

Parks and Trails Legacy Advisory Committee Meeting, April 12, 2018

MINUTES PROVIDE A RECORD OF MINNESOTA'S PARKS AND TRAILS LEGACY
ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETINGS. THESE MINUTES WERE APPROVED BY THE
COMMITTEE AT THE MEETING ON JULY 12, 2018

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Parks and Trails Legacy Advisory Committee Meeting

Mystery Cave State Park
William H Morrissey Visitor Center
21071 Co Hwy 118
Spring Valley, MN 55975
April 12, 2018
9:30 am – 2:30 pm

Updates and Announcements

Next Meeting: July 12, 2018
Meeting Host: Great Minnesota Regional Parks and Trails Commission
Kensington Rune Stone Park

Committee Actions Required: See items 1 (posting meeting minutes) 2 (circulating volunteer sign-up sheet to work Legacy Tenth Anniversary Events, and 3 (PTLAC members working on intentional outreach for upcoming events) below.

M I N U T E S

Members Present:

Bob Bierscheid, Kathy Bergen, Louise Segreto, May Yang, Nancy Hanson, Patrick Stieg, Pete Royer, Randy Sorensen, Tim Mitchell, Tom Stoa, Wayne Sames (via Webex: Katherine Bloom, Poppy Potter, Margot Imdieke-Cross)

Liaisons: Renee Mattson, Erika Rivers, Laura Preus, Tom Ryan, (via Skpe Emmett Mullin)

Guests: Mark White, Brook Maier

Staff: Paul Purman, Stefanie Stearns, Scott Struelens

1. Welcome

Bob Bierscheid takes over as new Legacy Advisory Committee chair, with Brook Maier's stepping off of committee. Group introductions focusing on new members May Yang and Margot Imdieke-Cross.

Agenda and previous meeting minutes approved.

Mark White, manager at Forestville/Mystery Cave State Park gave a welcome and highlighted history of park and Legacy funded projects. Projects include taking care after floods as well as new land acquisitions in the park.

Action – Staff submit approved minutes to LCC for posting on PTLAC website

1. State Fair Updates

Brook Maier has stepped down from PTLAC to take over as project manager for Legacy at the State Fair project for 2018.

Brook gave a presentation on the layout of the state fair, highlighting displays and interactive activities. Emphasized the importance of fun in the project and also educating people about the larger picture. It's important for the fair design to acknowledge the existence of other Legacy funds, but the idea is to highlight Parks and Trails. Layout of state fair section has been approved by the state fair board so development can begin. Brook has begun to contact designers for layout and design needs. Identified that at least two staff will be required on hand at all times and the three agencies will be reaching out for volunteers.

2. Legacy Event Planning

Events are quickly approaching with many things to be undertaken. Enthusiasm is high among site teams and site captains. Flyers are being distributed to site captains and many different organizations for circulation. Individual site updates followed, with descriptions of activities, volunteers, and progress.

ACTION: Paul will circulate the committee member volunteer sign-up sheet to the members who were not in the room today for adding their names.

3. Liaison Updates

Parks and Trails Legacy Funding Split.

Paul reports out on agency liaison discussions around recommended Legacy Funding split for 20/21 biennium (to be decided by Legislature and Governor in Spring 2019 session).

- 40-40-20 was selected in 2012, knowing that there was no perfect way to analyze data for an optimal solution everyone would agree on:
 - Was a compromise to run through three biennia (14/15, 16/17, 18/19)
 - Had to be approved by legislature
 - A Legacy Funding Work Group was established, and came up with the 404020 solution. (Some liaisons and members of the current PTLAC funding subcommittee were heavily involved in the effort [that was reported in November 2012](#)).

- FY2020/21 will be the first biennium after the end of the 404020 agreement, and the 2019 legislative session will be upon us soon.
 - **After discussions over the past six months and consideration of a variety of options, the liaisons' group is in agreement to recommend continuation of 40-40-20 through Fy20/21.**
 - Full reconsideration of funding split at this point does not align well with the significant effort to recognize the 10th Anniversary of Legacy.
 - There's no simple way to tweak 404020 – if it's to be reconsidered, it will take a major effort, reopening discussions around the full range of issues.
 - Liaisons are in agreement that there are some actions that would augment 404020 well in 20/21:
 - Greater Minnesota's current 20% allocation includes the full costs of running the agency; that is not true of Met and DNR, for which Legacy is only a portion of their operating budget.
 - Working with the governor and legislature to fund these GM operational costs fully or partially from elsewhere (e.g., state's General Fund) would improve impact of 20% for regional facilities.
 - All of the agencies support notion of increased funding to local parks and trails from non-Legacy sources

Discussion followed, during which the following points were addressed:

- Undecided at this point is a proper and beneficial role for the PTLAC's funding subcommittee for the future. Liaisons and PTLAC will continue to work together on this.
- 404020 was **not** a formula – it was (and is) a broad compromise that takes into account a range of factors such as the size and extent of systems, population centers/density/growth, and so forth.
- The Legacy agencies have more data than in 2012, but using it to create a scientific 'formula' for distributing the funds remains problematic. The state system, and the two regional systems, are very different from each other.

Coordinated research in the new biennium

Heading into the Spring 2019 biennial legislative session, there are a couple of research dimensions that need to be considered

- User research that crosses the three units and could provide insights relevant to all, like the U of M research done by Mae Davenport and reported to this group in December, 2016.
- Broader social research that supports the bigger picture, like SCORP.

How these types of research are done, and how (and if) the work encompasses both the state and regional systems is the question.

Ideas for coordinated research were suggested:

- What information do we need to help us achieve goals of the 25 year plan?

- What are the connections between coordinated research and shared outcomes reporting, that the committee and agencies have been discussing (and the Legacy 10th Anniversary events are helping us bring together)? Is there a proposal that could be considered to more effectively share the accomplishments of Parks and Trails Legacy to date?
- Might part of a research agenda be evaluating programs and projects that have been funded (like the work of the landscape restoration team at DNR that presented to the PTLAC at Granite Falls in 2017?)

4. General Updates

- Kathy Bergen has been selected as the new alternate chair of the LAC.
- MN Great Outdoors website update from Stefanie Stearns. Website should be launched in next two to four weeks!
- Scott Struelens spoke about youth outreach efforts to invite youth to attend Legacy events. Efforts include reaching out to local neighborhood youth organizations and boys and girls club. LAC had identified desire to make youth attendance a priority at these events.
- Erika Rivers spoke about new DNR urban outreach pilot programs with REI and the Loppet Foundation. New position of Urban Outreach Coordinator and CCMI Urban Outreach Specialist hope to form strong partnerships and operate in a way that the DNR gets involved in the community, rather than trying to get the community involved in DNR.

Meeting adjourned @ 2:30 PM.