

**Lake Vermilion Trail Steering Committee**  
**Meeting #18 Notes**  
**9/13/17 – Greenwood Town Hall, Tower**

Called to order at 10:00 AM

**Attendees**

John Bassing – *Greenwood Township*

Joan Broten – *Minnesota DNR*

Cathi Hively – *Beatty Township*

Holly Larson – *National Park Service*

Steve Lotz – *Vermilion Lake Township*

Lee Peterson – *Greenwood Resident*

Greg Dostert – *Breitung Township*

Elizabeth Storm – *City of Cook*

Sue Wolfe – *Owens Township*

Jim Henneberry – *Greenwood Resident*

Caroline Owens – *Eagles Nest Resident*

Lisa Austin – *MnDOT*

1. Updates – see 2.b.i below
2. Administration
  - a. Joint Powers Agreement – attorneys for Bois Forte, Cook, and Tower have agreed to the deletion of language offered by the attorney for Greenwood, creating a Final Version. The handout will list changes between the November, 2016 version and the Final Version.
  - b. 2<sup>nd</sup> Round JPA Review for Board/Council Approval
    - i. Report on completed meetings – Tower adopted on 9-11-17. Greenwood approved 5-0 on 9-12-17. Owens signed on 9-12-17.
    - ii. Schedule future meetings – Cook will meet on 9-28-17. Kugler will meet on 9-19-17 at 6 pm. Steve Lotz and possibly Joan Broten to attend. Vermilion Lake will meet 10-2-17. Beatty had discussion at their 9-12-17 meeting and will vote on 10-10-17. Breitung will meet on 9-26-17 at 6 pm. The closest St. Louis County (SLC) meeting is at Mesabi Station in Eveleth on 10-24-17. Holly Larson will try to get the JPA on the agenda. Carol Booth, Sue Wolf, and Greg Dostert to attend.
    - iii. Materials available for meetings – three presentation versions were sent out. On one map it was noted that the “missing link” segment in Breitung was mislabeled.
  - c. Structure & Operation after the Joint Powers Board is established.
    - i. There was considerable discussion about preferred representation on the JPB. Some felt strongly that the representative should be a

- Supervisor or Council member. Good communication between the representatives and their respective Board or Council will be important.
- ii. The Steering Committee asked that Holly and/or Russell Habermann of the ARDC be available to assist in the startup of the JPB. It was noted that the ARDC has approximately \$2,500 remaining of the LVRA funds.
  - iii. A time line was discussed and it is expected that appointments and groundwork could be done in November and December with the first meeting to be held in January as a joint meeting of the JPB and the Steering Committee.
  - iv. Dues would be collected for 2018. Bylaws will be needed. Recruitment of additional Steering Committee members is also needed.
3. MN DOT District Plan – Lisa Austin provided information on the District Plan in Phase II of the State-wide Plan.
- a. Component I is long-distance routes.
  - b. Component II is local connections. Consideration is given to barriers to trail connections. Level of stress models are used to determine less stressful routes. The goal is to identify bicycle friendly routes.
  - c. Maps were presented and time was spent in discussion and marking of proposed routes on the maps.
4. Communications/Public relations
- a. Report on July & August events – the Trail was represented at the Camp Vermilion Bluegrass Festival with brochures distributed and conversation engaged in. There was no representation at the North St. Louis County Fair.
  - b. Promotions at Fall Festivals & Events – the State Park dedication has been delayed until spring and the festival season is coming to an end.
  - c. Social Media – Char Conger of Pehrson Lodge is managing the Trail’s face book page, which at last count had 215 likes and 221 followers. Greenwood Township will create a link with their face book page. Any postings and information should go to Carol Booth and Char.
  - d. Banner purchase – Carol Booth is waiting for another proof from Andrew’s Cameras. If that is not forthcoming alternative companies include W. A. Fisher Printing and Mesabi Sign.
  - e. Joan Broten has contacted the Timberjay about printing a business card sized handout as an economical way to distribute information. The estimated cost depending on the layout was \$55/1,000 or \$52/500. It was decided that the cards should be in color, two-sided, with the logo, website & face book information, and a condensed version of the vision statement. Joan will come back with layout & cost.
5. Fundraising
- a. Donation update – additional donations had been received but no details were available.

- b. Fundraising action plan – a long list of funding options were given.
  - i. IRRRB – Tourism & Culture Grant. Deadline is 9-29-17 with a second round in March, 2018. Amounts are \$2,500 to \$15,000 with a 1:1 cash match. A non-profit must apply. The LVRA or the Tower-Soudan Area Event Board would be eligible. Eligible projects would be the JPB start-up, Master Plan updating, preliminary engineering, and easements. Greg Dostert to check.
  - ii. Explore Minnesota – for marketing. Deadline is 9-29-17. \$500 to \$7,000 is available. A Chamber of Commerce would have to apply. Troy Swanson is the contact for the Lake Vermilion Chamber of Commerce. Apply if it is a good fit.
  - iii. Transportation Alternatives – funding for construction. Grants are \$100,000 to \$600,000 with a 20% match required. A letter of intent is due by October, 2017. Engineering is not eligible. The project needs to serve a transportation purpose. It was felt the Tower-Breitung and the Tower-Y Store segments would be good fits and it was decided to apply now even if we are not ready. Tower and St. Louis County would have to apply. Joan, Russell, and Holly will work on this. Holly to check with the SLC Highway Engineer.
  - iv. State Farm – Community Development & Neighborhood Revitalization. Grants are \$5,000 and up. Applications are due 10-31-17. Carol Booth and Tim Johnson will look into this.
  - v. Minnesota Recreation and Park Foundation – grants are from \$1,000 to \$4,000 with a focus on innovative projects and new initiatives. Applicant must be a Foundation member. Joan to check if Tower is a member. Holly will check if Cook or SLC might also be members.
  - vi. Blue Cross Blue Shield – 2018 grants are not yet posted.
  - vii. St. Louis County - has an informal grant process.
  - viii. Blandin Foundation - the focus is on Blandin Leadership Program graduates. Joan will check with Blandin.
  - ix. People for Bikes – Community Grant Program funded by bike manufacturers. Requires a 50:50 match. People For Bikes accepts grant applications from non-profit organizations with a focus on bicycling, active transportation, or community development and from city or county agencies. Grants are for trail infrastructure.
  - x. MN DNR – has available grants due in January and March 2018 as well as Legacy Grants due July 2018. These grants could be for JPB startup, easement acquisition, and design.

**NEXT MEETING: Wednesday, October 11, 2017 10 a.m. to Noon  
at the LaCroix Ranger Dist. Office, USFS, Cook**