



**Bayfield Area Trails Committee Meeting Notes**  
**Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> @ 2:30 – 4:00 pm (via Zoom)**

Participants:

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

Focus Topics

1. Long-term strategic plan –the Bayfield Peninsula Trails Plan (BPTP): Kate
  - a. Baseline Trail Assessment Update:
    - i. all trails have been assessed, except Raspberry River Trails & Mt. Ashwabay. We will work on including these by next spring.
    - ii. Chris Morgan is aiming to have synthesis report by January.
    - iii. GPS routes for some trails are not accurate in the County data base: we will work on asking trail adopters to update GPS routes for these trails (Big Ravine, Frog Bay, & perhaps some of the Brownstone. Are there others?)
  - 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.
    - i. The planning committee will start to prioritize these lines at their 12/19 meeting based on prioritization criteria.
    - ii. The prioritized list and map will be brought to the BAT Comm. in January.
  - c. Synthesizing stakeholder input: Daniel Ochoa from the NPS is working on this information.
  - d. Creating a sustainable organization: a small subcommittee met 11/19.
    - i. They have compiled an initial list of potential funding sources. This can be [viewed here](#).
    - ii. They met with Ruth Oppedahl and Denny Caneff (retired ED of Superior Hiking Trail) on 12/10 am to gather their advice on pitfalls and considerations for developing a sustainable nonprofit.
  - e. We need to start thinking about:
    - i. Bringing the map and priorities back to key stakeholders, especially BAT Comm. members, especially Bayfield County, the City, & townships.
    - ii. Public information and outreach
2. Economic Impact Study Report: Peter & Hilary
  - a. **15 surveys** were submitted in November (meets minimum study and variability numbers)
  - b. **138 surveys** have been submitted to date.
  - c. New Volunteer Dashboard offering flexibility being piloted for December.
  - d. All trails have been surveyed with the exception of Frog Bay. We anticipate starting surveys at Frog Bay this month, pending a use permit.
  - e. Working on individual kits for rockstar volunteers - particularly Peter Rothe and Kathleen Russell - THANK YOU!

- f. We have one month of use numbers from Salmo, Big Ravine Hilltop, and Big Ravine North. If there is a preferred method of sharing this info - a particular report or desired number - I am happy to include this moving forward.
3. Kitchell & Ledin are working together to apply to the American Trails capacity grant by Jan. 15<sup>th</sup> for funding to develop and implement a plan to build BAT membership and volunteers. This would include a communication and outreach plan, plus a volunteer recruitment and management plan.
  4. Giving Tuesday Fundraising Report – Kate
    - a. \$8,350 raised to date. Intended for 1) trail projects & 2) tool cache. Also received donation of an almost-new wheelbarrow.

#### Rapid Round Robin Reports

1. **Landmark** (Lang): n/a
2. **Town of Bayview** (Mike Bunch): not present. Houghton Falls project was successful. Lessons learned: don't spread gravel too thick at the start of the trail. In future, the project plan should specify trail width & gravel depth.
3. **County** (Mattson): USNG signs installed by CTC & snowmobile club at Lost Creek Falls. Fencing installed by County staff at Lost Creek Falls trail to keep people on the trail & stop short-cutting. Vizanko of Bayfield Nordic will groom the orchard trails.
4. **Town of Bell/Cornucopia Trails Club**: (Rothe) See above.
5. **Red Cliff Treaty Natural Resources Division (TNRD)**(Huinker):
  - a. Decided not to apply for Scenic Byway grant for construction of the Red Cliff to Bayfield trail due to lack of 50% match. Cost estimate for the trail, based on 10 ft. width (ADA), is over \$1 Million.
  - b. Red Cliff to Bayfield feasibility study is ahead of schedule. It includes a preliminary plan for trail along Blueberry Rd. The Tribal Planning Office wants to change the scope of the study to focus on a trail along Blueberry Rd. all of the way to Frog Bay. They are also considering narrowing the trail width to 6 ft. to make it more feasible and less costly.
  - c. Discussion ensued:
    - i. The current Red Cliff to Bayfield feasibility study route being proposed is only along the County Hwy 13 shoulder. It is entirely focused on safe transportation for Tribe members and keep costs down.
    - ii. Although it is not on tribal land, the study does not consider broader public recreational use of aesthetics.
    - iii. ACTION: Kitchell indicated interest in discussing the purpose and scope along Hwy 13 with the planning office (Doug Jennings). There may also be an option for another entity to take on the lead for construction, rather than the Tribe leading this on non-Tribal lands.
6. **Town of Bayfield**: (Kitchell)
  - a. Bridge dispute may soon be resolved
  - b. Land sale from County to DNR should be completed soon.

7. **City** (Clark/Carrier): n/a
8. **APIS/NPS:** (Lucas Westcott): n/a
9. **Ashwabay** (Finn/Schalla/Olson): n/a
  - a. Ipsen reported that nordic trail grooming has begun and that skiing is good.

#### Ongoing Activities Reports

1. Trail Subcommittee: John Ipsen
  - a. Planning for the 2025 Annual Trails Celebration:
    - i. Best potential location is the Cornucopia Community Center – this has been reserved
    - ii. Wegerson reported that refreshments will be covered by Sue Aiken’s coordination & Jeff/Diane Garrett
    - iii. Cups, utensils, etc. covered by Wegerson & Ipsen
  - b. Pileated Woodpecker: Wegerson reported bike tracks: need for no bike signs.  
ACTION: Kitchell/Wegerson/Ipsen will coordinate on purchase & installation of no bike signs.
  - c. Raspberry River Trails: Ipsen & Metcalfe have cleared the upper trail so it is passable for snowshoes. ACTION: Ipsen will provide a GPS route & photos for blog post.
2. Communications Subcommittee (CsC) Report:

**NEXT MEETING: January 14<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