



State of Wisconsin
GOVERNOR'S STATE TRAILS COUNCIL

Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, January 28, 2014 - Teleconference

Room 613, GEF 2 Building, 101 S. Webster Street, Madison

10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

State Trails Council Members present:

Ken Carpenter; *Wisconsin State Horse Council (equestrians)*

Randy Harden; *Wisconsin ATV Association (ATVs/UTVs)*

Doug Johnson; *Association of Wisconsin Snowmobile Clubs (snowmobiling)*

Phil Johnsrud; *(non-motorized water trails)*

Mike McFadzen; *WI Nordic Network, Northern Kettle Moraine Nordic Ski Club (cross-country skiing)*

Bryan Much; *Wisconsin Off-Highway Motorcycle Association (off-highway motorcycles)* [Vice Chair]

Ken Neitzke; *(Ice Age Trail Alliance)*

Luana Schneider; *Wisconsin 4-Wheel Drive Association (4-wheel drive vehicles)*

John Siegert; *(Bicycle Federation of Wisconsin)*

Robbie Webber; *Bicycle Federation of Wisconsin (bicycling)* [Chair]

Jim White; *(boards/small wheels)*

Skip Maletzke; *(Tourism/business)* [Secretary]

Leif Hubbard; *(WI DOT)*

State Trails Council Members not in attendance:

None.

WI DNR Staff present:

Dan Schuller, Brigit Brown

10:05 A.M. – Agenda review/repair and approval of April meeting minutes

- Webber called the meeting to order. Motion for approval of the November 8, 2013. Moved by McFadzen Seconded by Johnson. Minutes approved.

10:10 A.M. – Chair Report

- Webber introduced Mary Ebbeling, who has applied for the bicycle touring/road biking position. Ebbeling's background: BFW Board of Directors 2009- present, Sheboygan County Nonmotorized Pilot Program, WisDOT Background in policy, connections, planning, federal funding.
- Appointment of ad hoc membership committee: Carpenter, McFadzen, and Maletzke.

10:20 A.M. – State Trails Council Member Reports

- *Off-Highway Motorcycles.* Ice riding season for OHMs. Jefferson County Park, Town of Oconomowoc, Lake Winnebago are popular places to ride. Three hour fundraiser events at Kettle Moraine Lake and Lake Koshkonong. Many OHM events are now up on the Travel Wisconsin website. Recent meeting in Forest County on a potential off-highway park in that county. National Off-Highway Vehicle Coordinating Council was also in attendance and provided examples of successful OHV parks in other states.



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- *Equestrian*. Maintenance season. Working to pull together maps and other information online that can be easily updated.
- *Bicycling*. The Vulnerable User legislation passed out of the senate transportation committee. Has not yet been scheduled for a vote. This law, if passed, would give law enforcement a tool for ticketing between simple traffic citation and criminal charges; would create tougher penalties for motorists who commit traffic violations that injure or kill vulnerable roadway users (bicyclists, pedestrians, emergency responders, in-line skaters and farmers driving farm equipment - motorcyclists asked to be excluded from the legislation).
- *Mountain biking / Off-Road Bicycles*. Event in Cable earlier this month to discuss fat bikes: access issues, purpose built snow bike trails, and fat bike trail grooming. Fat biking is bringing out new riders, new volunteers, and the popularity is challenging some of the existing trail capacity. Fat bikes are looking at creating their own advocacy, potentially fracturing existing cohesive mountain bike user group. Bicycle Federation Board of Directors meeting this evening. McFadzen commented that fat bikers and snowshoers seem to be very compatible. DNR will be putting out a press release on fat bikes later today.
- *Snowmobiling*. Fantastic snow season so far; most trails open since December. All but six counties in the state have all trails snow trails open, which bodes well for tourism and economic impact. Last winter ended well and went long; demand for used snowmobiles reported as very high. Expect this will be reflected in future registration numbers. AWSC is supporting legislation to increase support to snowmobile clubs. Passed senate unanimously, waiting for bill to be heard in the Joint Finance Committee. Increases in frac sand mining are raising concerns about potential rail reversion. Eleven fatalities for the season as of the past weekend. Celebrating Wisconsin Snowmobiling event February 20 & 21; will highlight the work of volunteers.
- *Cross-Country Skiing*. Youth and adult cross-country ski programs are flourishing. Central Cross-country (hotel operator) has a tentative agreement for Telemark Lodge in Cable (the headquarters for the largest cross-country ski event (Briekiener).) May become an official Olympic training site. WINN (Wisconsin Nordic Network) scholarship program will award 60 scholarships to youth for entrance in the Korteloppet (shorter course of the Birkie). UW Doctoral thesis on the impact of silent sports in three northern Wisconsin counties. Will send out to council. In 2012, there were 60,000 trips taken to the three counties for 4.2 trips per person annually, spending 2.5 nights & \$464 per trip.
- *Tourism/Business*. Governor's Conference on Tourism will take place March 2-4 in Lake Geneva.
- *4-Wheel Drive Vehicles*. Winter rides and ice riding. Hit \$1 million raised in the 35 years of fundraising for the March of Dimes. AB 369 will be reviewed by the assembly committee with new amendments tomorrow.
- *All-Terrain Vehicles*. ATVs do have winter trails; many are shared with other uses. Thirteenth year of the trail ambassador program. Worked with corporate WATVA member to amend existing ATV laws. Changes include allowing non-pneumatic tires. Smaller UTV is on the market. Annual meeting will take place at the end of March.
- *Wheels/Small Boards*. No report.



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- *Hiking/Walking.* Cold and snow hasn't deterred hikers. Area foot trails well packed down. This was the third of First Day Hikes (January 1). They were scheduled at nine state parks across the state. 190 participants hiked 605.7 miles. At Lapham Peak alone, there were 77 participants.
- *Water Trails.* This time of year paddling clubs are planning trips for upcoming season. This year, multiple clubs are coordinating trips to cross-promote trips. Trip lists for other groups will be available at Canoecopia this year. Canoecopia will take place the second weekend in March this year.

11:00A.M. – DNR Report

- Master plans. Sauk Prairie Recreation Area: DNR is currently drafting alternatives. Will go out for public comment this summer. Mukwonago River Unit of the Southern Kettle Moraine is also in the current planning process. For more information about master plans on all DNR properties: <http://dnr.wi.gov/topic/lands/masterplanning/>.
- The 2013 hunting season went well. Some complains from landowners, hunters, but overall very few issues. Received feedback that signage/posting needs improvement; will be working on that. Currently going through process for two new administrative rules regarding hunting: limits of the type of traps allowed in state parks, and prohibition on shooting down or across trails closed to hunting.
- The State Park System is going through a strategic planning process. Will have documents for review at the next council meeting. Objectives will include invasive species, Wisconsin obesity rates, outdoor skills.
- Economic impact of Wisconsin State Park System report is available (http://dnr.wi.gov/topic/parks/documents/wisc_st_parks-econ_report_2013_final_web.pdf). \$1.1 billion of economic impact across the state. WSPS receives less than \$5.5 million of tax revenues, and additional funds from other public funding (such as the state Stewardship fund). 580 million return on an approx. \$14 million/year investment.

11:15 A.M. – Proposal for More In-person Meetings

- Bryan Much provided background for his proposal to increase the number of in-person meetings per year to expand the effective meeting time of the council. More user group presentations and discussion of proposals such as temporary repurposing of trails.
- Neitzke feels that in-person meetings will allow for more dialogue, and face to face meetings allow for consensus that everyone gets a lot more out of face-to-face meetings, but that they would have to be workable for the DNR.
- Much asked council members to provide him ideas for how council members can contribute and Much will send a proposal to DNR sometime after receiving that input from STC members.

11:40 A.M. – Officer Elections

- Harden asked for final nominations for officer positions, nominations closed (Johnson) and seconded (Webber). Chair: Much; Vice chair: Schneider, Johnsrud, Harden; Secretary: Johnson, Schneider. Nominees asked to keep in mind that job descriptions may change; given opportunity to decline. Nominations moved to discussion. Webber supports having both motorized and nonmotorized representatives on the executive committee (chair, vice chair, secretary). STC members are to send votes to Hubbard and Maletzke.



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**Next meeting: Formal proposal move to three in person meetings
Two items snowmobiling and hiking presentations**

11:55 A.M. – Public Comment

- None.

12:00 P.M. – Adjourn

- Motion to adjourn by McFadzen. Seconded by Johnson. Meeting adjourned.