

Lake Vermilion Trail Steering Committee
Meeting #19 Notes
10/11/17 – USFS La Croix Ranger Station, Cook

Called to order at 10:00 AM

Attendees

Carol Booth - *Beatty Resident*
Caroline Owens – *Eagles Nest Resident*
Cathi Hively – *Beatty Township*
Elizabeth Storm – *City of Cook*
Greg Dostert – *Breitung Township*
Holly Larson – *National Park Service*
John Bassing – *Greenwood Township*
Josh Gilson - *Lake Vermilion Resort Association*
Lee Peterson—*Greenwood Resident*
Melissa Roach – *Timberjay newspaper*
Steve Lotz – *Vermilion Lake Township*
Sue Wolfe – *Owens Township*

1. Updates -

- a. Holly Larson congratulated the committee on a great team effort resulting in Kugler, Vermilion Lake, Greenwood, Beatty, Owens, Tower, and Cook all approving the Joint Powers Agreement. Breitung voted to not approve the JPA. The JPA is on the upcoming agendas of the St. Louis County Board and the Bois Forte Tribal Council.
- b. Sue Wolfe requested reimbursement of expenses in the amount of \$20.88 for booth space, map lamination, and postage. Motion by Cathi Hively, second by Elizabeth Storm to approve payment, all aye, motion carried.

2. Administration

- a. 2nd Round JPA Review for Board/Council Approval
 - i. Report on completed meetings – Beatty approved the JPA 3-0 on 10-10-17. Cathi Hively asked for clarification of the differences between the Joint Powers Board and the Steering Committee. The discussion indicated that the JPB would be the official decision making body made up of the various member entity representatives and the Steering Committee would be a working group in support of the JPB and the Trail with membership open to any interested parties. Cook approved the JPA unanimously on 9-28-17. Kugler approved the JPA on 10-19-17. Breitung failed to approve the JPA on 9-26-17 with the dissenting votes expressing concern about so little of the trail being within Breitung's borders, about uncertainty regarding future costs and allocation of same, and possible motorized trail conflicts with non-motorized trails.

Vermilion Lake approved the agreement 2-1 on 10-2-17 with the dissenting vote feeling that easements for the entire trail should be acquired before any construction would begin.

ii. Future meetings –Holly Larson has been in contact with St. Louis County (SLC) deputy Administrator and the Trail and the JPA are on the agenda for the SLC Board meeting at Mesabi Station in Eveleth on 10-24-17. Josh Gilson will present the Trail information to the Board. Holly will have an updated presentation. There was discussion of the need to contact Commissioners prior to the meeting to ask for their support as well as to attend the meeting to show support for the Trail. Holly has been unable to contact Sidra Starkovich about the upcoming Bois Forte meetings but the hope is to be on the 10-18-17 or the 11-1-17 meeting.

b. Recruiting Joint Powers Board & More Steering Committee Members – With the approvals of the JPA and the imminent formation of the JPB the steering component of the Committee’s task is coming to an end and the Committee should transition into a work group to support the JPB. It was felt that some entities may have difficulty filling representative positions. It was also felt that the Committee would benefit by additional membership. Social media could and should play a role in recruiting interested parties for both the JPB and the Committee. It was also suggested that the Trail would be a good project for the Vermilion Country School charter school, other school student councils, and Boy Scout groups. Russell Habermann was volunteered to be the contact for the recruitment efforts.

3. Communications/Public relations

- a. Social Media – Carol Booth reported that Char Conger had taken a new job and it was unclear if she would continue managing the Trail’s face book page. Carol will follow up with Char. Josh Gilson indicated that he could take over this task if Char did not continue and that he has the administrator information for the face book page.
- b. With the various approvals of the JPA marking a waypoint in the process it was decided that articles should be sent to the various area papers. Holly Larson will put together a press release.
- c. Banner purchase – Carol Booth will contact W. A. Fisher Printing regarding a banner. The thought is a simple banner with “Lake Vermilion Trail” and the logo and perhaps a drawing of a bicycle. Several suggested other possible vendors including Roger’s Printing and Cara Palmer at Ely Design Works, both in Ely.
- d. Joan Broten was not in attendance and there was no further information on the business card sized handouts.

4. Fundraising

- a. Donation update – the Head of the Lakes Resort has made a donation in the past week but not details were available. It is believed that several other donations

have also been received but again but no details were available. Carol Booth will work with Linda Keith to insure that thank you's are sent. Carol will also send a grant summary letter to Lake Country Power for their Operation Roundup grant of \$500.

- b. Grants
 - i. Greg Dostert provided contact information for the IRRRB Tourism & Culture Grant.
 - ii. An IRRRB grant of \$150 to \$5,000 is available to apply for grants.
 - iii. The State Farm grant is due 10-31. Funding is available for easement acquisition and preliminary design up to \$10,000. Carol Booth and Holly Larson will apply.
 - iv. The Tower-to-the-Y-Store committee will look at trail routes from the Mesabi Trailhead to the Vermilion Country School and the Tower DNR office this afternoon. If there is a workable route Holly Larson will send a letter of intent for the MN DOT Transportation Alternatives grant.
 - v. Minnesota Recreation and Park Foundation – membership is required to be eligible for grants. Elizabeth Storm will see if Cook qualifies. Holly Larson will check if St. Louis County might be eligible.
 - vi. Blandin Foundation – grants are contingent on participating in the Blandin Leadership Program. Caroline Owens indicated that her husband was such a graduate.
- c. End of Year donation Letter to Individuals - Carol Booth is hesitant to do a letter this fall. It was brought up that November 16 is Minnesota Give to the Max Day, a non-profit on-line donation through the website givemn.org. Josh will look into this. Melissa Roach suggested a go-fund-me page.
- d. Volunteers for Fundraising Subcommittee – Josh Gilson, Carol Booth, and Linda Keith make up the subcommittee. Caroline Owens offered to also be a member.

5. Trail Development Updates & Discussion

- a. Wakemup Hill to Head of the Lakes & Wakemup Campground update – Contacts with several of the larger land owners along a potential route were very favorable and much of the remaining land is publicly owned and there seems to be a workable route. The Camp Vermilion segment (Wakemup Hill to Wakemup Campground) has route issues with owners other than Camp Vermilion.
- b. The Tower to the Y Store group will be meeting in Tower after this meeting to review the east end of a possible route that would generally be on public land.
- c. The Frazer Bay Public Access to Greenwood Town Hall group met prior to this meeting. Possible routes had been walked and some area land owners had been contacted.

**NEXT MEETING: Wednesday, November 8, 2017 10 a.m. to Noon
at the DNR Office, Tower**