



**Bayfield Area Trails Committee Meeting Notes**  
**Tuesday November 12<sup>th</sup> @ 2:30 – 4:00 pm (via Zoom)**

Participants:

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

Focus Topics

1. Long-term strategic plan – now named the Bayfield Peninsula Trails Plan (BPTP): Kate
  - a. Baseline Trail Assessment Update: almost all trails have been assessed; Chris Morgan will be analyzing the results as the basis for the trail improvement plan for existing trails.
  - b. Status of Comprehensive Map: Kate, Chris, & Holly are working on consolidating the many route desire lines on the map and labeling the lines with recognizable names.
  - c. Synthesizing stakeholder input: Daniel Ochoa from the NPS is working on this information.
  - d. Field Recon. on priority trails: during the week of Oct. 21<sup>st</sup> field recon. was completed on 2 priority trails: 1) the Ashwabay to Valhalla connection and 2) Washburn to Bayfield, with an eye toward using some of the old RR grade.
  - e. Creating a sustainable organization: a small subcommittee will meet on 11/19 to start to discuss this topic. Members include Cindy Anderson, Fred Clark, Susan Hedman, Kate Kitchell, Mary Ledin, Ted May, & Kathleen Russell.
2. Economic Impact Study Report: Peter & Hilary
  - 65 surveys were submitted in October – We need 385 surveys that are distributed over all of the trails and throughout the year.
  - 14 different volunteers have conducted surveys.
  - Meeting with Shaheer on Thursday.
  - All the trails, with the exception of Frog Bay, included in the survey have had at least one shift done so far! We are working with Red Cliff to start surveys at Frog Bay.
    - Ashwabay
    - Big Ravine Gil Larsen
    - Big Ravine Hilltop
    - Big Ravine North Ravine
    - Brownstone
    - Houghton Falls
    - Jerry Jolly
    - Lost Creek Falls
    - Salmo
    - Siskiwit Falls
  - Trail counters installed on 3 trails: Hilary will be monitoring

- Salmo
- Big Ravine – East Rim Trail @ Meyers-Olson Rd.
- Butterfly – Big Ravine Soccer Field/Hilltop access
- Planning for 2 more trail counters:
  - Frog Bay – waiting for feedback from the Tribe
  - Pileated Woodpecker – waiting to reopen trail
- Kitchell noted that she plans to work with partners to organize and post trail counter data in a systematic manner.
- Still need more volunteers: Hilary will be doing more outreach & recruiting

#### Rapid Round Robin Reports

1. **Ashwabay** (Finn/Schalla/Olson):
  - a. There have been 2 trail clean up days with volunteers.
  - b. Replacing trail signs.
  - c. Kitchell has inquired about the new trail coordinator, Ann Mosey becoming new rep.
2. **County** (Mattson):
  - a. Working with CTC and snowmobile club to install 20+ USNG signs at Lost Creek Falls and on snowmobile trails.
  - b. County staff is doing work on Lost Creek Falls Trail, including on the switchbacks.
  - c. There are plans to possibly burn, disk, and seed the Meadow at Siskiwit.
  - d. There are plans to pay Bayfield Nordic to groom trails at Siskiwit.
  - e. Lindley plans to work on kiosk signage at Jolly trailhead.
  - f. Working with snowmobile clubs to get trails and signage in order for the season.
3. **Town of Bell/Cornucopia Trails Club:** (Rothe) Working with the County to install 20+ USNG signs.
4. **Red Cliff Treaty Natural Resources Division (TNRD)**(Huinker):
  - a. Feasibility study of Red Cliff to Bayfield Trail is underway by SEH. Planning meetings with the City and County and other stakeholders.
  - b. There is a grant opportunity for potentially funding construction of the Red Cliff to Bayfield Trail. This funding source is focused on recreation opportunities along scenic byways. It is federal funding that requires 20% non-fed. match. Grant deadline is 12/18. A cost estimate for the project is being developed by SEH – likely to be over \$1M. The group brainstormed potential matching fund sources.
  - c. Ashley will continue to work on establishing permission and support for conducting the trail user surveys and installing trail counter at Frog Bay. There is concern about possible vandalism of the trail counter. It is possible to lock the counter to a tree to make it more secure.
5. **Town of Bayfield:** (Kitchell)
  - a. Nothing new on the Anderson bridge.
  - b. The land sale of 3 parcels from the County to the DNR is getting close to completion. This would enable a foot path access around the private property. Kitchell and the Town of Bayfield will follow up with DNR after the sale is complete.
6. **City** (Clark/Carrier):

- a. The public works department conducted dirt work adjacent to the Gil Larsen Trailhead to clear out the debris catchers in front of the sluiceway. It is unsightly and will require rehab. and invasive species control. There may be short-term actions volunteers could implement to improve the trail and visual impacts of this work.
  - b. An application has been submitted to the Wisc. Coastal Mgt. Program for an integrated assessment of the aging storm water management and trails infrastructure. The proposal also asks for designs and cost estimates for replacing this infrastructure, taking into consideration climate change and changing flow regimes in the creek. This would be used for seeking funds to replace this infrastructure in the long-term.
7. **Landmark** (Lang): There was a successful volunteer trail project at the Houghton Falls Trail on 11/9. 20 yds. of gravel were spread and some sections of boardwalk repaired. The new power wagon that was recently jointly purchased by Landmark and the County was SUPER.
  8. **APIS/NPS:** (Lucas Westcott): n/a
  9. **Town of Bayview** (Mike Bunch): see #7 above.

#### Ongoing Activities Reports

1. Trail Subcommittee: John Ipsen
  - a. Put up reassurance markers on the Pileated Woodpecker Trail across the plateau to Chickadee Point. This included flagging and blue hiker medallions.
  - b. Workdays at AWB: trees overhanging the trails were removed; brushing to remove encroaching vegetation.
  - c. John Ipsen & Rich Metcalfe worked on clearing the Raspberry River Trail from the gravel pit at the end of Tulip Lane to Peterson Hill Rd. It will now be passable for snowshoeing. The loop on the upper portion of the trail is not passable at this point.
    - i. ACTION: John & Rich will obtain a GPS track of the cleared route. This route will be used by the County for managing timber harvests in a compatible manner and for posting on the BAT website to inform folks of the snowshoe opportunity.
2. Communications Subcommittee (CsC) Report:

#### **NEXT MEETING: December 10<sup>th</sup> @ 2:30 – 4:30**

#### Future Agenda Topics:

- Assume BPTP will be on agenda for several months
- Economic Impact Study, Trail User Surveys – on agenda as a standing item
- Volunteer Plan
- Reaching trail users at trailheads – for volunteering, fundraising, and participating
- Trail management standards

#### **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
18. Cornucopia Business Association
19. Bayfield Nonprofits with Relevant Missions: Friends of the Apostle Islands, Recreation and Fitness Resources, CORE Resources, Apostle Islands Historic Preservation Conservancy, Bayfield Maritime Museum
20. Bayfield County Highway Commissioner – Jake Benson
21. Washburn Chamber of Commerce
22. Apostle Islands Snowmobile Club

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

1. ATV & snowmobile clubs from Washburn (Valhalleries) and Cornucopia (Sno-goers)
2. Equestrian reps.