



Bayfield Area Trails Committee Meeting Notes
Tuesday February 14 @ 3 – 4:30 pm (via Zoom)

Participants:

- Committee members present: Arik, Fahrenkrog, Kitchell, Lang, Mattson, Rothe
- Committee members absent: Finn, Van Stappen
- Communications Subcommittee: none present
- Trails Subcommittee: none present

Agenda

- 1. Hatchery to Ashwabay Trail name:** no traditional name has emerged. However, we agreed that we want to strive for a name that has a viable Ojibwemowin interpretation, wherever possible. That takes “Hatchwabay” off the table. “Creek” trail removed because the trail does not go along a creek.

Names currently under consideration:

- a. Main trail options:
 - i. Pileated Woodpecker Trail: Meme Mikana
 - ii. Bridge Trail: Aazhogan Mikana (pronounced Aah-show-gan)
(bridge over creek; bridge trail connecting hatchery to AWB):
- b. Spur trail options:
 - i. Overlook Trail: Onzaabiwin (a lookout point)
 - ii. Wing Trail: Oningwiigan (meaning "its wing")

Melis shared feedback she had recently received from Tribal representatives she had contacted. After considerable discussion among BAT Comm. members, it was decided that we should more formally contact Tribal leadership about 1) if they are interested in participating/advising in the trail naming process, and 2) how they want us to approach this process.

ACTION: Kitchell will prepare a letter to the Tribal Chair (as advised by Nicole Boyd to Melis Arik). It will be circulated for review by BAT Comm. members, finalized, then sent on behalf of Bayfield Area Trails.

- 2. Socioeconomics Study Project (\$12K WCMP funds & Town of Bayfield \$6K) (25 min.):**
- a. Update report on benefits and challenges per discussion with Ron Bergin/CAMBA: Peter R.
 - b. Benefits/objectives:
 - i. Quantify the economic and social benefits and contributions of trails. This is relevant when assessing trails in relation to other land uses. Helps future grants.
 - ii. Evaluate “return” on investments made by the BAT Comm. members (e.g. City, Town, Landmark, AOE).
 - iii. Understand what trail users prefer & want as the basis for guiding where the BAT Comm. should focus future efforts.
 - c. Funding: Estimated Total Cost = \$25 – 30K
 - i. \$12K WCMP available
 - ii. \$4500 Town of Bayfield available
 - iii. Propose to have balance of funding from Joint Enterprise Marketing grant for paid coordinator, 3-4 trail counters, tablets, volunteer support, etc. Applicant would be Bayfield Chamber.
 - d. Survey Research Center is poised to assist with survey design and analysis of data (proposal attached). Currently developing proposed field data collection plan (using trail counter stats).
 - e. Discussion:
 - i. Staffing and coordinating volunteers to conduct interviews at trailheads throughout the year: consensus was that this could be feasible as long as a good coordinator was

- hired to organize and implement this component. Volunteers would need to have a script and orientation to be effective.
- ii. Landmark intern could be available to assist with interviews and downloading trail counter data.
 - iii. Carol confirmed that the Chamber would be comfortable as the grant recipient/administrator and with hiring a part-time project coordinator (or adding this to an employee's duties with grant funding to cover their time).
 - iv. We discussed whether the benefits merit the level of effort involved with community outreach, developing the survey, gathering the field data, and overseeing the project?
 - v. Need "core group" to help with survey development and guide project: it was suggested that we reach out to our BAT Comm. email list to see if there are folks in our community who have the skills and interest in this area.
 - f. **DECISION:** All members present agreed that this would have many potential benefits for the individual organizations as well as the BAT Comm. as a whole. We concluded that with additional funding and a good coordinator, it would be feasible. Therefore, we decided to proceed with submitting the application and report to WCMP.
 - g. **ACTIONS:** Request letters of support; Prepare/submit JEM grant (Kate & Peter); Submit WCMP application/request for this project (Kate)
3. **Red Cliff Trails Feasibility Study and Plan:** Melis reported that Red Cliff is committed to submitting a Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP) grant application (due 3/24) for a trails plan & design for Red Cliff. This would include the link between Red Cliff and Bayfield. The TAP grant focus is on safe access/routes to schools. A resolution will be proposed to Tribal Council at their March 6th meeting.
 - a. **ACTION:** Gather letters of support, including from BAT Comm. members (Kate)
 4. **Trails subcommittee (TsC):** First meeting of 2023 was on 2/6/23. 8 are returning TsC members; will be recruiting new members to fill out the 12-member subcommittee. The Adopt A Trail program has two coordinators (Genevieve Johnson & Jeff Olsen). We are confirming our current trail section adopters and will be recruiting additional trail section adopters. TsC members will be assisting with the coordination of work on new and existing trails and the Trails Open House on May 6th. There are two coordinators for the volunteer sawyer program (John Ipsen & Peter Rothe) and there are approved volunteer sawyer guidelines. John Ipsen will explore/coordinating sawyer training in the future for new volunteers.
 5. **Communications Subcommittee (CsC)** (5 min.): ongoing blog and social media posting; priorities will be updated on website when adopted.
 - a. **DECISION:** Trails Forum Date & Time: May 6th @ 9 a.m. to Noon at Bayfield Winery on Betzold Rd.
 - b. CsC to seek featured speaker: ideas welcome (Fred Clark, Elizabeth Andre, Superior Hiking Trail, others?): Update: the CsC concluded that inviting a presentation from the Bayfield group that is going to Costa Rica to do trail work in April. This group is being led by Ted May and Mark Peterson. Kate has sent a note to Ted May to inquire about having this as the featured Forum topic.
 6. **2023 priorities** (2023 priorities and project schedule attached)
 - a. **DECISION:** adopt the 2023 priorities, recognizing it will evolve through the year.
 - b. **ACTION:** Kitchell will finalize and work with Tony to post on the website

4:15 – 4:30 Round Robin Reports from Committee members (focus on NEW critical info. sharing)

1. **Landmark** (Lang): Brownstone Trail Counter Stats. attached

- Chequamegon Rd. to Salmo: Kris Wegerson (lead), Erika Lang, Kathleen Russell, Rex Dollinger and Kate have worked on securing agreements for public access. They have come to agreement with Pikes Bay Marina and Port Superior Marina to use their roads to connect the trails. There is a meeting with the Waterford Board to discuss connecting the trails via Pump House Road. Work is in progress with the Port Superior Village Association.
- 2. **County** (Mattson): Trail Counter Stats. provided
 - Trails Anonymous will be doing work on Siskiwit trails
 - They are planning to do some improvements on the meadow loop and continue mowing the West side trail.
- 3. **Town of Bell/Cornucopia Trails Club:** (Rothe):
- 4. **Red Cliff** (Melis):
- 5. **Ashwabay (AOEF)** (Finn):
- 6. **Town of Bayfield** (Fahrenkrog)
 - Bridge contract selection report: 7 bids received and narrowed to 3. These bidders have been asked for clarifying information. Decision on bid selection expected by COB Friday 2/17/23.
- 7. **NPS** (Van Stappen):
- 8. **City:** (Kitchell):

NEXT MEETING: Tuesday March 14 @ 3 p.m.

April Meeting: Kitchell will be unavailable; assign meeting leader

Potential Future Topics:

1. Self-assessment feedback (attached)
2. Trails Forum Implementation Plan
3. Update on Fiscal Sponsorship with RFR

