



**Bayfield Area Trails Committee Meeting Notes**  
**Tuesday October 15<sup>th</sup> @ 2:30 – 4:00 pm (via Zoom)**

Participants:

- Committee members present: Clark, Kitchell, Lang, Westcott
- Committee members absent: Bunch, Finn, Huinker, Mattson, Rothe
- Trails Subcommittee present: Ipsen
- Communications Subcommittee present:
- Others present:

Focus Topics

1. Long-term strategic plan – now named the Bayfield Peninsula Trails Plan (BPTP)\*: Kate
  - Conducting baseline trail assessments – Kitchell will send out request to assessors to complete by 11/1/24
  - Started some field recon.
  - Reviewed the schedule for the next RTCA visit: Oct. 28 – 31 for stakeholder meetings & field recon.
2. Economic Impact Study Report:
  - Trail User Surveys: Hilary
    - **32 volunteers** have expressed interest specifically in helping with the Trail User Survey.
    - Our **third training** is this evening. After this one, we will have a video for folks to do the training on their own time.
    - **19 shifts** have been completed so far by **11 different volunteers**.
    - In September, **56 surveys** were conducted.
    - Trails covered so far:
      - - Ashwabay
      - - Big Ravine Gil Larsen
      - - Big Ravine North Ravine
      - - Brownstone
      - - Houghton Falls
      - - Jerry Jolly
      - - Lost Creek Falls
      - - Salmo
      - - Siskiwit Falls
  - Trail Counters: Kate reported that 5 have been ordered and will be installed in early November at 1) Meyers-Olson parking area for Big Ravine; 2) Butterfly at Big Ravine; and 3) Salmo. Waiting to get feedback from Huinker about install at Frog Bay. Install at Les Voigt Fish Hatchery on hold until land dispute is resolved.

Rapid Round Robin Reports

1. **Ashwabay** (Finn/Schalla/Olson) not present – Ann Mosey is the new trail coordinator: [trails@mtashwabay.org](mailto:trails@mtashwabay.org) Trail clean up days 10/30 and 11/3 at 11 am. Ski swap on 11/2

2. **County** (Mattson): not present - Asked to schedule meetings in morning vs. afternoon
3. **Town of Bell/Cornucopia Trails Club:** (Rothe) not present
4. **Red Cliff Treaty Natural Resources Division (TNRD)**(Huinker):
  - a. Red Cliff to Bayfield feasibility study is underway.
5. **Town of Bayfield:** (Kitchell)
  - a. Possible settlement with Anderson Bridges on Pikes Creek bridge is pending
  - b. Discussions are ongoing between County, DNR and private landowner (Casper) about land ownership and reestablishing public access upstream from the hatchery. Bayfield County is selling 3 small parcels along Pikes Creek to the DNR; this will include a small strip of land between the creek and the private land boundary, thereby enabling an option for a trail. The legal status of the abandoned road (historically used as the trail) is still being researched by the DNR.
6. **City** (Clark/Carrier):
  - a. Gravel on upper East Rim is great improvement
  - b. Considering an additional reroute on East Rim to avoid wet areas in spring; project being led by Bill Bieganeck
  - c. Submitting an application to Wisc. Coastal Mgmt. for an assessment and redesign for lower Gil Larsen Trail
7. **Landmark** (Lang):
  - a. Looked at installing culvert across Brownstone at Blue Wing Bay Rd. with Dan Maki. Cost estimate = \$1,000. Need to raise funds. Gravel in ditches not reusable on trail.
8. **APIS/NPS:** (Lucas Westcott): focus is on planning for next year.
9. **Town of Bayview** (Mike Bunch):
  - a. Site visit to plan field project at Houghton Falls on 10/21 with Bunch, Lang, & Kitchell
  - b. Trail project at Houghton Falls scheduled for Friday 11/1 @ 9 am

#### Ongoing Activities Reports

1. Trail Subcommittee: John
  - a. Completed work at Pileated Woodpecker – it is now open and accessible.
  - b. Brownstone Trail project near Wild Rice Retreat is upcoming on Friday 10/18 & Sat. 10/19. Mission accomplished on 10/18! Thanks to all who made it happen!
2. Communications Subcommittee (CsC) Report:

**NEXT MEETING: November 12<sup>th</sup> @ 2:30 – 4:30**

**Kitchell in Colorado**

**\*Consider changing the time to morning during the winter? 9 am?**

#### Future Agenda Topics:

- Assume BPTP will be on agenda for several months
  - Volunteer Plan
  - Reaching trail users at trailheads – for volunteering, fundraising, and participating
  - Trail management standards
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**Completed Stakeholder Meetings:**

1. Bayfield County staff (Abeles-Alison, Bodine, Ammon, Mattson, Motiff, K. Pedersen)
2. US Forest Service (Gus Smith & Jen Bratsch)
3. Biking community (a bunch of people)
4. Nordic & snowshoe community (a bunch of people)
5. Landmark (Erika)
6. Mt. Ashwabay (Doug Olson & Chuck Finn)
7. Apostle Islands National Lakeshore staff (Jo Holt & Garyck Hoenig; plus Neil Howk)
8. Red Cliff staff (Ashley Huinker, Melis Arik, Mark Duffy, Doug Jennings)
9. Town of Bayfield Plan Commission (Chuck Finn, Jim Steffenson, Carol Fahrenkrog)
10. Town of Bell board members & interested parties
11. Town of Bayview Board Chair & BAT Comm. rep. (Don Jenicek, Mike Bunch)
12. Cornucopia Trails Club
13. City of Bayfield (Matt Carrier, Fred Clark, plus Susan Hedman)
14. City of Washburn (Tony Janisch, Jen Maziasz, Arianna Austin)
15. Bayfield Chamber (Carol Fahrenkrog)
16. BPTP Planning Committee (a whole bunch of people)
17. NPS – APIS Superintendent Lynne Dominy

**Additional Stakeholder Meetings (some via zoom):**

1. Washburn Chamber reps.- scheduled for Tuesday 10/29
2. Motorized users – ATV & snowmobile – Bayfield snowmobile club- Tuesday 10/29 others TBD
3. County highways – Jake Benson (replaced Bob Anderson) – Tuesday 10/29
4. Equestrian reps. - TBD
5. Outdoor-oriented businesses – Cornucopia on Monday 10/28; Washburn on Tuesday 10/29; Bayfield on Tuesday 10/29
6. Bayfield Rec. Center on Monday 10/28
7. Bayfield Heritage Association & Apostle Islands Historic Preservation Council & Maritime Museum on Monday 10/28