

Parks and Trails Legacy Advisory Committee Meeting, October 25, 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 DECEMBER 6, 2018



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Parks and Trails Legacy Advisory Committee Meeting

Nerstrand Big Woods State Park

9700 170th Street East

Nerstrand, MN 55053

October 25, 2018

9:30 am – 2:30 pm

Updates and Announcements

Next Meeting: December 6, 2018

Meeting Host: Metropolitan Council

TBD

Committee Actions Required: See items 1 (posting meeting minutes), 2 (State Fair project documents), 3 (updating the draft Tenth Anniversary report in consultation with MAD), 5 (updates to subcommittee/workgroup information), 6 (Coordinated research next steps), and 7 (updates – public call for new member applications to the committee) below.

M I N U T E S

Members Present:

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

Liaisons: Renee Mattson, Erika Rivers, Laura Preus

Guests: Katie Foshay, Holly Jenkins, Brook Maier

Staff: Paul Purman, Stefanie Stearns, Arielle Courtney

1. Welcome

Bob Bierscheid opened the meeting, and Nerstrand Big Woods park manager Katie Foshay welcomed group and provided background on the park. Bob summarized the field visit on Wednesday afternoon to **Mill Towns State Trail/Byllesby Regional Parks** in Cannon Falls – great example of ‘Coordinating with Partners’ to develop complementary facilities. This afternoon’s field visit will be a Legacy-funded reforestation project within Nerstrand Park.

Agenda and previous meeting (July) minutes approved.

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

2. Wrap up discussion of State Fair Legacy Event

Project manager Brook Maier gave a PowerPoint presentation on the state fair exhibit, including budget summary, estimated attendance figures, observations from staff and volunteers who worked the event, and more. She included recommendations for changes and upgrades to the exhibit for 2019, including a timeline, and shared her analysis of the potential for use of exhibit elements for 'pop up' Legacy activities between now and State Fair 2019. The committee warmly thanked Brook for her leadership on the project.

Action – Brook will provide final documents/reports to DNR. Paul Purman will work liaisons to move forward on plans for next year.

3. Status of Final Report for Tenth Anniversary of Legacy

Paul Purman gave a PowerPoint summary overview of the current draft of the final report Stacy Sjogren of MMB/MAD has been developing with Laura Preus and Paul. Group discussed many of the points shared and provided feedback on additional items to include in the report. The report will be formatted for digital distribution, though limited copies will be printed in-house for some audiences. The timeline is to have the final copy done in mid- December 2018.

Action – Paul will incorporate committee comments into the most recent draft and work with liaisons and chair on final copy to be shared with Stacy/MAD staff.

4. Liaison Updates

Greater Minnesota Regional Parks and Trails Commission (GM; Renee Mattson)

- 21 funding applications for projects within designated regional facilities were submitted this year, about \$8.5 million is available for distribution. The numbers are similar to recent rounds. The vast majority of proposals were very good. The commission is close to choosing final recommendations to forward to the DNR Commissioner and legislature for approval. Visit [the Greater Minnesota Regional Parks and Trails Commission's website](#) for more information.

DNR Parks and Trails (Erika Rivers)

- With the upcoming election, there will be a new governor no matter who the people select, so the executive branch will experience a transition. We'll know more soon.
- In the meantime, state agencies, including DNR, are preparing information to inform a new biennial budget that will be adopted in 2019 (for FY20/21). There will also of course be a new legislature and some new legislators who will be involved in passing that budget.

- DNR PAT leadership has been considering Legacy priorities since kicking off in June evaluating how we think we are doing, areas for improvement. Some of the information from the regional events and the state fair have been very important for us to consider.
- Federal Land and Water Conservation Fund (LAWCON) is up for reauthorization, with options including permanent reauthorization under consideration. With enhanced energy lease revenues from GOMESA, LAWCON could provide more significant resources to outdoor recreation in Minnesota than in many years. This includes 50% for local recreation, which has few other Federal funding sources. LGUs have advocated for the program in the past, if they are inclined to do so again, now is a good time. More information at the [National Association of State Outdoor Recreation Liaison Officers \(NASORLO\)](#).

5. 2019 work-planning session and subcommittee review

Bob Bierscheid handed out the updated list of subcommittees and workgroups, their duties and membership. He led the group through considering work priorities for 2019. This is the beginning of a process we will continue at the December meeting. Potential items identified in order of discussion with the PTLAC subcommittee/workgroup, or full PTLAC, listed as involved:

- a. Shared Outcomes Reporting across three agencies (Benchmarks subcommittee)
- b. State Fair – assess 2018 results, plan and prepare for 2019, including pop-up elements (10th Anniversary workgroup, Benchmarks subcommittee, Communications subcommittee, Engagement subcommittee)
- c. Outreach to legislature/new legislators (Communications subcommittee, Funding subcommittee)
- d. Funding Split discussions and recommendations for FY22 and beyond (Funding subcommittee)
- e. Pursuing coordinated research across three agencies (full PTLAC)
- f. Minnesota's Great Outdoors '2.0' (Communications subcommittee)
- g. Connecting with those who have we not reached yet (Communications subcommittee, Engagement subcommittee)
- h. Providing SCORP input (full PTLAC plus Engagement subcommittee and Accessibility workgroup)
- i. Advancing Parks Rx & health benefits (Engagement subcommittee)
- j. Identifying under-represented Minnesotans and doing geographic analysis to better understand and recommend Legacy investments to engage them (Engagement subcommittee.)
- k. A BIG vision for statewide trails (including bicycles but also others). Cross-agency system planning to achieve a BIG idea¹ (like border-to-border trails) (Full PTLAC).
- l. Legacy system branding and related actions (e.g., cross-agency passport program) (Communications subcommittee)

¹ An example of this is Michigan's [Iron Belle Trail](#).

- m. Accessibility interface with other workplan items (Accessibility workgroup)

Action – By November 30:

Subcommittee chairs please forward any proposed changes in descriptions to Paul; all members, please review the subcommittees you are currently signed up for and forward any changes to Paul.

6. Coordinated research opportunities in 2019 and beyond – continuing the discussion

Renee Mattson continued the discussions from April and July LAC meetings on research funded by the ‘Coordinating with Partners’ shared Legacy funding. The agencies want the input of the committee.

In addition to ideas discussed at previous meetings, further discussion today on:

- Cross-agency system planning
- Barriers-related research:
 - Keep in mind much research exists on barriers. We could move forward by more effectively aggregating and sharing this research.
 - What are the motivators to participation (E.g., Flipping the barriers discussion around)? It may be more beneficial to try some new things and then evaluate success.
 - Example: Incentives such as offering low-cost entry options into certain activities – how effective would something like this be and does it motivate people?
 - Involve in the discussion outside organizations/experts on barriers/motivators/connecting.
 - Consider qualitative research approach involving all three agencies and understanding why people choose to go different places for what reasons (motivations) and what would it take for them to progress along the “recreation spectrum” or not (such as city park to regional park to state park, etc.)
 - Example: Focus groups per key communities or “personas” similar to previous Met Council research, but expanded.

Action - Agency liaisons will meet in November to discuss options in more detail and share plans with this group moving forward.

7. General Updates

- New PTLAC terms – currently there are nine seats that will need to be filled for the 2019-20 term – eight expiring terms, plus one member who is at mid-term but has chosen to resign. Current members whose terms are expiring and wish to serve again (within term limits) should follow the public process for applying; more information will be coming out in the news release on or about November 1 with a deadline of November 30. **Action – Paul will**

get the news release out and share information with the full committee for their consideration and sharing.

- 2019 PTLAC leadership positions – Current chair Bob Bierscheid and alternate chair Kathy Bergen have expressed willingness to serve again in 2019 if so elected. Others who are interested in these positions should let Paul know ASAP; leadership will be elected at December meeting.
- MN Great Outdoors – pretty quiet since the state fair. Paul and Stefanie Stearns will keep group updated on future changes.
- SCORP – Arielle Courtney gave an update on the new Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP) process. DNR has assembled a team to provide input on the SCORP, which is due to the National Park Service in December 2019. Several members of the PTLAC have been invited to join the team. There are many overlaps between past SCORPs and the Legacy Plan, and that will likely continue this year. Arielle will provide updates through the year.
- Parks Rx – Arielle continues to work on advancing Parks Rx. There is the prospect of working with a grad student from UMN School of Public Health (Twin Cities) to broaden and deepen the project's scope. This could include having regional and state facilities be part of a single system available for Rx providers to recommend to patients. The MN Great Outdoors network is being considered for use to provide tools to providers. More as it happens.

Meeting adjourned @ 2:30 PM.