

Northern Regional Trail Advisory Committee

Meeting Summary of January 25th, 2024 (Draft)

Washburn County Forestry Office

1760 Roundhouse Rd. Spooner, WI

Members Present:

Dan Thole, Barron County; Dana Heller, Barron County; Jeff Wolfe, Barron County; Lindley Mattson, Bayfield County; Susan Tollander, Burnett County; Sue Smedegard, Burnett County; Chuck Anderson, Burnett County; Dean Gullickson, Chippewa County; Paul Krumenauer, Chippewa County; Dan Corbin, Douglas County; Clint Meyer, Douglas County; Jason Weaver, Sawyer County; Don Mrotek, Sawyer County; Cathy LaReau, Director at large; Doug Johnson, Polk County; Tony Nowak, Polk County; Mike Peterson, Washburn County

Others Present

Clem Larson, NWRPC; Brandon Shutt, Washburn County Forestry

Approve Agenda

Motion by Johnson to approve agenda, seconded by Heller - Approved

Committee Introductions & Recognition of Guests

Members and Guests were introduced.

July 27th, 2023, Meeting Summary

Motion by Smedegard to approve the summary from October 26th, 2023; seconded by Krumenauer – Approved

Chair's Comments

Peterson thanked all for their attendance.

Financial

Larson gave a quarterly update on the NoRTAC budget. \$6,694 in budget, as of Oct. 1st. Motion to approve financial report by Johnson; seconded by Corbin - Approved

ORV Council update (Thole)

The council met in early December with a light agenda. Discussed trail routes, dust control as a maintenance item, and campground funding. Campgrounds to be funded at 50%, as long as they are within close proximity to an existing trail. Mike P. brought up the idea of a letter of support for this decision by the Council. Motion to draft letter by Smedegard; seconded by Mrotek - Approved

SRC/AWSC update (Smedegard)

SRC met in December topics included bridge and trail ranking tools. Bridges with inspections will rank higher for funding purposes. PE/Contractor documentation will be required for the purpose of a valid inspection. 1 application came back with an increase due to mismeasurement. AWSC - Trego interchange issue was brought up in meeting, by State Senator Quinn. Fix permitted and Engineering underway. Fix will be funded by DOT. A new group formed- Next- Gen Riders (ages 21-35). 2 people running for treasurer. In legislation news supporting: an increase in funding cap, ATV/UTV for emergency use, seasonal roads with no maintenance; not supporting bill for seizing condemned property for rec use. AWSC hosting International Snowmobile Congress, in Green Bay in June.

Issue Briefs (Peterson)

No new briefs.

User Survey (Larson)

Some tweaks made to flow and language since the last meeting. ATV Survey has 300+ responses. Snowmobile survey not much due to lack of snow. Heller mentioned the idea of paper survey, in addition to digital.

SNARS Discussion (Shutt)

Washburn County is having viewing grooming entries from clubs, after they are submitted to state. Meyer said that in Douglas County they use a custom excel spreadsheet.

Emergency Response Trail Markers Discussion

Tollander: Burnett County uses numbered intersection markers for response routing. Mattson: Bayfield county implementing US National Grid System signage on Hiking Trails, brought an example sign. Wolfe: Barron using Cell phone triangulation. Gullickson: Chippewa County using electronic System. Peterson; Washburn county uses signage corresponding to fire numbers at ½ mile intervals. This topic should be a future agenda item for purposes of possibly moving to a unified system.

County Updates Relating to Trail Development/Maintenance and Other Projects or Points of Interest

Barron (Wolfe) – Quiet with lack of snow. The first half of Cattail rehab is done, will resume in spring. Applying for funding of another ATV park in an unused gravel pit. Heller: Barron County Ride with the Queen event will be taking place at the end of February.

Bayfield (Mattson) – Train trestle crossing closed along Hwy 63. Bridge inspections to begin on an annual cycle. County Alliance discussed the option of brushing using snow maintenance dollars.

Burnett (Tollander) – 2 New bridges installed. The highway department has been doing trail work throughout January. If the weather holds out, they are going to do some more gravelling. All-season trails have been in use.

Chippewa (Krumenauer) – ATV riders want to ride on roads instead of trails. In March County will be voting on opening highways.

Douglas (Meyer)- Not many people on trails, some on RR grades. Still working on bridge project w/ lack of snow. Park and Ride being developed, in Gordon.

Polk (Johnson) – Introduced new County Parks and Trails Supervisor, Tony Nowak. 4th week on the job, came over from the Village of Greenville. No Decision on Stower trail in courts as of yet.

Sawyer (LaReau) – Alliance met; trails now partially open. Issues with trail crossing maintenance/permitting. Re-route of Corridor 8 having trouble making headway with USFS due to turnover in offices.

Washburn (Shutt) – Some ATV traffic. Pending rehab projects. One landowner is trying to close trail access. Peterson: WCFA working on Chapter 30 water regs permitting. Umbrella permit that would streamline rec trail permitting significantly.

Next Meeting Date

The next NoRTAC meeting is tentatively scheduled for April 25th, 2024.

Adjourn

Motion to Adjourn Meeting by Johnson; Seconded by Smedegard - Approved.