
GITCHI-GAMI TRAIL ASSOCIATION

July 12, 2018, 10:00am

MnDNR Trails & Waterways Office –Conference Room

1568 County Hwy 2, Two Harbors, MN 55616

Teleconferencing call in number: (218) 834-1401



WELCOME

1. Welcome & Introductions – Meeting called to order at 10:08am. President Tom Peterson welcomed meeting guests and board members.

In attendance: Tom Peterson (President), Bruce Martinson (Vice President), Chad Pierson (Treasurer), Bill Blank, Dan Cruikshank, Ginny Storlie (Ex-Oficio-Cook County Commissioner), Krysten Foster (Cook/Lake Counties – Hwy Engineer), Bryan Anderson (MnDOT D1), Mark Rudningen (MnDNR Trail Coordinator), Kent Skaar (MnDNR), Michelle Pierson (Executive Director/ARDC)

COMMITTEE BUSINESS

1. President/Vice President's Report

- LCCMR process inquiry- Tom Peterson requested that DNR staff present report on how the LCCMR solicitation is working, how the DNR prioritizes its applications, and what potential impact this may have on the GGT. Kent Skaar noted that in the early days LCCMR permitted funding trail projects, and that for some time they moved towards other projects. Last year they once again trail projects were eligible to seek funds. DNR had a \$5M application last year which was approved at \$2.5M. Mr. Skaar noted that the projects that were not funded last year remain on the priority list and that a list of 8 projects has been developed for the next solicitation. The Lutsen Ski Hill Road to Town Center is the 5th priority of 8 that was submitted for the next solicitation, and the Silver Bay to Tettegouche design/pre-engineering is the 7th of 8 projects submitted. Next steps for the GGTA will be to continue to contact legislators in support of DNR's list calling attention to the GGT projects in the list.

2. Trail Coordinator's Report

- Trail Updates- Trail Coordinator Mark Rudningen distributed a handout with some updates.
- Tofte construction updates- Mr. Rysdahl of Bluefin has completed some redesign work of his business' parking area early this summer. George Bougalis and Sons is the contractor who was awarded the bid to construct the trail from the current terminus to the Commercial Fishing Museum. A preconstruction meeting will be held on July 17th with construction prep to begin shortly thereafter. Commissioner Storlie noted that folks are still parking and backing into Hwy 61 and advised all to be mindful of safety issues as the trail progresses in this area.
- West Road updates – Additional rocks will be placed along the entry/exit area on the West Rd. to stabilize the banks. It is anticipated this will take place before the ride date. Armored rocks may be installed.
- Temperance River State Park segment of trail has a heaving problem in one area and will require more engineering to fix. The segment is currently open and remains useable. More info on mitigation of this issue to come.
- Fence post mower – The money the GGTA contributed to the DNR for the purchase of a mower attachment arrived last week and has been used along the Gooseberry Segment and works well. The DNR thanks GGTA members for this donation. Rudningen distributed a photo of how showing the results of the mowing with the attachment.

- Lutsen area property acquisition updates – Mr. Rudningen met with Mr. Scott Harrison of Lutsen Resort to discuss the possibility of a trailhead facility at the junction of Ski Hill Road and TH 61 near the Poplar River bridge. He was interested in this idea. MnDNR has begun initial steps towards property acquisition in this area. More to come.
- Grand Marais to Cut Face updates – MnDNR staff members presented the trail alignment draft plans (90% engineering plan) to the Association. The trail will remain on the lake side of Hwy 61 between the current trail terminus at Grand Marais city limits and connect to the Cut Face Creek State wayside. The GGTA has received some comments about concerns about a location of a bridge over the Fall River. DNR presented the bridge designs to the Association. The DNR is hosting a public Open House to show these same designs to the public this evening. Bill Blank and Michelle Pierson intend to attend. Details about the open house:
 - Open House at Grand Marais City Hall, 5:00pm-6:30pm
 - <http://news.dnr.state.mn.us/2018/07/05/dnr-and-city-see-public-input-on-gitchi-gami-trail-development/>

3. Executive Director's Report

- Annual Ride – Set for August 18, 2018. Insurance has been applied for. DNR special use permit has been drawn up.
 - T-shirt – have made contact with John Cron. Distributed four ideas to members present. Consensus shows that the group liked version A. Will seek a grey tee, with one ink color. More updates to come.

Version A: Tee front(3x4 left pocket area)

Back of tee (10in diameter):



**18TH ANNUAL
NORTH SHORE BIKE RIDE
AUGUST 18, 2018**



- Volunteers – our call for volunteers in the newsletter has netted two respondents.
 - Trailer-Trailer remains at Spokengear. It is nearly empty. Rod Garver was unable to join us today as it is his last day at MnDOT. Rod intends to pick up the trailer following a vacation to install shelving. Looks like getting
- Parks & Trails Council of MN – Renew Membership- it was agreed to work with Parks and Trails Council and contribute for membership for the rest of this year and join next year at \$100 level.
- Northern Wilds- covering a story about the ride/advertise? – Board approves the \$106 ad level with the sponsor discount.
- WTIP interview – Scheduled for 7-17-2018 regarding the Annual ride
- MSA meeting –met with Kate Goodman Eynck about MSA's offerings for fundraising and planning
- Yard Sale update – check presentation to follow the meeting at Spokengear – please join following the meeting. Dan Cruikshank noted that the Yard Sale event raised \$1200 for Association this year. Will send photos following the event.

4. Treasurer's Report

- Treasurer's Report
Chad Pierson reported that the membership envelopes were coming in from the May newsletter mailing. He noted many folks add extra funds for trail maintenance. Pierson suggested the fall newsletter highlight the recent ways folks' contributions have assisted the DNR with trail maintenance and support including the sign at Twin Points/Iona's Beach and the assistance with mower attachment purchase. Pierson also noted one member added extra funds and suggested signage be improved in the Schroeder and Tofte areas so folks can find trailheads and the trail.
- A motion to approve the Treasurer's report was made by Bill Blank/Dan Cruikshank. Carries.

5. ARDC Report

- Paved Trail Economic Impact Assessment update
 - Survey review: please look over this draft form of the trail user survey here:
<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/JNW6XP6>
- MnDOT District One Bicycle Plan update –There will be one more committee meeting in August and which will look at investment routes, prioritize routes. It is anticipated a public comment period will occur after August.

6. Other Business

- Bryan Anderson, MnDOT, noted that the Transportation Plan for Two Harbors recently kicked off, and there will be opportunities for public involvement alongside this process. This process will inform a reconstruction of 61 (in the urban corridor of Two Harbors) anticipated in 2023 or 2024. Discussion developed regarding this plan and the recently completed through-Two Harbors bike plan. There is opportunity for the GGTA to reach out to the City and DNR to gauge willingness to look at a TA application regarding the trail beginning in Two Harbors. TA solicitation process begins with a letter of intent, these are typically due at the end of October. It was also brought up that the through Two Harbors bike plan has also looked at a tunnel feasibility near the golf course/campground area.

Meeting adjourned 11:55am

NEXT MEETING: Date: September 13, 2018 10:00am

Location: TBD