

---

---

# GITCHI-GAMI TRAIL ASSOCIATION

November 10, 2016, 9:00am – Meeting Summary  
Tettegouche State Park – Visitor Center Conference Room

---

---



## Welcome/Introductions

In attendance: Bill Blank (President), Tom Peterson (Vice President), Anne McKinsey (Publicity and Communications), Chad Pierson (Treasurer), Dan Cruikshank, Greg Fangel, Bruce Martinson, Ginny Storlie (Cook County Commissioner), Pete Walsh (Lake County Commissioner), Michelle Pierson (GGTA Executive Director/ARDC staff)

- Approval of September 08, 2016 meeting summary - Motion by Tom Peterson/Greg Fangel to approve minutes/carries unanimously
- Agendas and meeting summaries posted here: [www.arrowheadplanning.org/ggta](http://www.arrowheadplanning.org/ggta)

## Committee Business

### 1. **President's Report – Bill Blank**

- Bill distributed a handout regarding trail funding, possible trail projects, and ongoing projects. A copy of that handout will be sent out to accompany this meeting summary.
- **Meeting Schedule for 2017:**
  - January 12
  - March 16
  - May 20<sup>th</sup> (Tentative: In conjunction with a Bike Swap at Spokengear that may benefit the GGTA in part. This would be a time for a festive Annual Meeting of Members, followed by an Annual Meeting of the Board)
  - July 13
  - Annual Ride on August 19
  - September 14
  - November 9
- **Annual Meeting** – should May 20<sup>th</sup> work for a festive Annual Meeting of the Members, the Annual Meeting of the Board will directly follow. We are still looking for additional board members, especially those who will serve on the executive board.
- **Trail Progression**
  - 2014 MOU can lay framework (now executed)
  - Involving other stakeholders (Welcome to Lake County Commissioner Pete Walsh, looking to invite Forest Service, City stakeholders)
  - Scoping document – look at priority projects and discuss projects that could/should be considered in a bonding bill request
    - March 2017 would be a good time to finalize bonding plan. Decisions as to what we should put forth for 2018 bonding will depend upon:
      - a) Could a December special session happen?
      - b) Could bonding be discussed at either the beginning or end of the 2017 regular session?
      - c) If our 2016 projects get awarded bonding funds, that will change our 2018 ask. If not, we might be re-asking for funds.
      - d) MnDNR has a Federal Lands Access Program grant application started that could dedicate funding for the west (south) end of Tofte with a box culvert style tunnel.

- e) MnDNR has a Transportation Alternatives (TA) grant LOI submitted to continue trail from Lutsen's Ski Hill Road into Lutsen Town Center. Should this be awarded, we may be asked to advocate for matching funds through bonding.
  - f) Two Harbors – Campground to Superior Shores segment was brought up. Having trail at either endpoint of our trail will be symbolic. Having trail begin at the Campground/Burlington Bay will give folks in Two Harbors more buy-in to the trail. It will connect to the city trail system. It will also give people at Superior Shores a safe way to get into town on foot or bike, and folks from town access to Superior Shores and the restaurant.
- o **Membership Levels**
    - Should forms be updated to give a way for folks to contribute at higher levels?
      - For the Fall 2016 and Spring 2017 newsletters we will leave the envelopes as is. Envelopes now have an extra field for an extra donation. There was a good discussion about ways to connect dollar figures with emotions. (\$20 = I like this trail!, \$50= I love this trail, etc)
      - Noted we need to form a Membership Committee. Dan Cruikshank and Anne McKinsey are willing to serve on this committee. Anyone else interested?
        - a) Noted that expanding Twin Cities representation will be necessary
        - b) Expanding our efforts to campaign and garner business sponsors is an important step—noted that having in person interactions with business owners is a beneficial component.
        - c) Noted that increasing our ranks of members increases clout—having higher numbers of members statistics can help with grant applications, etc. Look to ways of bringing more members in through discounted memberships, giveaways, etc.
        - d) Discussion about trading more business memberships

## 2. Executive Director's Report

- o Give to the Max Day is November 17, 2016
  - Newsletter, Facebook, We're on the Field Trip Tour – 11/17 at Heritage Sports at noon –hope we can depend on our board to make contributions on this day to help us monitor our presence.
- o MOU is now executed
- o Assisted MnDNR with the Transportation Alternatives Letter of Intent
  - Applicants will be notified on November 21<sup>st</sup> if invited to submit full application
  - \$900,000 is available for the entire MnDOT District 1
- o Assisted MnDNR with Federal Lands Access Program grant
- o Assisted MnDOT with photos for their USBR41 process
- o Scheduled to conduct a presentation entitled: The Gitchi-Gami State Trail- A Great Trail on Our Great Lake on March 7<sup>th</sup> at Macalester College, Room 350 &pm
- o Liz Walton (MnDOT) connected me to Kerri Kolstad of Wahoo Adventures which is planning a USBR41 Celebration ride for late May.
- o Spoke with Kent Skaar 11/8/2016 to gain perspective about priority projects
- o Met with Leigh McAdam of [www.hikebiketavel.com](http://www.hikebiketavel.com) – check out her blog post about our trail at: <http://www.hikebiketavel.com/43707/discover-minnesota-by-bike-the-gitchi-gami-trail/>
- o Presented at a field trip during the Minnesota's Lake Superior Coastal Program Coastal Conference in early October at the Beaver Bay trailhead

## 2. **Publicity and Communications Officer's Report**

- Looking to fill this position in January 2017 – Greg Fangel has agreed to look into working on the newsletters, with Steven Malikowski, Michelle Pierson, and GGTA president offering some writing. Anne McKinsey would still be amenable to editing/proofreading.
  - Anne to email MS Publisher samples to Greg
- Fall Newsletter – mailed week of November 14<sup>th</sup>. Will need to post on website.
- Michelle and Anne worked to place a \$100 advertisement in the winter issue of Minnesota Trails Magazine for a Save the Date for our August 19, 2017 ride.

## 3. **Treasurer's Report**

- Report of the Treasury – will be sent out to accompany this meeting summary
- Motion to approve the Treasury Report by Anne McKinsey/Tom Peterson. Carries.

## 4. **Trail Coordinator's Report (in absentia)**

- Grant Applications in progress (TA, FLAP)
- Invasive species spraying occurred near Gooseberry
- Detour in Temperance River State Park-
- West Road back on schedule

A question came up at this point of the meeting regarding the potential to permit our trail users/supporters to 'Adopt-a-Mile' of trail. This would potentially include 2 clean-ups per year, and we'd ask adopters to keep track of trail conditions in their segment (they could take gps tagged photos of trail issues, cracks, holes, plugged culverts, etc). Will check with DNR to see if there is a protocol for this type of stewardship. Adopters would not be represented on trail, but a shout-out list and feature could be included in newsletters, e-newsletter blasts and on our website. Could be a good outreach to garner more support of the trail.

## 5. **ARDC Update**

- Trail Count Year 2- numbers are being reviewed by Greg Lindsey at U of M – final report out by year's end
- ARDC Management Team restructuring- Andy Hubley named ARDC Director, part of a management team including division directors of other ARDC umbrella organizations: Arrowhead Area Agency on Aging and the Metropolitan Interstate Council
- Charlie Moore presented the Interactive Map Tour + Scoping document to the Fall Regional Transportation Advisory Committee meeting held in Beaver Bay in mid October

## 6. **Other Business**

- ## 7. **Meeting Adjourned:** Motion to adjourn at 10:55am by Bruce Martinson/Chad Pierson. Carries.

**NEXT MEETING:** Date: January 12, 2017 Location: 9:00am, Tettegouche State Park Visitors Center