Record of Meeting

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.
  o Discussed potential community events where the project could “go to the people” to gain input. Decided that two public open houses were still desired.
  o Public engagement should wrap up before the end of summer before seasonal residents leave.
  o A revised schedule is attached that reflects the suggested revisions.

**Actions Needed**

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<tr>
<th>Actions Needed</th>
<th>Responsibility</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Contact Tony Brahmer to obtain GIS data</td>
<td>Joni Giese (done)</td>
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<td>Update project schedule</td>
<td>Joni Giese (done – see attached)</td>
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<td>Tour County during next PAC meeting</td>
<td>Dan McLaughlin, Joni Giese, and Jonathan Fillmore (SRF)</td>
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<td>Secure space for first open house</td>
<td>Guy Fischer</td>
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<td>Provide project stakeholders/resource information</td>
<td>Guy Fischer (done)</td>
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**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
      Wayne Hurley    wayne@wcif.org
      Dan P. McLaughlin dan.mclaughlin@co.becker.mn.us
      James D. Olson  jdolson@co.becker.mn.us
      Benjamin D. Grimsley bdgrims@co.becker.mn.us
      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
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

7. Public Engagement

- On-line engagement (project website?, WikiMap?, social media?)
- Face-to-face (2 events)
- White Earth Nation (2 meetings)
PROJECT SCHEDULE

Master Trail Plan Development
Becker County
May 9, 2019

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<th>2019</th>
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<td>4. Develop Trail System Options and Preferred Alternative</td>
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- ★ 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)