is crucial to staying on this board to benefit the NAW group.

- Nikki Van Bloem stated that work has started on determining the NAW 2020 meeting/call schedule. She asked if Fridays at 10:00 a.m. are still a good time to hold NAW meetings? Lori Hauswirth did state Fridays are not good for her. Bob Wilson said Thursday at 10:00 a.m. will work as well. All agreed Thursday will work with their schedules. A Trail Plan joint meeting with all the DNR advisory groups is in planning stages for February 21 & 22 and will be the first 2020 meeting for NAW. Feedback from group: Bob Wilson said this is a great idea. All others agreed, and said they are available.

Water Trails Funding

Mike Morrison

There is new language in the 2020 budget for DNR to work with the Waterways Commission. Mike Morrison has had a few internal review meetings. Mike noted that there are concerns about the legislation, it is very specific as to how the funds can be used. Mike is in discussions internally to determine what areas funds can be used. He will attend a meeting in early December and will be working on developing a grant program. Additionally, Enbridge donated \$100,000 to MTGA, which can be used for water trail grants, and MTGA is in the process of determining distribution of this money. Mike asked the committee members to please submit ideas and suggestions on creating the water trails grant program.

- Nikki asked Mike to please talk about water trail applications and Pure Michigan apps. Pure Michigan applications were due at end of September. He is working with a committee and reviewing the applications. Hopefully the newly designated trails and trail towns will be announced by end of this year.
- Mary Bohling asked; "is selection committee all internal?" Mike responded, no, it is both external and internal, per legislation. Recommendations and interest for serving on the selection committee are welcomed. Mary feels her expertise will be beneficial to this

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committee. Mike said he is looking for people with knowledge of the trail towns that have submitted applications. Nikki suggested more discussion should go into committee selection. Kristen Wiltfang said her office provides letters of support for some of those applications and feels there may be conflict of interest. John Morrison asked if the reduced Pure Michigan budget affects the Pure Michigan Trails & Trail Towns. Mike said no, because there was not any funds designated prior to the new budget. John said a lot of people interpreted the budget cut as Pure Michigan is going away. The State of Michigan should reinforce that Pure Michigan is staying active and will continue.

Trail Plan Update

Nikki Van Bloem

The DNR Trails Division started on the Trail Plan with a kick-off meeting in the middle of October. Public Sector Consultants (PSC) was hired as the consultant. The Trail Plan timeline is anticipated to be an 18-20-month process. The first six months will be spent evaluating the previous plan. Also, a website is anticipated to be up and running in that time period. The second six months will be taking input/goals/ideas and placing in draft form. At one year, input will be mapped from public outreach and will include surveys and advisory groups. In the summer 2021, the DNR anticipates having a plan to move forward with. Expect format change with trail consolidation, bringing common goals together. This is a high-level overview. DNR is looking for honest input when taking surveys.

- What have other states done for trail plans, let's use for comparison? Nikki said the core team has a meeting next week and will be looking at this. Dakota and Jill reviewed plans from other states as part of the RFP. Dakota has continued to look at other states for content which can be incorporated into the new DNR trail plan.

Ebikes - Hang Tags

Dakota Hewlett

Kasey Mahoney, DNR, is working with MMBA and local bike shops to pilot Ebike hang tags in the Cadillac area. Kasey Mahoney is working with mountain bike partners and meeting with some bike shops. Dakota said the Ebike webpage is out for internal review and will be posted once approved.

- John Morrison asked how the tags will be funded. In Northwest MI (pilot program), funding will happen through partnerships and PRD District funds. There is no budget identified for statewide materials. Dakota or Kasey will circle back to this discussion once the pilot has been completed.

NAW MEMBERSHIP UPDATES

John Morrison

A question was raised on the current process for NAW appointments. Nikki stated there is confusion on how many years each member serves per term. She has not found any bylaws that define the term limits for NAW members. Nikki is going to make a recommendation to extend those currently serving 2-year terms to 4-years. John asked how many terms can be served, Nikki

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said on other DNR advisory groups, each member can serve up to 2 terms for a total of 8 years. MTAC ultimately approves NAW member appointments.

Terms for Mary, Andrea, Bob, and Lori will expire this year. New term will be 4-years. Nikki suggested NAW take a vote to standardize the terms for up to (2) four-year appointments. Vote commenced; NAW members approved the motion unanimously.

Starting January 2020 NAW terms will be 4-years.

- John asked what is process of renewing? (Andrea is not renewing) She is recommending Kenny Wawsczyk. All others want to renew.
- Doug will send out a press release on vacancy for sub-committee. (NAW -hiking)
- Andrea, please ask Kenny to send a letter of interest with an overview of his qualifications to Paul, Nikki, and Anna
- Mary, Bob, and Lori, please send letter to Paul, Nikki, and Anna to serve another term

NAW MEMBERS UPDATES/ROUNDTABLE

Lori Hauswirth

Cross Country Ski/Nordic Trails

Early snow season. Munising and Ironwood have tracks set. Getting ready for winter

Jason Jones

Mountain Biking

Mountain bike on natural surface trails continue to see interest and growth around the state. Iosco County has the wild cat trail. There are several other projects on private and public lands. Recently, geo magnetic counters were installed on the DTE Trail. Numbers for mountain bikers on 4 loops of the trail over a 7-day period show 160-180 users each day. Jason would like to see the DNR Trail Plan place more emphasis on mountain bike opportunities/user groups. Jason feels there are two areas where there is a disconnect; 1.) Cost and demand, and 2.) perceptions vs reality of users - all trails are equal but not users.

- Nikki said public outreach will capture users.
- Lori, can we take ques from other states to address need for additional mountain bike trails and expansions.
- Jason feels mountain bike representation on MTAC is overlooked
- Mary feels NAW is a catch-all for non-motorized everything

Kristen Wiltfang

Nonmotorized Trails

Paint Creek Trail:

The replacement of the pedestrian bridge at Mile-33.7 is complete and the trail resurfacing construction project is in the final stages.

The 5-year trailway master plan is being updated.

Polly Ann Trail:

The 5-year trailway master plan is being updated.

Michigan Air Line Trail:

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Construction on Phase One of 5.3 miles of trail from Wixom Road to Haggerty Road is nearing completion.

MoGo Bike Share:

Bike share is coming to southeastern Oakland County in 2020 and a new map with the station locations has been released:

https://mogodetroit.org/blog/mogo-announces-station-locations-in-expansion-area/?fbclid=IwAR0kOSvEEAMKg8vAfPFpdA_k6mz7ByFuNnGzgeHA3Z8_PrevpVp3gU8ONEA

New bike lane on 9 Mile in Oak Park that links in with Ferndale's bike network.

Andrea Ketchmark

Hiking Trails

Andrea wants the committee to know how fulfilling and beneficial this appointment has proven to be. She has gained valuable friendships, and the communication and coordination by this group has accomplished many great things. She feels the recognition has come a long way. She expresses thanks for the time she spent on the committee.

- John wanted to reiterate the attendance response Bob noted at the award ceremony proves there is an impact on the trail users.
- John expressed appreciation on behalf of the group to Andrea for her time as a member with the NAW committee

Mary Bohling

Water Trails

Current work on waters trails has slowed due to change in seasons.

John Morrison

West Michigan

North Bank Trail under construction which will take it to Nunica in 2020. The Spoonville Trail should get to Nunica next year as well connecting to North Bank and together they are an important part of a large non-motorized loop coming together in the Grand Haven/Spring Lake area.

Close to sending out an RFP for a consultant to develop a regional way finding guide for the MDOT Grand Region.

WMTGA is prepping for a capital campaign working on funding for: health and economic impact studies as well as counts and surveys of trail users; implementation or installation of signs on major regional trails per the way finding guide we're working on; construction/engineering of important regional trail connections.

Mid America Trails and Greenways (MATAG) conference coming to Grand Rapids August 30 to September 2, 2020.

DNR STAFF UPDATES

Nikki Van Bloem

Nikki asked what the NAW members do with the input and information received from meetings.

- How does the flow of information from these meetings expand out?

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- Jason takes info back to the MMBA in hopes it will be shared with various chapters
 - MMBA board structure is in transition right now.
 - Jason is the Advocacy Director
- Mary has an email distribution list of water orgs throughout the state she shares information with.
- Kristen has an email list for the Oakland County Trail, Water & Land Alliance (TWLA) consisting of non-profits and communities that she shares info with.
- Lori's info is contained to her organization. Her predecessor did not leave any contact information
 - Does DNR have any kind of list for cross-country ski? Nikki said there is no list, however she may have some contacts via grant request or trail groomers. Nikki will ask around.
- John does not have any kind of distribution list and has not shared this information beyond these meetings.

Nikki Van Bloem just wanted to reinforce why we do this, and the impact these meetings create beyond the NAW group. We can be mindful that there is room for improvements, and better ways can be implemented.

Jill Sell

SW MI Trails

Recent snow kicked off the snowmobile season. She is receiving a lot of questions if trails are still open. Engineering for improvements to the Kal-Haven and VanBuren Trails just started.

Dakota Hewlett

Dakota is continuing to administer grants, engineering, and planning for the Iron Belle Trail. He is covering other areas in Southeast Michigan, assisting Nikki with Southeast Region. Also, he is working with GIS department in adding trails and features to the current system.

State Designated Trails Total: 13,219 miles

PUBLIC COMMENT

Sherry Faust - she enjoyed the meeting and appreciated the opportunity to speak.

Meeting adjourned at 11:51 by chair, John Morrison.