
GITCHI-GAMI TRAIL ASSOCIATION

November 12, 2015, 9:00am

Tettegouche State Park – Visitor Center Conference Room



MEETING SUMMARY

- ❑ Call to order, 9:00am
- ❑ Call for Approval of September 17, 2015 meeting summary - Motion to approve meeting by Mark Sandbo/Nancy Mancini. Carried unanimously.
- ❑ Agendas and meeting summaries posted here: www.arrowheadplanning.org/ggta

Committee Business

1. Treasurer's Report

- Treasurer Mancini noted that income to date is at \$14,325.20 and expenses to date were at \$10,602.24. Checking balance is at \$14,273.03.
- Treasurer Mancini brought to the table that she had decided to resign from her position as Treasurer. A conversation about who would be a good fit to fill this executive board role was had. It was noted that GGTA member Chad Pierson may have interest. He will be at the January 16th meeting and should he be elected and results of that vote recorded in meeting minutes, Nancy will work with new treasurer to transfer files, credit card, banking information to the new officer.
- ARDC requested board input as to when it would be best to invoice the GGTA for the GGST Scoping Project and the GGTA/ARDC administrative assistance contract. With board input, it was decided that ARDC should invoice the GGTA soon for the entire \$5,000 commitment for the scoping project, and \$2,500 representing half of the commitment for the administrative assistance contract.

2. President's Report

- Gitchi-Gami Scoping Through Tofte
 - Bill Blank reported about the meeting he attended unveiling trail alignment options through the Town of Tofte. Maps showing possible alignments were handed out today to meeting attendees. Although final alignment has not yet been selected, DNR plans to look at the corridor in greater detail and find the best way to use designated TAP funds to get some trail completed. GGTA President Blank hopes that MnDNR engineer John Hendrickson will have time to work on alignment prior to the legislative session so that the Tofte Bonding Request presented to MN Senate tour in September can be substantiated with pre-engineering cost estimates and be included in the bonding language. Three MnDNR projects in Cook County projects are in the running for bonding funds: GGST from Grand Marais to Cutface, GGST Through Tofte, Grand Marais Marina/breakwater project. Discussion was had about how this may pan out.

- Trail Funding Sources – A discussion was had about potential new funding sources. President Blank distributed a report entitled ‘Funding New Trail Sections’. It was noted that without a DNR application for the TAP solicitation this fall, there will not be any new federal funds applied to trail construction. However, as a designated Destination Trails and a State trail, DNR does desire seeing trail construction. There was discussion about which segments might be DNR priorities for construction and the Silver Bay to Tettegouche segment came up. What do we do? Establish and build on relationships with key people in DNR, MnDOT, Parks and Trails Council, legislative representatives. Also look into private gift-giving. Funds from individuals may be able to be used do conduct engineering ahead of bonding bill proposals. Find President Blank’s memo on Funding New Trail Sections for more details.
- Board Membership – We need to brainstorm potential interested parties to enlarge the board. We will also need to conduct elections at the regular meeting (to follow the meeting of the members on January 16th, 2015).
- Annual Meeting Planning
 - Meeting set for: January 16, 2016 @3pm – it is confirmed that we have this meeting space from 3-5pm.
 - Who can make it? Bill will be out of town – we can maybe connect via phone conferencing for the board meeting following the member meeting. Nancy will not be available. Mark Sandbo will be able to attend and run the meetings. Michelle Pierson is available and will send a RSVP inquiry out to the remaining board members to ascertain attendance.
 - Topics for a slide show? GGTA board suggests using materials developed for the Bonding presentation. A Powerpoint presentation will be developed and include the video that was prepared in September.

3. **Publicity and Communications Report**

- Give to the Max Day – November 12, 2015.
Several Facebook posts were developed to encourage our supporters to give contributions on the GiveMN site.
- Plan and formalize how we handle memberships and business memberships
 - Life Member benefits – this topic was tabled for the next meeting. There is a favorable reaction to thinking of some token item to send to life members.
- Merchandise – this topic also tabled.

4. **Trail Coordinator’s Report**

- Mark Rudningen was unable to attend this meeting. He sent on his Trail Coordinator’s Report. Mark Kovacovich did attend to represent MnDNR.
- Trail Coordinator’s Report may be found on the www.arrowheadplanning.org/ggta website.
- One item in the Trail Coordinator’s Report requested that the GGTA make a motion to either accept a shared use request by Rick Anderson that would

permit use of snowmobiles and grooming equipment on the GGST from Schroeder to Temperance River. This item was put to a vote. There was a Motion by Mark Sandbo, with a second by Nancy Mancini that it is the position of the Gitchi-Gami Trail Association that the Gitchi-Gami State Trail shall remain a trail designated for only non-motorized use. When put to a vote, four members voted ay, 2 voting members voted nay. The motion carries. The GGTA requests that Mark Rudningen inform Mr. Anderson that the GGTA's position remains that the trail shall be used only for non-motorized uses.

- On the topic of the Silver Bay to Tettegouche segment, discussion led to the fact that although some former Transportation Enhancement dollars are designated to this segment, that it may be a \$5-7 million dollar segment. It would be a unique segment as most of the alignment would likely be well inland in forested areas. This may help the construction price estimate to be lower than what is typical.

5. ARDC Update

- GGST Scoping Project Update – ARDC presented its scope of work to date on the scoping project which includes per segment looks at possible alignment, general construction cost estimates, individual segment profiles, a matrix of all businesses in the trail corridor and more. The final report on this project is due in February.
- Trail Count Update –ARDC GIS Intern David Sandberg presented the process/findings from the trail count project conducted in summer 2015. He presented two maps displaying Summer Average Daily Traffic derivations for each of the 23 counting locations along constructed portions of the trail. More information about this project can be found at:
www.arrowheadplanning.org/ggstcount
- ARDC proposes that the GGTA apply for Minnesota's Lake Superior Coastal Program Short-Term Action Request (STAR) Grant application in order to permit the agency to collect additional trail count data via a GGST User Counts Year 2 Project. Board members are supportive of the idea. A resolution to apply for funds is necessary should the project be awarded funding.
 - Board Resolution – A motion to apply for funds was made by Nancy Mancini/Mark Sandbo. Carried unanimously. President Blank signed the resolution at the end of the meeting.

6. **Meeting Adjourned** – A motion to adjourn by Anne McKinsey/Bruce Martinson 11:00am was carried unanimously.

NEXT MEETING: GGTA Annual Meeting

Date: January 16, 2016 3pm Location: Tettegouche State Park Wayside Conference Room

Next Regular Meeting:

Date: March 10th, 2016 9am Location: Tettegouche State Park Wayside Conference Room