

Lake Vermilion Trail Steering Committee
Meeting #12 Notes
2/8/17 – Greenwood Town Hall

Attendees

Lisa Austin – *MnDOT*

John Bassing – *Greenwood Township*

Carol Booth – *Wakemup Village Resident, Cook*

Joan Broten – *Minnesota DNR*

Greg Dostert – *Breitung Township*

Josh Gillson – *Lake Vermilion Resort Association*

Earl Grand – *Beatty Township*

Russell Habermann – *Arrowhead Regional Development Commission*

Eric Hanson – *Lake Vermilion Resort Association*

Cathi Hively – *Beatty Township*

Linda Keith – *City of Tower*

Holly Larson – *National Park Service*

Steve Lotz – *Vermilion Lake Township*

Caroline Owens – *Ely Resident*

Sue Wolfe – *Owens Township*

1. Linda Keith reported that she has obtained an estimate for insurance for the JPB through the League of Cities from Tower's agent. The cost would be between \$450 - \$850. She will get a firm price later.
2. Joint Powers Agreement (JPA)
 - a. Report on Breitung and Vermilion Lake Township Board Meetings: Joan Broten gave an update on her presentation to the Breitung Town Board; she noted that they approved sending the JPA onto their attorney, but did not tentatively approve it. Their main concern was that they would be stuck paying for maintenance of the trail even though no part of the proposed trail would be going through Breitung Township. Steve Lotz gave an update on the JPA presentation to the Vermilion Lake Town Board meeting. He noted that the board had a lot of questions and significant discussion was had. The Board tabled the item until their March meeting.
 - b. Adding Hoodoo Point to McKinley Segment. The Committee discussed adding the gap between the local trails into the Joint Powers Agreement. Breitung representative Greg Dostert and other committee members agreed.
 - c. Existing Local Trails part of Regional Trail: Holly pointed out that trail segments could be added to the Regional Trail, as defined by the Greater Minnesota Regional Park & Trail Commission (GMRPTC), but would not need to be part of the Joint Powers Agreement. The existing trails could continue to be managed locally, but if included in the Master Plan, could be eligible for GMRPTC funding. This option was agreed upon by members of the Steering Committee who are

connected with the City of Tower, Breitung Township, and Greenwood Township, which all manage local trails. The only potential JPB member who owns existing trails but didn't have a member present to respond to this idea was Bois Forte, which has existing trail near Fortune Bay Casino in their Lake Vermilion Section.

- d. Legal Review by Bois Forte and Greenwood: Holly Larson shared comments received from legal reviews of the JPA so far. These reviews mainly addressed insurance, liability, ownership, and term limits for JPB members. Steve Lotz also reviewed the JPA and recommended edits regarding citing state statute, tying JPB to open meeting laws, adding language about appropriate record-keeping, members withdrawing from the JPB, dissolving the board, and subjecting the board to the Minnesota Data Practices Act. It was also noted that the people who signs checks for each entity (i.e. mayor and clerk) would be the one to sign the JPA and that each entity should receive their own signature page. The committee reviewed each proposed change, and decided upon several language changes. In the interest of saving money in lawyer fees, Linda Keith suggested utilizing one lawyer (Copeland Peterson) to revise the JPA before it is sent for approval to any other potential JPB members and offered 3 hours of the City of Tower's lawyer's time. Holly will make the committee's changes, and provide Linda with a revised version of the document and all attorney's comments. Linda will coordinate with Copeland Peterson for a full legal revision of the document.
- e. Prepare for Next Presentations:
 - i. Owens: Monday, February 13 (confirmed)
 - 1. Sue will present, Russell and Carol will attend
 - ii. Beatty: Thursday, February 16 (not confirmed)
 - 1. Carol will present, Holly will attend
 - iii. Kugler: 2nd or 3rd Tuesday in March (not scheduled yet)
 - 1. Joan will present, Russell will attend
 - iv. County: Tuesday, March 14 @ Ely (not confirmed)
 - 1. Josh will present; Dusty, Sue, and Holly will attend
 - 2. Holly is still trying to schedule and will let everyone know when confirmed.
 - v. Next steps: Holly will confirm presentation dates and continue to coordinate with township clerks
- f. Talking Points: Carol Booth suggested that it would be wise to have Talking Points/a FAQ section available to committee members. The FAQ should include sections on maintenance (utilizing volunteers and not tax dollars), safety, and vandalism and land values (statistics?) in connection with trails. Holly will draft a document for committee review.
- g. It was noted that the powerpoint presentation should highlight the designation of regional significance from the GMRPTC.

3. Communication/Public Relations

- a. Updating Brochure: Carol Booth noted that there are approximately 100 brochures left and it may be time to do a second print run. The committee agreed to a 2nd printing, and noted that a few updates to the brochure may need to be made. Russell Habermann noted that a part of ARDC's contract is supporting promotional activities and printing, so they would be able to pay the bill for the next print run.
- b. Decals or Pins: Carol reported on her search for decals (\$0.20 ea), water bottles (\$1 ea) and pins (\$1.45 ea) and asked the committee if they have any other ideas for a giveaway item that would promote the trail. Water bottles were mentioned as a good tie-in to physical activity.
- c. Next Steps: Russell will send out a call to the committee for changes to the brochure; Holly and Tom Holmes will work to make updates based on the changes suggested. Russell will work with Carol to do a second print run of the brochure. Carol will further research prices for decals, pins, and water bottles.

4. Fundraising

- a. Fundraising Letter: Carol noted that she and Josh have both previously worked on a fundraising letter to solicit donations for the trail. Carol is still working on her letter and will coordinate with Russell about best ways to format it (as well as thank you letters) to send out when the time comes.
- b. Fundraising Tips: Holly will email out some tips that may help with fundraising for the trail.

5. Master Plan Revision

This agenda item was tabled until the next meeting due to lack of time. In preparation for breakout groups at the next meeting, committee members attending selected one of the three topics: interpretation, ecological and land resources, and user metrics and research, and were given handouts of questions to answer prior to the next meeting. Those interested were also given the interpretation handout.

NEXT MEETING: Wednesday, March 8, 2017 @ 10 a.m. at the U.S. Forest Service LaCroix Ranger Station in Cook