

**Lake Vermilion Trail Joint Powers Board Meeting #1
and Steering Committee/Work Group Meeting #23 Notes
2/14/18 – MN DNR Office, Tower**

Called to order at 10:06 AM

Attendees – Joint Powers Board

Tim Johnson – *City of Cook*

Cathi Hiveley – *Beatty Township*

Tom Lantry - *Owens Township*

Terri Joki-Martin – *City of Tower*

Stephen Peterson, Jr. - *Vermilion Lake Township*

Phillip Anderson - *Vermilion Lake Township alternate*

Attendees – Steering Committee/Work Group

John Bassing – *Greenwood Township*

Joan Broten – *Minnesota DNR*

Steve Lotz – *Vermilion Lake Township*

Josh Gilson - *Lake Vermilion Resort Association*

Carol Booth - *Beatty Resident*

Max Helmberger – *Timberjay newspaper*

Elizabeth Storm – *City of Cook*

Caroline Owens – *Eagles Nest Resident*

Holly Larson – *National Park Service*

1. Joint Powers Board (JPB) Orientation

- a. Members of the JPB and the steering committee/work group introduced themselves and provided a bit of their interest in the Trail.
- b. Holly Larson used the Trail power point with additional information to provide the new attendees with background information on the Trail.
- c. The Joint Powers Agreement (JPA) and Trail map were presented.
- d. JPB members were provided with a list of duties.
- e. Activities & Timeline – the steering committee/work group is looking to an April application for a Legislative-Citizen Commission on Minnesota Resources (LCCMR) grant for the east segment (Y intersection to Tower). The Legacy grant timeline for the west segment (Wakemup Hill to the Landing) is July/August. An updated version of the Trail Talking Points will be available soon.
- f. Election of officers - Steve Peterson felt that the JPB was not ready to elect officers as three entities were absent and the group concurred.
- g. Meeting schedule - it was decided that meetings would follow the 10 am to noon format and would continue to rotate through Tower, Greenwood, and Cook. Posting places for meeting notices will be the MN DNR building at Tower, Greenwood Town Hall, and Cook City Hall. A doodle poll will be sent to JPB members and alternates to determine the best weekday for meetings.

2. Joint Work group & Joint Powers Board

a. Joint Powers Board

- i. Report on the Vermilion Lake Township meeting of February 5 – the JPA was approved as before by a 2 to 1 vote.
- ii. Carol Booth reported that she, Tim Johnson, and Tom Lantry met with Rep. Ecklund and Sen. Bakk at Cook. Bakk indicated that the group should be aware of logging on State and County lands and he would prefer that the Trail be in road rights-of-way as much as possible to avoid conflicts with logging. He also asked that the group pursue private sources of funding as much as possible. Ecklund was very supportive. Both Bakk and Ecklund encouraged the JPB to get together and move forward. Carol indicated that the group saw the Trail across forest lands as an opportunity to incorporate forest management awareness as an interpretive feature of the Trail and that the group has been pursuing private funding sources whenever possible. Reporting on their February 13 meeting John Bassing indicated that Greenwood felt that the issue of logging was a red herring and that Greenwood should pull out if the State and County elected representatives did not jump on board. This led to a lengthy discussion of the short term vs. the long term and what may be necessary to keep the group moving forward in a productive fashion.
- iii. Carol reported on the January 23 St. Louis County (SLC) Board meeting in Duluth at which the SLC Board voted to table the JPA. She also covered language changes to the JPA, which the SLC Attorney had recommended, that remain to be discussed by the SLC Board.
- iv. Next steps with the County – Carol, Josh Gilson, and Steve Lotz discussed their recent conversations with Commissioner Rukavina and the consensus was that the group would move forward with the current makeup while giving the County an opportunity to decide what to do about trails in general and this Trail in particular.
- v. Citizen input at the 3-20 (Gilbert) and 4-24 (Ely) SLC Board meetings – this had been promoted by Rukavina but discussion pointed toward a lack of input from the County Board making such input unlikely to be productive at this point in time.

b. Fundraising

- i. Resolution #1 AUTHORIZING LAKE VERMILION TRAIL JOINT POWERS BOARD TO MAKE APPLICATION TO AND ACCEPT FUNDS FROM DEPARTMENT OF IRON RANGE RESOURCES AND REHABILITATION APPLICATION FUND was presented to the JPB. Motion by Cathi Hiveley, second by Steve Peterson, to adopt the resolution, approved 5 to 0. Resolution #2 AUTHORIZING LAKE VERMILION TRAIL JOINT

POWERS BOARD TO MAKE APPLICATION TO AND ACCEPT FUNDS FROM PEOPLE FOR BIKES in the amount of \$10,000 was presented to the JPB. Motion by Steve Peterson, second by Cathi Hiveley, to adopt the resolution, approved 5 to 0.

- ii. The Lake Vermilion Trail Funding Summary was presented for review. Please send additions or comments to Carol Booth.

c. Communications/Public Relations

- i. The most recent banner design was presented at the meeting for review. Please send comments to Carol Booth.
- ii. A form for recording in-kind contributions including time, mileage, and other expenses was presented. Once again please send additions or comments to Carol Booth. For grants that allow local in-kind contributions it is necessary that they be tracked with a reliable paper trail. If it is not documented it didn't happen. Completed forms should be submitted to Carol Booth.
- iii. Group photos of the JPB and the steering committee/work group were taken.
- iv. A doodle poll will be sent to the work group to determine the best meeting time going forward.

The joint meeting was adjourned at approximately 12:15 pm.

NEXT MEETING: Time and date will be determined after polling members and will be posted at locations listed above.

Location will be the Greenwood Town Hall, 3000 County Road 77, Tower