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# GITCHI-GAMI TRAIL ASSOCIATION

January 12, 2017, 9:30am  
MnDNR Offices – Two Harbors, Minnesota

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## Welcome/Introductions

In attendance: Bill Blank (President, via phone conferencing), Tom Peterson (Vice President), Bruce Martinson, Anne McKinsey, Ginny Storlie (Cook County Commissioner), Pete Walsh (Lake County Commissioner), Josh Kowaleski (Spokengear), Derek Fredrickson (MnDOT), Mark Rudningen (MnDNR/Trail Coordinator), Joe Russell (MnDNR), Kevin Johnson (MnDNR), John Hendrickson (MnDNR), Charlie Moore (ARDC), Michelle Pierson (GGTA Executive Director/ARDC staff)

- ❑ Approval of November 10, 2016 meeting summary – Motion by Bruce Martinson/Bill Blank to approve minutes/carries unanimously.
- ❑ Agendas and meeting summaries posted here: [www.ardc.org/ggta](http://www.ardc.org/ggta)

## Committee Business

### 1. President's Report/Vice President's Welcome

- Funding:
  - MN Legislature – Convened 1/3/2017. Dayton released his bonding package, did not contain line item for the \$2M trail project (Tofte/Cutface).
  - Bill spoke with Judy Erickson – she anticipates the project being in the legislative package, expects bonding to occur in May
- Re-thinking our 2017 Annual Ride – President Blank mentioned that he would like our March meeting to focus on some changes to the Ride. Seeking a new Ride Director, or perhaps Co-Director for 2017.

### 2. Executive Director's Report

- Give to the Max Day
  - November 17<sup>th</sup>, technical issues with the website
  - We raised \$706.54 (\$720 before fees) – increase from previous years, some new members
- Assisting MnDNR with the Transportation Alternatives Application, Due 1/13/2017
  - \$900,000 is available for the entire MnDOT District 1
  - Competitive cycle...there are 17 potential grant applicants
- 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 at 7pm
  - Anyone planning to be in the cities and want to join/co-present with me?
- Continue to be in touch with Kerri Kolstad of Wahoo Adventures which is planning a USBR41 Celebration ride for late May. (See itinerary) - Looking for GGTA members to come celebrate with riders along the North Shore route, ride along?
- Renewed our non-profit status with MN Secretary of State

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

- Greg Fangel has agreed to work on the Spring newsletter

- Skip PedalMN ad this year, maintain MnTrails and Have Fun Biking Ads
- Sandy Schutte added a sponsors component to our website. Be on the look out for featured business sponsors in the near future.
- Business sponsor push to occur in March

### 3. Treasurer's Report

- Report of the Treasury – no questions
- Annual Report of the Treasury – Motion to approve by Bruce Martinson/Tom Peterson, carried unanimously. Thanks to Chad Pierson, Treasurer for his efforts.

### 4. Trail Coordinator's Report

- A copy of the report distributed by Mark Rudningen will be distributed with the minutes
- Other discussion items:
  - West Road is on schedule—tree removal will need to happen soon
  - Caribou Falls Wayside-
    - MnDNR has a bid out for construction for summer 2017 construction. There is a provision for the trail, but at this point it will not be graded out, nor built in the wayside area.
    - Will have room for 25 cars and RV parking
    - No changes to Hwy 61 eastbound, but MnDOT adding a right turn lane westbound on Hwy 61
    - Bruce Martinson asked MnDNR if any other accommodations for the trail such as bike racks, interpretation. MnDNR noted a bike rack would be a good step.
    - Find original Caribou Falls Wayside concept designs here: <http://www.arrowheadplanning.org/CaribouFallsWayside/130001-CARIBOU%20FALLS%20SW-PRINT.pdf>
    -
  - Temperance River State Park – artesian springs affected progress last fall. Contract with Thoresons has been extended to place a series of draitiles.
  - Tofte N/E segment going out for RFP, on schedule – lengthy conversations about possible outcomes in Tofte once the N/E segment is completed.
  - FLAP Grant Application – Forest Service elected to not apply, concerned with costs to build a box culvert tunnel. Long discussion had about an at-grade crossing at current terminus near Forest Service building. A change in speed limits is a lengthy process and requires traffic studies demonstrating a need and then legislative approval.

### 5. Spokengear Presentation – May Bike/Gear Swap + Annual Meeting of the Members

- Josh Kowaleski represented Spokengear/Cedar Coffee Company in Dan Cruikshank's absence presenting plans for the May 20<sup>th</sup> 'Gearage Sale' to be held at the shop. This bike/gear swap will be an all-day event at the shop. The shop will be looking for donations/consignment bicycles, and all outdoor gear in good shape, to encourage active participation in the great outdoors. A portion of all sales on event day will serve as a fundraiser for the GGTA. Volunteers will be needed on the day of, and if any board members would like to serve on the planning committee for the event, please contact Josh at [josh@spokengear.com](mailto:josh@spokengear.com). Michelle will work with Dan and Kirsten Cruikshank to carve out time to have a presentation about the trail for an Annual Meeting of the Members during this event. The Annual Meeting of the Board will follow – please keep in mind folks we may like to nominate to join the board, and those who may be willing to serve on the executive board. More info on this fun event to come.
  - Board members, be thinking of gear you can contribute
  - Recommendation to work with the Chamber to have information at both info huts about the sale

- Recommendation for the shop to notify Lake County Highway Engineer Krysten Foster about parking, see about a parking provision on 11<sup>th</sup> Street shoulders ([krysten.foster@co.lake.mn.us](mailto:krysten.foster@co.lake.mn.us) ).

#### 6. ARDC Update

- Charlie Moore presented findings from the summer 2016 count study. He distributed a handout that you will find with these notes.
- Final Report published for the Counting project and may be found here: [http://ardc.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/12/GGST\\_BikePed\\_UserStudy\\_2016-copy.pdf](http://ardc.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/12/GGST_BikePed_UserStudy_2016-copy.pdf)
- Counting on the GGST for winter fat-tire bike riders in Split Rock Lighthouse S.P.

#### 7. Other Business

- 2017 Meeting Dates – Discussion held to push meetings back to 10:00am, and to vary the meeting locations.

March 16 – 10:00am at the meeting room at Gooseberry Falls

**NEXT MEETING:** Date: March 16,2017 Location & Time: Gooseberry Falls State Park –Meeting Room