



**Bayfield Area Trails Committee Meeting Notes
Tuesday August 8th @ 3 – 4:30 pm (via Zoom)**

Participants:

- Committee members present:
 - Welcome Fred Clark, City of Bayfield Parks & Rec. Committee rep.
 - Clark, Finn, Huinker, Kitchell, Mattson, Rothe
- Committee members absent: Lang, Van Stappen
- Communications Subcommittee: Howk
- Trails Subcommittee: Ipsen, Johnson, Wegerson
- Others present: n/a

Agenda

1. Rapid Round Robin Reports
 - a. **Red Cliff** (Huinker):
 - i. Discover Wisconsin is doing a feature on Frog Bay, including frogs from site
 - ii. TAP grant for trails feasibility study/plan:
 1. Agreement signed: funding has been extended into 2024
 2. Starting to gather documents & maps
 3. Will be contracting for the plan
 - b. **Ashwabab (AOEF)** (Finn):
 - i. Reworking a part of the Sugarbush trail where grooming has been difficult and inefficient.
 - ii. JJ Bridge (on DNR land): still needs to be replaced as large grooming equipment can't cross it. Considering 2 semi-truck beds
 - iii. Constructed a beginner's mountain bike loop adjacent to Abbey Road in cooperation with CAMBA
 - iv. Mower has been having problems: not the best equipment for mowing the heavier vegetation on some of the trails
 - v. Starting to organize for fall trail work
 - vi. There have been problems with motorized vehicles on the powerline.
 - c. **County** (Mattson):
 - i. Volunteers helped County crew with clearing encroaching vegetation on the Jerry Jolly Trails. Then it will be mowed again. Signs look good!
 - ii. Work being planned for Siskiwit & Lost Creek Falls: will welcome volunteer assistance.
 - d. **Town of Bell/Cornucopia Trails Club:** (Rothe): planning to work with the County at Lost Creek and Siskiwit
 - e. **Landmark** (Lang): not present
 - f. **Town of Bayfield:** (Kitchell): see project list below.
 - i. Bob Mackreth is taking the lead, along with Neil Howk, on developing and installing an interpretive sign on the Salmo Trail about the historic train wreck near Birch Run that claimed the lives of nine men.

- ii. Finn reported concerns about trash on the Finn Loop of the Big Ravine trails. Notably, a syringe was found. This raises substantial safety concerns, including reluctance to allow trails on private land.
 - g. **City (Clark):**
 - i. Several projects completed in the Big Ravine in June & July
 - ii. Bay Area Environmental Consulting will be doing the school hillside stabilization and restoration the week of August 14th.
 - iii. The Big Ravine budget will be closed out at the end of 2023, with plans to do some maintenance work on upper Pine Bluff and the bottom of the Sweeney Switchback.
 - h. **APIS/NPS: (Van Stappen):** not present
- 2. County Volunteer Policy (if available): Mattson
 - i. All volunteers will have to sign the County's [release form link here](#) and review County [orientation program here](#)
- 3. Review Vision & Mission statement: to include broader scope, including Cornucopia: Peter
 - a. [Link to statement on home page](#): *A unified trail network connecting Bayfield area communities.*
 - b. [Link to current vision & mission statement](#)
 - c. Discussion points:
 - i. The vision and mission are strategic statements that require focused thought and involvement by key partners.
 - ii. The new language should be broad and flexible enough to allow for expansion and growth.
 - iii. Consider engaging the broader community at a fall open meeting.
 - d. **Action:** For the September meeting, Peter, Kate, & Fred will coordinate on preparing recommendations, possible language, and an approach for vetting the revision with key partners. Peter will take the lead.
- 4. Trails Subcommittee Report & Input from BAT Comm. (TsC):
 - a. Adopt a Trail: [see August monitoring reports at this link](#)
 - b. Making progress on improving the reports and simplifying procedures.
 - c. Need to find a way to sort the reports by land manager: for example, so the County can sort and focus on their trail segments. Maybe a drop-down list would work.
- 5. Communications Subcommittee Report & Input from BAT Comm (CsC):
 - a. Doing routine blog reporting & FB posts on projects
 - b. Adding trail stats to the website (latest results attached to agenda)
- 6. Naming the new link from Meme Miikana to AWB trailhead: Kate et al
 - a. See initial brainstorm list at the bottom – bring your ideas to the meeting
 - b. **Action:** Finn will consult with AWB Alliance Board about naming; Mattson will consult with Bodine & others at County about naming.
- 7. Projects Report/Status: [link to project calendar](#)
 - a. Meme Miikana: Leads: Ted May & Sean Reagan:
 - i. Bridge site has been cleared and is ready for installation by the contractor.
 - ii. Bridge installation was expected by July 15th, but it is delayed due to difficulties with securing equipment in the Bayfield area.

- iii. After the bridge is installed, we will rally volunteers to complete the trail on the far side of the bridge. This will include, final trail clearing, boardwalks, and a small footbridge.
 - iv. Sign plan has been drafted. After selection of the new trail name & review and approval by the DNR, we will purchase signs and install them.
- b. Building the connection between Meme & AWB trails/trailhead:
 - i. Doug Olson at AWB plans to clear trail with a large brush mower in August.
 - ii. Next steps will be determined after this clearing.
 - iii. See other agenda item related to trail naming.
- c. Big Ravine Headwaters:
 - i. Signs have been designed and purchased. [View the signs here.](#)
 - ii. Kiosk installed
 - iii. Start trail clearing during the week of August 7th.
 - iv. Build boardwalks and viewing platform at the end of August & into September.
 - v. Phil Bratsch has mowed from the orchards/winery when he has time.
- d. Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP) grant follow-up (if any):
 - i. Letter of support requested by Bob Anderson at the County (draft attached)
 - ii. General sentiment of support for this letter
 - iii. Each entity will consult with their organizations about BAT Comm. sending a letter of support
- e. Economic Impact Study Update: Kitchell & Rothe
 - i. Paused until Wisconsin Coastal Management Program (WCMP) funding is approved. This could be as long as a year due to a HUGE backlog in the federal office where the funds originate: The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA).
 - ii. The state JEM grant is flexible and the timing can be adjusted to align with the WCMP funds when they are approved (sign of relief).

8. Future Meetings: NEXT MEETING SEPTEMBER 12TH AT 3 – 4:30 PM

- Monthly meetings on the 2nd Tuesday still works for everyone. Mark your calendars as follows:
 - September 12th
 - October 10th
 - November 14th
 - December 12th
- Should we consider broader participation & publicizing of meetings? Perhaps quarterly?

9. Future Agenda Topics:

- Long-term planning: Trails Forum Feedback follow up

ADJOURN

Potential names for the link between Meme Miikana & AWB

1. Butterfly: [memengwaa](#) (recommended by Lissa Fleming) (nothing in Ojibwemowin dictionary specific to Monarch butterfly). This trail doesn't have Monarch habitat. There is a Butterfly trail in the Big Ravine network.
2. Fox: [waagosh](#)
3. Silver Fox: [zhooniyaa-waagosh](#) (a rare coloration of red fox) (slightly reflective of Silver Waves (potential donor)
4. Owl: [gookooko'oo](#)
5. Screech Owl: [gaakaabishiinh](#)
6. Blue Jay Way (along the Beatles "Abbey Road" theme): [diindiisi](#)
7. Ruffed Grouse: [bine](#) or [goshkongesi](#)

Ojibwemowin Dictionary link: <https://ojibwe.lib.umn.edu/about>

A search in the Ojibwemowin dictionary for connect, link, come together did not yield much.