

# McLeod County Trails Committee



Date: 08/30/2017 @6:30 pm

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McLeod County Fairgrounds Diner

Committee Members: (X=present)

X	Keith Froeming	X	Mary Behrens	X	Jon Christensen
X	Steve Cook	X	John Gillard	X	Tony Hausladen
X	Dean Nissen	X	Tim Olson	X	Kyle Strobel
X	Tim Haag		Kevin Klucas		

Others in attendance:

John Brunkhorst, Kent Exner, Doug Krueger, Al Koglin, Cindy Ludewig, Jim Bobier, Glenn Gruenhagen, Carol Kirchoff, Sue Goebel, and 2 other guests.

## **1: Call Meeting to Order**

John Gillard opened the meeting at 6:30pm

## **2: Approval of Meeting Minutes**

Upon making minor revisions; Tim H motioned to approve minutes, upon revisions discussed, seconded by Steve C, all were in favor to approve and publish.

## **3: Open Questions**

Glenn Gruenhagen:

Stated he introduced a trail pass bill last session, but it has not gotten support. Felt if other organizations expressed support it might gain traction. Brief discussion took place on pros and cons and possible alternatives.

Glenn also said that Dean Urdahl told him that horse trails are being added at Greenleaf State Rec Area.

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Presentation: Sue Goebel

Sue presented a slide show of the Luce Line Trail horse path. The pictures in the presentation were taken before the County Fair 2017, but Al and John stated that the trail has been mowed and widened by the county since that time. This was done through an agreement with the DNR. Sue stated that she believes a trail has been taken away from the horse riders.

Sue showed pictures of various parts of the trail

Several petitions have been signed to get the Luce Line back into riding condition, mowing was a great start, but the horse people think that the trail needs more. Some areas have depressions that can be dangerous for horses.

The wish of the horse-back riders is for the Dakota Trail to be a "Multi-Use" trail that they would be allowed to use too.

The trails commission suggested that horseback users identify specific areas that need attention and share that with the DNR. Having that information will help the DNR get those areas addressed.

Carol Kirchoff, commented on her use of the trails for horse-back riding and the fee that horseback riders pay.

Steve C shared the number of horse passes issued in McLeod County

2016 – 37 passes were issued

2012 – 29 passes were issued. This was before the trail was paved (fall 2015)

## **4: Discussions:**

### **Feasibility Study, Scope of Services review:**

The report from SRF Engineering was distributed to the group.  
For report, see attachment: SRF\_Engineering\_08.30.2017

Tony H questioned whether the county should have the adjacent property owners sign-off on what tiles existed on their properties? Maybe send out a certified letter to them?

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The trails commission group overall, felt that this may be a good idea, but this effort should be done by the county and not the engineering firm.

Tony H also questioned the scope of work?

Gravel bed made of?

Estimate of crushed Limestone?

Estimate of pavement?

Maintenance? Yearly, over the life of the trail

Steve C stated the level of maintenance is optional and because of that any estimate may not be valid. It depends on the level of maintenance you do.

Kent E agreed that, like roads, the amount of maintenance you do is optional. Kent also stated that the Engineering study is a design effort to aid construction. Maintenance is something else.

Discussion on the level of maintenance? High, low or a range

John B stated hypothetically thinking, we can get a # or pull off of existing data

Al K volunteered to call Carver and Three Rivers to get maintenance #'s, he will bring these back to this committee.

Statistics on MN trails

Steve C: A study of the paved state trails (598 miles) showed that they are typically in excellent to good condition for 25 years.

Jim B: of the 620 Miles of DNR trails, 100 miles need maintenance

Mary B: 2016 date, of the 588 miles of trails, only 26 are in poor condition.

Doug K questioned whether the group felt that this Engineering firm was sufficient to get the results we were looking for or whether we need to ask for a 2<sup>nd</sup> Engineering opinion?

John B stated that he felt this group knows what they are doing and we as a county should be confident in them. Kent E agreed.

Tony H stated he would like number for the following:

- 1) Design/Build of Crushed limestone trail & cost of maintenance

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## 2) Design/Build of paved trail & cost of maintenance

Motion by Steve C, seconded by Dean N to recommend that the county approve the SRF Pre-Engineering study and include construction estimates for crushed limestone and paving. Motion passed with one dissent.

### **Greater Minnesota Parks & Advisory Commission:**

Pete Royer, from this organization presented information to group.

For report, see attachment: Legacy\_Parks&Trails\_Success\_Info\_08.30.2017

Pete explained the history of the Legacy Amendment and the creation of the Greater MN Regional Parks and Trails Commission, along with the guidelines they work under.

Legacy funds for parks and trails are allocated by the following percentages:

DNR = 40%

Metropolitan Area = 40%

Greater Minnesota = 20%

Talked about grants and how they are scored individually for the grant \$\$.

Steve C asked about paving versus limestone and Pete stated that a limestone trail would not score as high because it limits use for a lot of people, especially the young and older segments of the population.

Discussion about having limestone first and paving later, but Pete said that would likely not make a difference because the limestone will still limit use.

### **5: Other Business / Open Questions**

Al K stated that for Grant Application I, he is waiting on approvals to move forward from various groups.

Steve C stated, as far as for horse trails, the Luce Line Trail west of County 115 is also available. The 5.5 miles from 115 to Cedar Mills is gravel and the 10 miles from Cedar Mills to Cosmos has a natural/turf surface.

### **6: Set Next Meeting date:**

Next meeting will be setup using doodle.

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**7: Adjourn Meeting:** Motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Tim H, seconded by Tim O, all in favor, meeting adjourned at 8:30 pm

DRAFT