



**Bayfield Area Trails Committee Meeting Agenda and Background Notes  
Tuesday July 11<sup>th</sup> @ 3 – 4:30 pm (via Zoom)**

Participants:

- Committee members present: Huinker, Kitchell, Lang, Mattson, Rothe, Van Stappen
- Committee members absent: Finn
- Communications Subcommittee: Fentress
- Trails Subcommittee: G. Johnson, Ted May
- Others present: Bob Anderson, Bayfield County Highway Commissioner; Matt Carrier, City of Bayfield Parks & Rec. Committee

Agenda

1. Upcoming Transportation Alternatives Program Grant (TAP) announcement (attached to agend); applications due in October) – Bob Anderson, Bayfield County Highway Commissioner
  - a. Bob introduced the grant announcement and put forward the concept of submitting a proposal to develop a comprehensive long-term trails plan for Bayfield County or some portion of the County. Points of discussion included:
    - i. Develop with broad public involvement.
    - ii. This would establish a foundation for implementation over the long-term.
    - iii. Because Bayfield County is very large and diverse, it may be worth considering a smaller scope, such as the Bayfield Peninsula or Cheq. Bay.
    - iv. Check for data about traffic patterns that would inform how to define the geographic scope.
    - v. Other groups to talk with: CAMBA, North Coast Cycling Association.
    - vi. Budget: cost-estimate could be informed based upon the Active Transportation Plan in the City of Superior, funded by a TAP grant.
    - vii. 20% Matching funds: could come from the County budget and/or the proposed Carbon funding grant program in the County Dept. of Forestry and Parks.
  - b. Other potential proposal ideas: Brownstone; Bike/pedestrian lane on Washington Ave./County I in Bayfield; Bike/pedestrian lane on Star Route.
2. Round Robin Reports
  - a. **APIS/NPS:** (Van Stappen): nothing new to report
  - b. **Red Cliff** (Huinker): Hooray for TAP grant success! In the process of completing grant agreement paperwork. Next step would be an RFP to select planning contractor.
  - c. **Ashwabay (AOEF)** (Finn): not present
  - d. **County** (Mattson): lots going on!
    - i. Siskiwit: have a full list of projects on the Orchard Loop to improve the trails for skiing and grooming next year. CTC has helped on some of this already. Check out the new trail on the creek's west side: Will Krift did a great job.

- ii. Lost Creek: new trailhead sign; install fencing to keep people on trails.
    - iii. Some of the signs have been installed on the Jerry Jolly trails.
    - iv. Fire Hill: initial inventory completed; starting to identify next steps.
    - v. Discussion of trailhead signage: working with Neil Howk; Landmark could help with maps at Siskiwit and other signs.
    - vi. Volunteer policy has been completed. It is pretty complicated.
  - e. **Town of Bell/Cornucopia Trails Club:** (Rothe): CTC met recently to discuss their current status and how they have evolved in collaboration with Bayfield Area Trails.
    - i. CTC has dissolved its incorporation – they determined it is no longer needed.
    - ii. They plan to hold periodic open meetings to encourage broad participation.
    - iii. CTC has discussed engaging local volunteers in the Economic Study’s trailhead intercept surveys. There is interest in doing so.
  - f. **Landmark** (Lang):
    - i. Update on potential easement between Salmo & Pumphouse Rd.: nothing new. Pick this up again after the Meme Miikana bridge and trail are done.
    - ii. BST: in the process of permitting for Phase 2, trail and site restoration.
    - iii. Community meeting next week.
  - g. **Town of Bayfield:** (Kitchell) – see projects list below
  - h. **City:** Carrier was listening as City liaison
    - i. new rep. to be selected by P&R Committee.
    - ii. Stairway collapsed on the Gil Larsen trail. Carrier, Lemmenes, Ipsen, & Bland repaired them within a week so that they are back in use.
3. Economic Impact Study Update: Kitchell & Rothe
- a. Fact Sheet Prepared (attached to agenda; to be posted on web site)
  - b. Funding status: waiting for approval from Wisconsin Coastal Management Program.
  - c. Goal is to start trailhead surveys in early August
  - d. Recruiting coordinator: job description prepared; outreach to potential candidates initiated and posted on Chamber Blast.
  - e. Discussion about how to recruit and engage volunteers for intercept surveys. This could be a challenge:
    - i. We may need to consider paring down the number of trails in the survey.
    - ii. Use adopt-a-trail model to have people take the lead at their preferred trail locations; this could include a core of people organizing themselves for their trails.
    - iii. Leverage outreach with other organizations, websites, social media, press releases, Northland college.
4. Trails Subcommittee Report (TsC): Johnson
- a. Lots of projects in the works.
  - b. They have streamlined forms and processes for Adopt-a-Trail and the Volunteer Release.
5. Trails Forum Feedback Update: Kitchell
- a. Compiled suggestions attached to agenda
  - b. Kitchell asked members to think about this feedback & how to use it.

- c. Also, should we make another effort to seek additional feedback for the purpose of developing a next round of plans for the BATs network?
- 6. Projects Report/Status: Kitchell et al : blog & Facebook posts launched Sunday 7/9
  - a. Big Ravine Projects Completed (special applause to Mike Kinnee)
    - i. Stairway by Iron Bridge collapsed; repaired by P&R Committee & volunteers.
  - b. Meme Miikana: Leads: Ted May & Sean Reagan:
    - i. bridge access cleared, thanks to MANY volunteers. Black Ash given to April Stone, basket maker from Bad River.
    - ii. visited site with bridge contractor;
    - iii. install bridge by 7/21
    - iv. build floodplain trail and boardwalk 7/22 – 7/31
    - v. build connection to AWB parking/chalet in August. Lissa Fleming expressed interest in donating toward this trail. Kitchell asked for discussion about the concept of potentially naming the trail after Lissa’s business, Silverwaves. Other options could include Silver Waves or Silver Wave. Discussion ensued with the Committee members, with the following key points:
      - 1. Since the trail would cross County and DNR land, naming would need to comply with their policies. Naming after a private business would not comply with their policies.
      - 2. Stay consistent with current practice of naming after a natural feature, plant, animal, etc. where the trail occurs.
      - 3. We would like to continue on the path of Ojibwemowin translations.
      - 4. Concern about this being perceived as advertising and commercialization of a public natural place.
      - 5. Concern about setting precedent where donors come to expect control in exchange for their donation.
      - 6. Consensus of the Committee members was that naming after Silverwaves would not be appropriate or in compliance with land manager policies.
    - vi. Sign installation to follow.
  - c. Headwaters:
    - i. signs designed & ordered
    - ii. Kiosk installed
    - iii. build trail & boardwalks in mid-to-late August
  - d. CTC & County Projects: - updated project calendar to include these projects

**NEXT MEETING: Tuesday August 8<sup>th</sup> @ 3 p.m. via Zoom**

Next Agenda:

- Introducing the County Volunteer Policy: Mattson
- Review our Vision and Mission statement, to expand the geography to include Cornucopia/Town of Bell and possibly more.