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# GITCHI-GAMI TRAIL ASSOCIATION

September 17, 2015, 9:00am

Tettegouche State Park – Visitor Center Conference Room

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## **DRAFT- MEETING SUMMARY**

### **Welcome/Introductions**

- Meeting called to order at 9:20am
- In attendance: Bill Blank (GGTA President), Mark Sandbo (GGTA Vice President), Nancy Mancini (Treasurer), Anne McKinsey (Communications Chair), Tom Peterson (Board Member), Mark Rudningen (MnDNR- GGST Trail Coordinator), Michelle Pierson (GGTA Executive Director/ARDC)
- Approval of July 23, 2015 meeting summary (Motion to approve the meeting summary by M. Sandbo/N. Mancini)
- Agendas and meeting summaries posted here: [www.arrowheadplanning.org/ggta](http://www.arrowheadplanning.org/ggta)

### **Committee Business**

#### **1. President's Report**

- **Senate Capital Investment NE MN Tour---** Bonding Bill Presentation review  
Bill Blank presented the GGTA's bonding project requests to the Senate Capital Investment NE Minnesota Bus Tour. In addition to the Senators on the bus, Sen. Tom Bakk also joined the audience. Michelle Pierson and Charlie Moore (ARDC GIS Specialist) also attended the presentation and assisted with presentation materials. The presentation was attractive and we were not asked any questions about the requests by the Senators. The Powerpoint presentation was also presented to the GGTA board during the 9/17/2015 meeting.
- 15<sup>th</sup> Annual Ride Review—GGTA Board members offered their observances of the day which included:
  - Adding Rest Stop Closure times to Ride Information Handout distributed at ride event (we had one disappointed family that did not make it to Beaver Bay in time for rest stop closure)
  - Set up at Ride Start— If the ride starts at 9:00am, is there a way to satisfy our riders who come early and want an early start? Tent set-up took time and we had some riders who were impatient to start. Discussion included posting a sign that says Ride Registration Opens at 9:00am. It was also noted that perhaps we could permit pre-registered riders to get an early start. B. Blank noted that we had a multi-generational work crew that gave our ride a good start.
  - It was noted that the new Trailhead facility in Beaver Bay makes for an excellent ride day rest stop. Many folks lingered and this would be the location for GGTA Membership materials, a display of the t-shirts

through the years, rack cards, business cards and more. The food supplies went quickly at the rest stop, and the virtues of a peanut butter sandwich were extolled by many.

- N. Mancini also brought up that Beaver Bay will be hosting a summer celebration the 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday in August and we ought to coordinate events to include the ride. This could be an opportunity to bring more Beaver Bay folks into ride organization. Also, it will be important to ensure we may use the trailhead facility for a rest stop.
- We had several people require Mark Spinler's assistance on the ride this year. M. Sandbo noted we should have additional bike pumps, perhaps an electric pump to be used at Beaver Bay. Discussion also led to looking into opportunities to install a bike-fix-it station at the Beaver Bay Trailhead.
- This year, revenues were slightly greater than expenditures associated with the ride.
- With 90 registrant zip codes, ARDC's fall intern David Sandberg, a student at UMD, made a map showing the distribution of our riders. The map was presented at the meeting.

## 2. Treasurer's Report

- N. Mancini reported that she, A. McKinsey, and M. Pierson attended webinar regarding financials for non-profits. She mentioned the most important aspect of financial statements/treasurer's reports is that they should be consistent and all board members should be well-informed about the state of the association's finances
- Account balance is currently at \$42,075.18 though several invoices will be coming in for staffing assistance, food reimbursement from Annual Ride and the GGST Scoping project.
- Motion to approve Treasurer's Report by M. Sandbo/T. Peterson. Motion carried unanimously.

## 3. Publicity and Communications Report

- Plan and formalize how we handle business memberships – A. McKinsey will work with M. Pierson to draft a letter to be sent to all business members in the trail corridor asking each business to consider sponsorship of the GGTA. A package of trail sponsorship benefits will be highlighted to include a logo link on the [www.ggta.org](http://www.ggta.org) website, shared content on facebook, a window decal demonstrating support of the GGTA, and potentially a rack-card holder.
- Newsletter—A. McKinsey will begin working on a Fall Trail Rider Newsletter and seeks information from:
  - Bill Blank – stories from the 15<sup>th</sup> Annual Ride
  - Michelle Pierson—stories from the ride, and an additional Executive Director Report which could include progress on the Trail Scoping Project, funding and the like.
  - Mark Rudningen- Trail Coordinator's report. A. McKinsey noted that M. Rudningen can elaborate on his report distributed at this meeting to serve as his report.
- Rack Card – A. McKinsey has been collecting eye-catching samples and will work with local graphic designers on a new rack card design to be reported upon at a future date.

#### 4. Trail Coordinator's Report

- Mark Rudningen, MnDNR GGST Coordinator distributed a report that highlighted:
  - new safety signs near Split Rock,
  - a repaired fence near Chateau Levoux Resort,
  - a request for extended snow plowing in Tofte from Surfside Trailhead to Cliff Dweller Hotel (GGTA board is supportive of this extension. They noted a Joint Powers Agreement is already in place and the resort owners have agreed to repair any potential damage that occurs from snow blowing and noted a plow will not be used in this area)
  - a mowing update,
  - an update on the walk through on the Grand Marais to Cut Face Creek Wayside alignment
  - an update on the Temperance River Trail repair project—the lone bid for this project was rejected. Will rebid in late December.
  - West Road Project- timeline for construction extended to FY 2016
  - Update on Beaver River Bridge – a meeting with MnDOT will occur on 9/18/2015

#### 5. ARDC Update

- GGST Scoping Project Update
  - ARDC is in the process of conducting a thorough GIS analysis of the trail corridor to determine potential barriers and opportunities.
  - ARDC's new GIS intern David Sandberg has been gathering business information and other statistics for the trail corridor. These statistics can help us identify desirable connections for future trail.
    - *141 total businesses within ½ mile of trail*
    - *36 businesses within ½ mile of completed trail corridor*
    - *105 businesses within ½ mile of not completed trail corridor*

<https://www.google.com/maps/d/edit?mid=zOwr8NK64ImE.klqsuyYe02Zk&usp=sharing>

  - *65 total stream crossings along the trail*
  - *23 stream crossings for the completed section of trail*
  - *42 stream crossings for the not completed section of trail*
  - *Interactive elevation profile map has been generated for the trail*  
<http://arrowhead.maps.arcgis.com/apps/Elevations/index.html?appid=abc1e159c5dc43729226f84aa879f96d>
    - Next steps will be to identify areas of potential right of way acquisition, identify trail structure locations (bridges, culverts, retaining walls, etc.) in order to develop accurate planning-level cost estimates.
- Trail Count Update
  - All trail counters have been taken down for the summer except for the control site near Iona's Beach. The control site will be left up throughout the fall.
  - We are currently processing the data collected throughout the summer. We have a meeting scheduled with Greg Lindsey (UMN) to go over how to effectively manage and report the trail count data on Monday (9/21)

- Final report is scheduled to be complete by October 30<sup>th</sup>. Updates will be posted on [arrowheadplanning.org/ggstcount](http://arrowheadplanning.org/ggstcount)

## 6. Other Business

- **Transportation Alternatives Program(TAP) Grant Application-** B. Blank asked when the solicitation for the next TAP grant would begin and sought board approval for reconfiguring the application made last year which would construct trail from Lutsen Ski Hill Road to Lutsen Town Center. The board members agreed that it would be beneficial to reapply with this segment of trail in mind. A motion was made to support applying for TAP funding for trail construction between Lutsen Ski Hill Road and Lutsen Town Center by A. McKinsey/B. Blank, carried unanimously.
- **TAP Solicitation window is open on 10/1/2015 through 10/30/2015.** Jarrett Valdez, Transportation Planner at ARDC will be sending notice of the 2015 TAP Solicitation Workshop soon.

## 7. Meeting Adjourned

- A motion was made by M. Sandbo/N. Mancini to adjourn today's meeting at 11:15am. Motion carried.

## **NEXT MEETING:**

Date: November 12, 2015 at 9:00am Location: Tettegouche State Park Wayside Conference Room