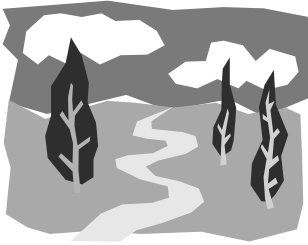


**NORTHERN HIGHLAND-AMERICAN LEGION STATE FOREST
WISCONSIN DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES**

MEETING MINUTES



Date: Wednesday, Nov. 1, 2006
Times: 10:00 AM - 2:00 PM
Location: Reuland's Catering,
Hwy. 51 N., Arbor Vitae, WI

Attendance: 14 Stakeholder participants, Team Leader, Meeting Facilitator, GIS Specialist, Core Planning Team

ARRIVAL and CHECK-IN

WELCOME & INTRODUCTIONS

- Denny Leith, Team Leader
 1. News and updates? An article was published in Lakeland Times.
 2. Contacts:
 - B. Schumann and D. Leith updated local town board and Vilas Co. Chairman.
 - D. Leith and B. Dall met with local citizen, J. Bates to hear concerns.
 - K. Anderson researched Vilas Co. property boundaries on Circle Lily Rd.

GROUP DISCUSSION and ACTIVITY

- Bill Klase, Meeting Facilitator, UWEX
 1. Reviewed meeting protocols.
 2. Reported on mid-stream evaluation of stakeholder process: (*See attached summary.)
 3. Examined trail potentials using GIS maps to finalize how to complete the proposed trails at Highway J (north) end?
Northern portion of trail proposal – some trail attributes:
 - Connects Mercer at North end of proposed route.
 - Creates more interest for trail riders.
 - Could incorporate some Co. forest.

CONSENSUS

- 1st option – Link into Mercer via county land and town roads and Cedar Creek Rd.
- 2nd option – Link into Mercer via Co. J and right-of-way.
- 3rd Explore snowmobile trail through NHAL – reserve for further discussion.

ACTIONS

- Subgroups, including team leader and several stakeholders, will contact local officials to update them on research and potential routes.
- D. Leith will contact Dept. of Transportation re. Hwy. crossings and wayside use status.
- 3. Begin considering April Natural Resources Board schedule. Will need to make some kind of report to the NRB regardless of level of completion.
- 4. Began discussion of Lake Tomahawk / Saynor route proposal.

CONSENSUS

- A subgroup including Leith, Drum, Museidlak, Bilogan, Anderson, Schumann, Dall, Schepper, Klase and DeBruyne will investigate and field-check route possibilities.
- A field trip is planned for Nov. 17 – to meet 9AM, at Lk. Tomahawk Corner Drive-In.

ACTION

- B. Dall will arrange vehicles for field trip.
- 7. B. Schepper reported on utility easements and corridors on state lands.

LUNCH

DISCUSSION continued...

1. M. Matteson presented J. Bilogan study of miles of ATV trail /acre on county forest vs. state land.
 - Proposed the need for similar accommodation on state property.
 - Criteria exists for siting trails, but must consider existing user groups and any potential for user conflicts.
 - Status of ATV sport is behind snowmobiling about 20 yrs. and faces some similar issues. One difference is the longer three-season use period.
 - Discussed merits and challenges of motorized vs. non-motorized sports.
 - Programs are needed, e.g. education, enforcement, to address real issues, negative image and bias.

CALENDAR

- November 17, Subcommittee field study 9AM- afternoon
- November 30, Regular Meeting, 10AM – 2PM, Arbor Vitae, WI
- December 18, Regular Meeting, 10AM – 2PM, Arbor Vitae, WI

PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT –

- A brief time period was allowed for Public and Media Q & A as needed. One visitor was present.

ADJOURN

* Bill Klase –

Summary results of (How is it Going So Far?) survey of stakeholder process:

Ten surveys were returned by stakeholders.

Most people thought we are working at about the right pace and are happy with the progress we are making. There were a couple of folks who thought we needed to pick up the pace given the timeline we are following. The comments that were included revolved around the notion that this is a contentious issue and all sides need to be explored.

There were suggestions to form sub groups to explore specific issues and report their findings to the full group. Some specific ideas were to form a "Mercer" trail sub-group to tie up loose ends for that trail and a "Lake Tomahawk-Sayner" sub-group to do on site visits of that segment. A number of folks commented that on site visits need to take place soon before the snow gets too deep.

NOTE –

Agenda or Team Related Questions?

Contact: Dennis Leith – 715-358-9208, Dennis.Leith@dnr.state.wi.us

Meeting Information or Special Dietary Needs?

Contact: Bob Dall – 715/365-8993, Robert.Dall@dnr.state.wi.us