

Northern Regional Trail Advisory Committee

Meeting Summary of April 24th, 2025 (Draft)

Spooner DNR Headquarters

810 W Maple St. Spooner, WI

Members Present:

Dan Thole, Barron County; Dana Heller, Barron County; Pete Schneider, Barron County; Susan Tollander, Burnett County; Sue Smedegard, Burnett County; Chuck Anderson, Burnett County; Darren Kirby, Chippewa County; Karen Lotts, Chippewa County; Paul Krumenauer, Chippewa County; Clint Meyer, Douglas County; Randy Neuman, Sawyer County; Don Mrotek, Sawyer County; Cathy LaReau, Director at large; Doug Johnson, Polk County; Tony Nowak, Polk County; Jerry Smith, Washburn County; Lindley Mattson; Bayfield County

Others Present

Clem Larson, NWRPC; Brandon Shutt, Washburn County Forestry; Jeff Wolfe, Barron County; Pat Anderson, WI DNR; Brandon Shutt, Washburn County; Sara Hudson, Bayfield County

Approve Agenda

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

Committee Introductions & Recognition of Guests

Members and Guests were introduced.

July 27th, 2023, Meeting Summary

Motion by Johnson to approve the summary from January 30th, 2025; seconded by Lotts – Approved

Financial

Larson gave a quarterly update on the NoRTAC budget. \$6,025.28 in budget, as of March 31st 2025. All Counties membership for 2025 have been paid.

ORV Council update (Thole)

The governor has re-appointed Thole to ORV Council. April 15th was the deadline for applications for this grant cycle. Council meets in June to review them. Joint ORV/SRC meeting took place to discuss funding requests for projects with overrun. Burnett County project did not get funded and was tabled to be reviewed in Aug. Lumber and steel prices climbing constantly. Lots of storm damage in NE part of the state. Trail surface funding also a big issue within the Council. Considering only funding RR grades at 100% for surface gravel. Trail gravel would be funded at different percentages depending on project type (initial development, rehab, etc.). Trail surface to be an agenda item for July 2025 NoRTAC meeting. Johnson noted that not all trails are strictly ATV trails, some are multi-use and need graveling for other users. Wolfe noted that landowners don't want unimproved trails. Meyer noted that forest certification requires trail standards to retain certification. Smedegard stated that property managers should have final decision on trail surfaces. Johnson to draft letter in support of letting trail managers make the decision. Anderson noted that pre-funding ORV Council meeting on July 7th. Meyer recommended inviting Dave Kafura from WCFA as he explained the issue with trail surfaces to the council previously.

SRC/AWSC update (Smedegard)

SRC- Issues with blacktopping approaches in Dane County before the council. Burnett County project unfunded, required additional engineering from the DNR. Council adopted policy regarding overrun. If cost is 25% or more under \$50k, project is cost increase, if more it goes in as a new project. Looking at legislation to increase fees on registration and trail passes. Changes coming to SNARS. Some clubs seem to be abusing the system, committee formed to look at the issues. Lots of applications this cycle.

AWSC- Convention last month, 600 Attendees. Smedegard stepping down from AWSC after this year. Membership costs increasing.

User Survey Report (Larson)

User surveys still underway. Another winter with low response rate due to conditions.

Uniform Signage for Emergency Response Discussion

(Krumenauer) Chippewa County is interested in signage for emergency response and looking for input. Bayfield County using US National Grid (USNG). Most other county using addressing/Fire numbers. Lots of differences between county systems and what dispatch uses. Larger discussion for a future agenda item.

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

Barron (Wolfe) – Submitted more grants than expected. Pooling some snow maintenance funds to do some projects.

Bayfield (Mattson) – Sara Hudson, new Rec Coordinator just started. County took over Federal ATV miles in County, doubled ATV miles available. A few grants, Grandview bridge was one of them.

Burnett (Tollander) – ! small re-alignment, dangerous curve. Wrapping up one rehab and one re-route.

Chippewa (Krumenauer) – Trails open May 1st. New County trail maps. Approaches improved along all county highways

Douglas (Meyer) . 4 bridge projects completed. Applied for new summer trail ATV funding. Working on building some connector trails.

Polk (Nowak) – Intensive use area is 1 year old, getting lots of use. Maintenance on it is still an unknown. Applied for a grant paving approaches on Cattail.

Sawyer (Neuman) - Trails currently closed, Tusconbia is open with lots of traffic to use it. New group looking to open up 67 mile of accessible bike trails in Seeley, user group conflict. 14 projects submitted. (LaReau) working on connector to Washburn County. Currently catwalk over wetland, trying to get ¼ mile in ROW instead from DOT.

Washburn (Shutt) – Hay Creek complete will be open when the rest of the trails open. Clubs are doing clean-up hope to be open before Memorial Day. Bridge over Namekagon in Trego to be fixed by State in 2027. Trego interchange being pushed for budget funding by Senator Quinn's office.

DNR (Anderson) – Stewardship APpPs due May 1st.

Next Meeting Date

The next NoRTAC meeting is tentatively scheduled for July 31st, 2025.

Adjourn