

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

November 10, 2016
9 AM Tettegouche

Trail Funding:

The 2016 state bonding was not voted on before adjournment. We had \$2.2 million in the bill for the Grand Marais section. Rob Eckland recently stated that there is a chance that the legislature will meet in December and pass the bill. If that does not happen, the next legislative session, meeting in January 2017 will hopefully pass the bonding bill.

If that bonding bill is passed, we need to move on and plan for a new state trail bonding bill for the legislative session which will meet January to May 2018. By next summer we will need to have identified a section of trail agreed to by the DNR, MnDOT (if applicable) GGTA and city and county units of government. At least some engineering studies to identify an alignment with good construction costs estimates completed by the end of 2017 for presentation to the legislature.

Possible trail projects:

1. Two Harbors to Gooseberry. Add on to either the current trail in Two Harbors or Gooseberry
2. Silver Bay to Tettegouche. About 7 miles of trail connecting another State Park.
3. Tofte missing link. Likely a smaller project and could be added in with another project.
4. Ski Hill road in Lutsen to the town of Lutsen and maybe beyond to the Caribou Trail. 1 1/2-2 1/2 miles.
5. Outface Creek to Cascade State Park. 5-6 miles

Ongoing projects:

One half mile gravel between Silver Bay and Beaver Bay is ready to go.
Beaver Bay River bridge rebuild and the connection to the trail to SB is funded and ready, I think

Extending the trail in to Tofte from the NE side of town. This is moving along, combining local private funds with federal TAP funds and a DNR match.

TAP grant for extending the trail from the Ski Hill road NE to Lutsen. I believe that the DNR which would need to provide a 20% match to the \$600,000 grant, in their wisdom declined to apply.

FLAP grant for an underpass connecting current trail and town of Tofte. Total project cost \$1million. The grant application has been submitted to the U.S. Forest service. The head ranger for the Tofte district (Kurt) has issues with the costs for the project "Is this the best use of federal money" He and Mark R. have talked and I have both talked with him on the phone and later in person explains that it is a long term plan to eliminate on grade pedestrian and bikes crossing all along the shore. As of Monday, he had not make a decision

Other news: The Ride Director has announced his decision to resign after five years of annual rides. It's not a lot of work, mostly seeing that things get done and it is a great title to have on a resume. Hopefully, before or at the January meeting, a new director will step up to the plate.