

## **Northern Regional Trail Advisory Committee**

Meeting Summary of April 25th, 2024 (Draft)

Tommy G. Thompson Fish Hatchery

951 W Maple St., 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; Karen Lotts, Chippewa County; Darren Kirby, Chippewa County; Paul Krumenauer, Chippewa County; Dan Corbin, Douglas County; Clint Meyer, Douglas 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; Jim Smedegard, Burnett County

### Approve Agenda

Motion by Johnson to approve agenda, second by Corbin- Approved

### Committee Introductions & Recognition of Guests

Members and Guests were introduced.

### July 27th, 2023, Meeting Summary

Motion to edit Washburn County project update, in January 25<sup>th</sup>, 2024 minutes, by Krumenauer. Second by Johnson. -Approved. Motion by Johnson to approve agenda, seconded by Corbin - Approved  
– Approved

### Chair's Comments

Peterson thanked all for their attendance, no comments at this time.

### Financial Update and Approval of 2025 Budget

Larson gave a quarterly update on the NoRTAC budget. \$7,166.80 in budget, as of March. 31<sup>st</sup>. Revenues of \$3,500 from County membership. Still waiting on payment from 2 member counties. Budget for 2025 remains at \$500/year per member County. Motion to approve financial report and 2025 budget by Johnson; seconded by Smedegard - Approved

### ORV Council update (Thole)

Council has not met since October 24<sup>th</sup>, 2023 meeting. No new items. Council came to a decision on issues with campground funding, regarding dollar limit/proximity. Upcoming discussion on using SNARS system for summer trail maintenance. Next meeting is June 26<sup>th</sup>, initial review of project applications will take place then. Funding will get final approval at August Council meeting. SNARS system to be discussed at August meeting, as well.

### SRC/AWSC update (Smedegard)

SRC has been quiet. AWSC has upcoming travel to Washington D.C. to meet with USFS and Federal Reps.

### Issue Briefs (Peterson)

State budget is upcoming and would like the group to start thinking about items NoRTAC could bring up. Law Enforcement grants depreciation schedule/funding policies, AWSC funding, registration increase, bridge inspections are all possible topics. WCFA is working on chapter 30 permitting. Would allow work to be done with a general permit and concurrence letter. Would take DNR out of the loop in permitting process. Motion for a letter of support to WCFA for permitting change. Motion by Johnson, Second by Mrotek- Approved. SB 999 MFL program change would open up MFL access to ATV use. WATVA testified support, WCFA was neutral on bill. Bill

did not pass but is likely to come back. Incentive program would probably be better way to go. Goal should be to open large tracts of corporate owned MFL, rather than private landowners. (Thole) Brought up topic of alcohol use/OUI and ATV use. Needs to be tied to driver's license. (Peterson) would like group to bring a comprehensive issue brief topics to July meeting

#### User Survey (Larson)

700+ responses to ATV Survey, so far. (LaReau) survey data shows most riders are carrying insurance on machines. Snowmobile survey not much due to lack of snow. (Mattson) was bringing survey promotional flyers to clubs after the meeting.

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

Barron (Wolfe) – Doing some bridge work & spending money that was not used during the snow season. Couple of pavilions going up over the summer. Submitting grant to rehab section of Cattail. Failed culvert under 40 feet of fill.

Bayfield (Mattson) – ATV Trails opening May 1<sup>st</sup>. Has had inquiry about off-road motorcycle trails from user group near Mason. Looking to hire another rec officer, possibly through forestry. County board voted to not open all county highways for ATV use, alcohol/age of riders was part of the reason for the no vote. Snowmobile alliance working on putting together an event at the fairgrounds, this fall. Possibly putting together a radar run event at Mt. Ashwabay, after ski season wraps up.

Burnett (Tollander) – Finishing up another bridge rehab, and a second one in June. Ongoing rehab and re-route projects. Applied for grants for 1 2-mile rehab and moving a road crossing.

Chippewa (Krumenauer) – County opening up roads to ATV use that have an AADT of 300 or less, 327 miles open now. County working on improving signage, w/ a \$35k price tag. Trails opening May 1<sup>st</sup>.

Douglas (Meyer) – Winter ATV Trails were open most of the year. Park & Ride being developed in Gordon. 2 bridge projects went out to bid, w/ zero bidders. Both going back out for bid. 2 bridges waiting on DNR input. Gandy Dancer over Little Balsam Creek being replace with a 160 ft. clear span. Will be closed all summer.

Polk (Nowak) – ATV Intensive use park continuing. Hoping to be open this fall. Working on replacing signage and posts. Grant apps for culverts and washout on Cattail.

Sawyer (LaReau) – LCO agreed to resolution for funding trails through reservation. 51% of county roads are open, working on opening more,

Washburn (Peterson) – Wild Rivers Trail over Namekagon has deficiencies. State will be funding the fix. Will be a reroute to the east. # designs from Ayers on missing trail section in Trego. Grant to rehab decking to Hay Creek will be sent back sections will be replaced instead. Major rehab occurring in Minong: pulling puncheons, and adding fill.

#### Next Meeting Date

The next NoRTAC meeting is tentatively scheduled for April 25th, 2024. Agenda items to possibly include Member county support of Grant projects, regional mapping, 911 systems, issue briefs, rec officer staffing, ATV operating hours, ordinance consistency.

#### Adjourn

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