



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

Participants:

- Committee members present: Arik, Finn, Kitchell, Lang, Mattson, Rothe. We welcomed Ashley Huinker, a project manager for Red Cliff Treaty Natural Resources. Ashley will transition into serving as the BAT Comm. rep.
- Committee members absent: Fahrenkrog, Van Stappen
- Communications Subcommittee: none
- Trails Subcommittee: Ipsen, Wegerson

Agenda

1. Trails Forum - see attached updated plan for details and assignments
2. Socioeconomics Study Project:
 - a. Kate submitted the WCMP application to solidify commitment of \$12,040. The funding would be administered via the Town of Bayfield as the applicant.
 - b. JEM application in process. Request will be for \$11,198. The Bayfield Chamber & Visitor Bureau (BCVB) will be the applicant. Kate & Peter have prepared a draft and will review it with Heidi Schultz at JEM program before its final submission by 3/22/23.
 - c. Trail Counter Status and Recommendations confirmed by BAT Comm.
 - i. Lost Creek Falls: has a counter
 - ii. Jerry Jolly Trails: has a counter
 - iii. Siskiwit River Preserve: has a counter; recommend adding another
 - iv. Brownstone: has a counter
 - v. Big Ravine – Gil Larsen: has a counter
 - vi. Big Ravine – North Ravine (Meyers-Olson Rd.): add (JEM)
 - vii. Big Ravine – Hilltop: add (JEM)
 - viii. Les Voigt Fish Hatchery: add (JEM)
 - ix. Salmo Trail: add (JEM)
 - x. Mt. Ashwabay nordic trailhead: add (JEM)
 - xi. APIS Mainland trail: add (?)
 - xii. Frog Bay Tribal Park: add (TAP)
 - xiii. Clayton Creek: add (TAP)
 - d. Letters of support in process. Requested by cob 3/20.
3. Hatchery to Ashwabay Trail name:
 - a. The group agreed to focus on the following names. The final translation should be confirmed with Red Cliff language experts.
 - i. Main trail: **Pileated Woodpecker**. Rationale: it is an iconic species that is easy for people to recognize. It has many interesting features to include in interpretive signage. The Ojibwemowin translation is “Meme,” which is easy to remember and understand; hopefully this will encourage the use of the Native language.
 - ii. Spur to lookout point above the Pikes Creek drainage: **Lookout**. We think the Ojibwemowin translation is “Aazhogan” (pronounced Aah-show-gan) (a lookout point).

- b. Letter to Red Cliff Tribal Chairman regarding trail naming was sent via email on March 16th. It includes reference to the names listed above. The letter was also sent to BAT Comm. members.
- 4. Trails Subcommittee (TsC) (5 min.): Wegerson/Ipsen
 - a. Sean Reagan has agreed to be a new member.
 - b. Adopt-a-Trail sign up is ongoing. Started first with contacting 2022 adopters to confirm or remove adopters from the list. Next step will be to go out with broad recruitment for adopters to fill open slots.
 - c. Scoping out chainsaw program needs & opportunities for 2023 season.
 - d. Next meeting is 3/21 @ 5 p.m. An ad hoc committee will be established to assist with the Trails Forum set up, refreshments, participate table, etc.
- 5. Communications Subcommittee (CsC):
 - a. Bridge website & Facebook post completed
 - b. Website updated with 2022 accomplishments, 2023 priorities, and 2023 project schedule
 - c. Upcoming email outreach (Kate) on bridge, field season, sign up to volunteer and adopt a trail.
 - d. Outreach forthcoming on Trails Forum

4:00 – 4:30 Round Robin Reports from Committee members (focus on NEW critical info.)

1. **Landmark** (Lang): Brownstone Trail report:
 - Met with Town Board on 3/13. They really value the BST and are very supportive of the purchase and restoration of the Maki property. They support transferring ownership to Bayfield County to be the long-term owner/manager as a future park because the County has much more capacity. They suggested that this site might be able to provide some parking relief to the situation in the City; although the primary use of the property will as open natural space and public access.
 - Next meeting will be with the City with a request to support County as long-term owner. City support was confirmed by Council on 3/15/23.
 - Smith Group has developed detailed plans for restoration.
 - There is a conceptual design for the public park...more details and public involvement will follow.
 - Restoration will be primarily funded by grants.
2. **County** (Mattson): Very busy with snowmobile season; which should be ending soon. Continuing to make plans for Siskiwit River Preserve Trails.
3. **Town of Bell/Cornucopia Trails Club**: (Rothe): CTC met on Sunday for the first time in several months. They are planning a virtual meeting with the County to discuss projects, including Siskiwit, Lost Creek Falls, and possibly Pratt's Peak.
6. **Red Cliff** (Arik):
 - a. Trails Feasibility Study update: will submit TAP grant application by 3/24/23. Ashley Huinker will be the project manager if the funding comes through.
 - b. One letter of support will be sent on behalf of BAT Comm. members. Kitchell requested confirmation from members that they support the letter. Confirmation received.
4. **Ashwabay (AOEF)** (Finn): nothing new
5. **Town of Bayfield** (Fahrenkrog): nothing new
6. **City**: (Kitchell): nothing new
7. **APIS/NPS**: (Van Stappen): The park was able to get funding to look at design of trail options at Little Sand Bay; working on an environmental assessment with a contractor. The proposal would include three trails - 1) a wetland overlook boardwalk that would be ½ mile fully ABA accessible, provide

interpretive and educational opportunities, and have bi-lingual (Ojibwemowin/English) interpretive exhibits and signs; 2) an island overlook trail that would follow the beach/floating boardwalk between LSB and Allen Road - between Allen Road and the park boundary, a coastal backcountry trail would be built - this trail provides opportunity to work with Red Cliff to connect to Point Detour campground, and 3) a backcountry trail that would connect the Town of Russell campsite with the historic Nelson Cabin with the potential to work with Wilderness Inquiry to extend the trail to their camp, to provide a safe alternative to visitors walking along the road. The EA is planned to be ready for public review in early April.

NEXT MEETING: Tuesday April 11th @ 3 p.m.

Kitchell will be unavailable; meeting leader will be selected at the start of the session

Focus topic: Trails Forum

Potential Future Topics:

1. Focus on the Trails Forum in April
2. Self-assessment Feedback: deferred to another meeting due to limited time and low response from BAT Comm. members (no response from Fahrenkrog, Finn, Mattson, Van Stappen, Arik)
 - a. [Survey Link](#)
3. Update on Fiscal Sponsorship with RFR