

Lake Vermillion Trail Joint Powers Board
Wednesday, October 11, 2023
Via Zoom or teleconference

Joint Powers Board (JPB) members present:

Tim Johnson, Cook, Chair, via Zoom
Cathi Hiveley, Beatty, via Zoom
Roxanne Tea, Vermilion Lake via Zoom
Carol Booth, Owens via Zoom
John Bassing, Greenwood via Zoom
Ross Swanson, Kugler, via Zoom
Nancy Salminen, Tower, via Zoom
Carol Burr, Bois Forte, via Zoom
Steve Lotz, Vermilion Lake alternate, Treasurer, via Zoom

Guests: Lee Peterson, area resident

Chair Tim Johnson called the meeting to order at 5:05 pm. The agenda was accepted.

Approval of minutes – Motion by Cathi Hiveley, Beatty, second by Carol Booth, Owens, to approve the August 9, 2023 meeting minutes as previously distributed, eight ayes, no nays, motion carried.

Reports of Officers & Committees:

Treasurer's report – Steve Lotz reported a balance as of September 30, 2023 of \$3,361.49. Dues invoices for 2023 have been sent to Greenwood and Bois Forte. Bois Forte has requested an updated Form W-9. Motion by John Bassing, Greenwood, second by Carol Burr, Bois Forte, to approve the Treasurer's report, eight ayes, no nays, motion carried.

Business

No recent field work has been done.

Grant writing – the IRRR grant writing grant funds are to be spent by the end of the year. Carol Booth recommended that funding be turned back. Steve Lotz noted that the next JPB meeting would be December 13, which would leave very little time before the end of the year if a decision was not made now. Motion by Carol Booth, Owens, second by Nancy Salminen, Tower, to extend or close out the IRRR grant, eight ayes, no nays, motion carried. Carol Booth will contact the IRRR.

Mesabi Trail coordination – On August 22 Carol Booth, Tim Johnson, and Steve Lotz met with Sarah Ciochetto at Mesabi Station. Bob Manzoline attended by speaker phone. Carol provided a summary of the meeting. The Mesabi Trail has received several requests for spurs. They will be working on a five to ten year Master Plan update. Our request that the Mesabi Trail take over or assume the Lake Vermilion Trail project is timely and they were quite positive as to the possibilities. A draft letter requesting same was distributed prior to the meeting. Carol suggested adding the Trail's vision

statement. Cathi Hiveley indicated that the Mesabi Trail was better suited to develop the Lake Vermilion Trail. Nancy Salminen noted that while we had made some headway there was a lot left to do. Motion by Roxanne Tea, Vermilion Lake, second by Cathi Hiveley, Beatty, to send the request with the added language, no further discussion, eight ayes, no nays, motion carried.

A map showing various possible trail alignments was requested for segment 3. Motion by Carol Booth, Owens, second by Roxanne Tea, Vermilion Lake, to have Steve put together an options map, no further discussion, eight ayes, no nays, motion carried. Roxanne offered to assist in developing the map.

Motion by Carol Booth, Owens, second by Carol Burr, Bois Forte, to ask that Tim Johnson contact Paul McDonald and Mike Jugovich to provide a brief update, no further discussion, eight ayes, no nays, motion carried.

Motion by Carol Booth, Owens, second by Rozanne Tea, Vermilion Lake, that we ask to attend the December Rail Authority meeting in Duluth, Carol and Tim to attend, no further discussion, eight ayes, no nays, motion carried.

John Bassing reported that at their October 10 meeting the Greenwood Town Board voted unanimously to withdraw from the LVT JPB under Article XV of the JPB bylaws.

Tim Johnson noted that Trail envelopes and brochures were available during business hours at his office in Cook.

Friends update – work continues on membership management software and a generic grant narrative. Give-to-the-max is being set up.

Cathi Hiveley asked why Greenwood was withdrawing. John Bassing said that it was due to a lack of progress, specifically a lack of easements, funding, and construction. Lee Peterson reported that there has been zero interest in the Trail in Greenwood.

Next meeting is set for December 13, 2023 at 5:00 pm via Zoom.

There being no further discussion the meeting was adjourned at 5:58 pm.

Steve Lotz, Friends of the Lake Vermilion Trail Secretary