

**Minutes of the  
Nonmotorized Recreation and Transportation Trails Council (NRTTC)  
January 15, 2014, 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.  
Teleconference**

1. Meeting was called to order by Dana Johnson. In attendance: William Hauda, Dana Johnson, Joel Patenaude, Debbie Peterson, Geoff Snudden, Blake Theisen, Ned Zuelsdorff, Anne Murphy, Jill Mrotek-Glenzinski (Department of Transportation), Brigit Brown (Department of Natural Resources (DNR))
2. Meeting minutes from September 18, 2013 meeting approved with one correction (Joel Patenaude in attendance).

**3. Committee Chair Reports.**

a. **Funding.** A discussion was held, led by Hauda, about funding options for nonmotorized trails (bicycle licensing, registering, other ideas that have been discussed). Hauda was asked to assemble a list of potential funding ideas for discussion at a joint meeting with the Bicycle Coordinating Council in June. Hauda will convene a meeting of the Funding subcommittee (members: Bartlow, Peterson, Phillips, Zuelsdorff) to draft a list.

b. **Outreach.** Patenaude questioned the types of issues NRTTC may be interested in (for example hunting rules for State Parks are being finalized, is that something where the NRTTC would like to take a position?) Johnson brought up the database that the committee was initially working on as a way to create an infrastructure to provide outreach information to interested parties. Mrotek-Glenzinski mentioned a database being worked on by the Department of Tourism that may be of help in updating the database.

c. **Education.** Theisen brought up Michigan's 2013 ribbon cutting for a route around Michigan. Mrotek-Glenzinski and Brown provided background on the proposed MI route (currently being planned) and potential tie-in to the Adventure Cycling Association's US Bike Route System (Route 38). Theisen also mentioned the Stihl "Tour de Trees" (bicycle tour) taking place in Wisconsin in 2014 as a potential opportunity for education and outreach about the NRTTC. Mrotek-Glenzinski mentioned a webinar taking place next week by the Pedestrian and Bicycle information Center on the cost of biking and walking infrastructure and will send out that information to the group.

4. **Follow up on Badger Prairie State Recreation Area.** Brown stated that more than 2,000 public comments were received by the DNR on the draft vision and goal statements for the property and three draft conceptual management alternatives. A summary of the comments is available online (<http://dnr.wi.gov/topic/lands/masterplanning/saukprairie/>). The DNR will be working on a draft plan. Dana asked for this item to remain on the agenda for the next meeting.

4. **Overview of Economic impact studies.** Theisen has been assembling a log of economic impact articles and asked that any new economic studies or data be sent to him. An example of the information: In the last five years, people have taken 30 million bicycle-based vacations.

5. **Nonmotorized trail vehicle use at night.** Brown asked the council for their feedback on visibility issues with nonmotorized trail users, particularly those on nonmotorized vehicles, at night. Brown has received reports of trail users on nonmotorized vehicles (that are not bicycles and are therefore not required to have a headlight and rear reflector on bike ways – ski bikes are an example (ski in front, bicycle wheel in back, with pedals and a drive train)) operating without lights or reflectors nearly being hit by snowmobiles that cannot see them at night. Brown asked the group for feedback on if they thought it was the role of DNR to address this concern and if so, how. In her job as a police officer, Murphy sees nonmotorized users in the road at night, often while listening to headphones. She is in favor of requiring some sort of lighting of nonmotorized users operating on trails with motorized users and pointed out that accidents don't only effect the person who chose to "operate" without making themselves visible but the trauma to someone who may crash into them. Hauda spoke in favor of prohibiting these (non-bicycle) vehicles on state trails. Zuelsdorff stated that Bayfield County has prohibited anything other than snowmobiles on designated snowmobile routes (including trails). It was mentioned that someone who did not think to already make themselves visible while operating at night would likely not obey a law requiring them to do so. Murphy stated that a law requiring visibility would at least give law enforcement probable cause for stopping people. Patenaude also spoke in favor of nonmotorized vehicles being required to have lights, similar to the requirements for bicycles.

6. **Bill Hauda making a council more pro-active.** Hauda brought up a situation where Friends of the Badger State Trail were asked to provide some long-term maintenance funding for a building for which they fundraised the initial money (i.e. to build the building). Hauda wondered if other Friends groups were also being asked to help with maintenance costs. He attended the Friends of Wisconsin State Parks Annual Meeting and Summit to talk to other trails friends groups about this and found no other trail groups in attendance. Hauda suggested NRTTC as a catalyst for getting together trail groups around such issues. Zuelsdorff thought there may be merit in getting trail groups together but that there would need to be a few topics set ahead of time around which to draw interest. Brown suggested that perhaps there could be a "trail group" track at the next Friends Summit. Johnson asked Hauda to look into coordinating with the DNR Friends Coordinator on the possibility. Brown will put Hauda in touch with the DNR Friends Coordinator who organizes the event.

7. **Next meeting.** March 12, 2014. Location: North of Madison, possibly Devil's Lake State Park (telephone and AV equipment – limited) Meeting will be focused on strategic/future planning for the NRTTC.

8. **Adjourn 10:28 a.m.**