



Record of Meeting

SRF No. 12681.00

Location: Becker County Courthouse, 1st Floor Boardroom

Client: Becker County

Date: May 9, 2019

Subject: Master Trails Plan – Project Kick-off Meeting

Attendees:

- Guy Fischer
- Jane Butzer
- Wayne Hurley
- Dan McLaughlin
- Ben Grimsley
- Patrick Hollister
- Scott Schwandt
- Del Bergseth
- Hank Ludtke

From: Joni Giese

Purpose of Meeting:

Project Kick-off Meeting. Review project purpose and intent, work tasks, schedule, public engagement approach, issues/opportunities and trail types to include in the plan.

Summary of Meeting

- It is anticipated that the plan will be used to:
 - Support county marketing and economic development.
 - Enhance quality of life for County residents.
 - Secure grant funding.
 - Engage with community residents to better understand trail types they would like in the County.
- One desired study outcome is determining an alignment for the Heartland State Trail.
 - Future trail segment with the most challenges is west of Detroit Lakes. There are few paved roads in this section.
 - Segment of the Heartland State Trail (Detroit Lakes to Acorn Lake) is going to be constructed starting in 2019.
 - Heartland Trail will connect with a city trail in Frazee (located on west side of 87).
 - Future trail segment will extend from Frazee to Wolf Lake.
 - Another future trail segment is from Park Rapids to Navilus Road.
 - Communities located on existing segment of Heartland Trail are currently focused on a spur connection to Itasca State Park.

- Mountain biking is growing in popularity. There is a desire to expand this activity within the County.
 - Popular mountain biking destinations include Detroit Mountain Recreation Area, Mountain View Recreation Area, Dunton Locks County Park
 - There is a group, LAMBATS (Lakes Area Mountain Bike Alliance & Trails) that is actively working to increase mountain biking.
 - They are looking to receive certification that is influencing how they are expanding the network. Length of connected network is a critical measure to receive certification.
 - Group contact: Matt Davis
- Woods and Wheels is a Detroit Lakes based ATV Club. Trails are developed and maintained through DNR Grant-in-aid program. ATVs are allowed in public right-of-way, unless expressly prohibited.
- There is a Lakes Area Bike Club. They have defined routes within the County.
- North Country walking trail passes through the County.
- There are Adventure Cycling routes through the County.
- Tamarac National Wildlife Refuge was mentioned as a county destination (Kelly Blackledge is the visitor services manager).
- Maplelag Resort hosts cross country ski trails.
- Smokey Hills State Forest hosts an equestrian camp and trails.
- Meeting participants felt the trail types listed in the meeting agenda (see attached) should be included in the plan.
 - There was discussion that biking on gravel roads is gaining popularity
- PartnerSHIP 4 Health is funding portion of this project to achieve PartnerSHIP's goals of fighting obesity and improving health via increasing opportunities for people to walk and bike.
 - Would be helpful if invoices could break out work tasks addressing biking and walking.
 - Patrick would like to have a draft report available by end of September/Early October to show how the funds have been used.
- Other resources that may inform this process:
 - MnDOT District 4 Bike Plan
 - Recent county-wide recreation survey
 - Becker County Parks and Recreation website has a comprehensive list of County recreation opportunities
 - Becker County Energized
 - White Earth Bikeable Community Study
- Del Bergseth and Hank Ludtke will join the PAC. It was suggested that Mike Bowman be invited to participate on the PAC.
- It was suggested that SRF call the County Commissioners to gain an understanding of their perception of issues and challenges associated with this project.

- The group discussed setting up a project page on the County’s website
- The group discussed modifications to the project schedule and engagement plan.
 - Discussed potential community events where the project could “go to the people” to gain input. Decided that two public open houses were still desired.
 - Public engagement should wrap up before the end of summer before seasonal residents leave.
 - A revised schedule is attached that reflects the suggested revisions.

Actions Needed

| Actions Needed | Responsibility |
|---|---|
| Contact Tony Brahmer to obtain GIS data | Joni Giese (done) |
| Update project schedule | Joni Giese (done – see attached) |
| Tour County during next PAC meeting | Dan McLaughlin, Joni Giese, and Jonathan Fillmore (SRF) |
| Secure space for first open house | Guy Fischer |
| Provide project stakeholders/resource information | Guy Fischer (done) |

Attachments:

- Meeting Agenda
- Revised Project Schedule



AGENDA

Master Trail Plan Development - Becker County Kick-Off Meeting

Thursday, May 9, 2019 (9:00 to 11:00 am)

1st Floor Boardroom, County Courthouse
915 Lake Ave., Detroit Lakes, MN

- 9:00 1. Introductions
a. Name, Agency/Organization, Relationship to Project

- 9:10 2. Affirm Project Advisory Committee Membership

| | |
|----------------------|--|
| Guy H. Fischer | guy.fischer@co.becker.mn.us |
| Jane Butzer | jane.butzer@state.mn.us |
| Patrick Hollister | Patrick.Hollister@co.clay.mn.us |
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| John Okeson | jokeson@co.becker.mn.us |
| Del Bergseth | bergseth@arvig.net |
| Hank Ludtke | mercedesnut6@hotmail.com |

- 9:15 3. Data/Information
a. Mapping/GIS
b. Previous Studies
c. Usage data?

- 9:20 4. Project Purpose and Intent

- 9:30 5. Discuss Project Tasks/Schedule

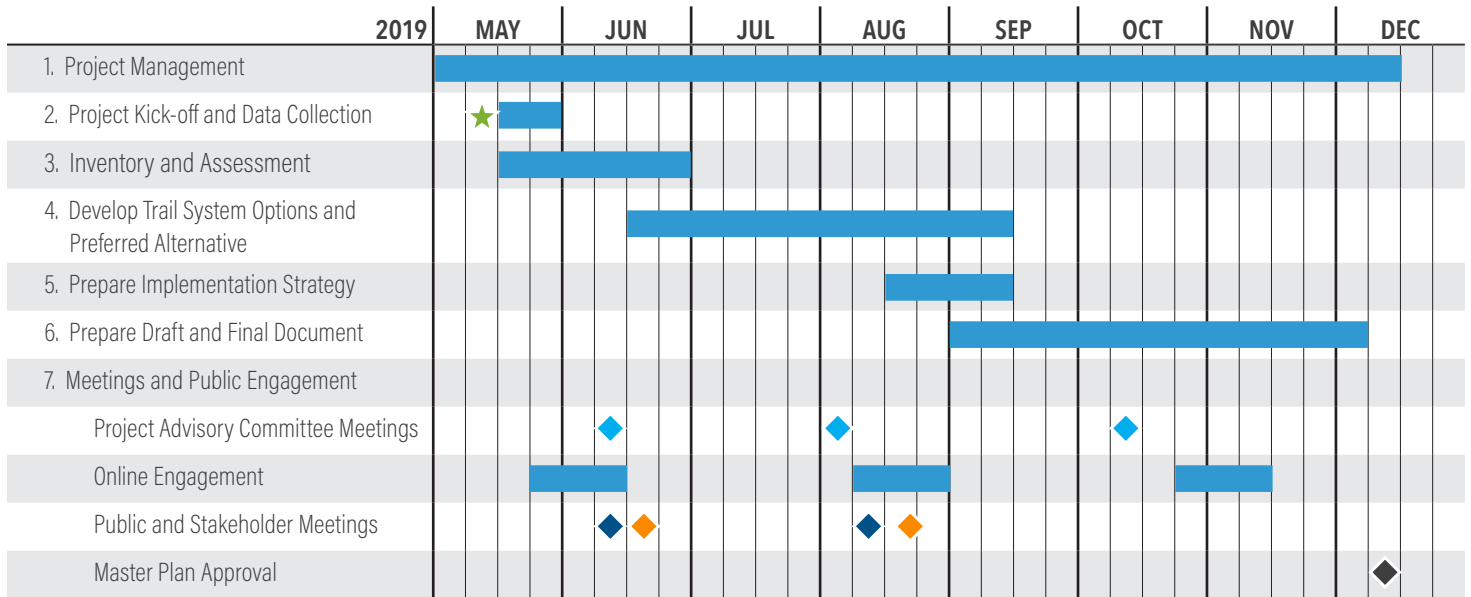
- 9:50 6. Potential Trail Types to include in the plan
- Bikeways
 - On-road (paved vs aggregate) – Adventure Cycling
 - Paths (Heartland State Trail)
 - Mountain biking (Mountain View Recreational Area)
 - Pedestrian/hiking trails (North Country Trail)
 - Birding Trail (Pine to Prairie Birding Trail)
 - Equestrian Trails
 - Snowmobile Trails
 - All Terrain Vehicles
 - Cross Country Ski Trails
 - Water Trails (Otter Tail River)
 - Scenic Byway(s)
 - Lake Country Scenic Byway
 - Veterans Memorial Highway
- 10:00 7. Public Engagement
- On-line engagement (project website?, WikiMap?, social media?)
 - Face-to-face (2 events)
 - White Earth Nation (2 meetings)
- 10:15 8. Current Practices to plan, design, fund, and construct trails
- 10:30 9. Project Issues and Opportunities
- 10:50 10. Misc./Next Steps

PROJECT SCHEDULE

Master Trail Plan Development

Becker County

May 9, 2019



★ Project kick-off

◆ Project Advisory Committee Meeting

- Meeting #1 - Affirm project goals, review inventory and analysis

- Meeting #2 - Review concept alternatives and evaluation of alternatives. Recommend preferred alternative

- Meeting #3 - Review draft master plan

◆ Public Meetings (Late June in Detroit Lakes, Late August in Frazee)

◆ Stakeholder Meetings (White Earth Nation Pow Wow, June 15, SRF to staff; Becker County Fair, August 7-10, staffed by others)

◆ Becker County Board of Commissioners Approval (County Staff responsibility)