

# **Parks and Trails Legacy Advisory Committee Meeting**

## **December 6, 2018**

MINUTES PROVIDE A RECORD OF MINNESOTA'S PARKS AND TRAILS LEGACY ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETINGS. THESE MINUTES HAVE NOT BEEN APPROVED AND WILL BE REVIEWED ON FEBRUARY 28, 2019



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# Parks and Trails Legacy Advisory Committee Meeting

Afton State Park  
Visitor Center  
6959 Peller Avenue South  
Hastings, MN 55033  
December 6, 2018  
9:30 am – 2:30 pm

## Updates and Announcements

Next Meeting: February 28, 2019  
Meeting Host: Metropolitan Council  
Bloomington Civic Plaza – Haeg Conference Room  
800 W Old Shakopee Rd, Bloomington, MN 55431  
9:30am – 2:30pm

### Committee Actions Required

- Staff submit approved minutes to LCC for posting on PTLAC website.
- Confirm with LAC members if these sub-committees and work groups reflect the December discussion in terms of scope and roles at February's meeting.
- Emmett and Renee will share more detailed breakdown of how their respective agencies' Legacy funds were spent in each of the Legacy pillars last year.

## M I N U T E S

### Members Present:

Bob Bierscheid, Les Ollila, Louise Segreto, May Yang, Nancy Hanson, Pete Royer, Pat Stieg, Tom Stoa, Wayne Sames, Margot Imdieke-Cross, Tim Mitchell, Kathy Bergen, Katherine Bloom O'Connell, Poppy Potter, Randy Sorensen.

**Liaisons:** Emmett Mullin, Renee Mattson, Erika Rivers

**Guests:** Holly Jenkins, Catherine Zimmer

**Staff:** Paul Purman, Stefanie Stearns, Arielle Courtney

### Welcome

Bob Bierscheid opened the meeting, and welcomed the committee to Afton State Park.

Agenda and previous meeting (October) minutes approved.

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

- 1. Check-in and updates on the prospects for the three agencies' Legacy strategic directions going into the 2019 biennial budget session (including coordinated research)**

**Erika Rivers** for DNR shared a Powerpoint. She highlighted the role of the Legacy Plan strategic directions (four pillars) in guiding DNR Parks and Trails investments, also making the following points:

- Careful attention to the language of the Constitutional Amendment and the subsequent authorizing legislation.
- DNR invests in parks and trails with Legacy funds. Other parts of our system (e.g., boat launches) are only eligible if they are part of a park or trail.
- Legacy funds are to supplement, not substitute for, traditional sources of funding.
- For example, we strive to not use Legacy funds for projects that traditionally Bonding or Asset Preservation dollars would be used to fund.
- Biennial process, leading into each legislative session, is that DNR PAT leadership, working with Legacy Consultant, works with PTLAC to share DNR perspectives and understand those of PTLAC. In 2018, this included extensive consultations with the public through the regional events and the State Fair. The overall dollar amounts are informed by the November and February tax receipt forecasts. We formulate a proposed set of Legacy-worthy projects to share with the DNR Commissioner/Governor, which ends up in the Governor's budget proposal after any amendments. This then moves into the legislative process, and is hopefully approved by the Legislature and signed into law by the Governor.
- This session, based upon what we heard in 2018, we are proposing:
  - An increased percentage for the 'Connecting People and the outdoors'
  - An increased percentage for the natural resources management component of 'Taking Care of What we have'.
- DNR PAT has different challenges than our Legacy partners, Metropolitan Council and Greater Minnesota Regional Parks and Trails Commission. For instance, DNR PAT manages about 275,000 acres of public land – the largest land base of the partners. This drives our concern about natural resource management.
- We plan to make improvements in 'Connecting' areas like wayfinding in our parks and on our trails.

**Emmett Mullin** of Metropolitan Council was next to share biennial budget priorities for Legacy funds.

- Equity impact is a high priority for funding requests. Metropolitan Council uses an "equity toolkit" to help select projects.
- Some examples of "equity" projects that are in the funding request include:
  - Mississippi Gateway at Coon Rapids Dam: Updating and redesign of the park as a result of an engaging master planning process. Community engagement involved local residents and brought their perspectives into the designing of future park facilities and amenities.
- Metropolitan Council will ask for the legislature to fund 53 projects this year through Legacy funding.
- Much of the requests are aligned to the Regional Parks Policy Plan, which is new in 2019. Its primary direction is as follows:

- Strengthened commitment to climate change
- Highlighted importance of land restoration
- Strengthened equity planning, using tools that integrate this lens into master plans
- Broader recreational options for facilities, including potential for splash pads and playgrounds
- Enhancing the regional bicycle transportation network
- Met Council is also focused on improving their research services and using better data. Part of this effort is to explore how to use Streetlight Data (a type of software) that collections information about travel patterns through cell phones. This data is currently being used by the Minnesota Department of Transportation. This data could provide a way for all of our agencies to better understand where people are coming from to visit parks, and possibly who is not showing up.
- In 2019, Met Council also will establish an “equity grant program.”
- A member of the public expressed an interest in knowing more about how and why Legacy projects are categorized in the different pillar categories. For example, is there overlap between development and connecting people and how is that decision made?
- One committee member asked how has Met Council broken down its spending of Legacy funds on the Legacy plans pillars? (E.g., What percentage of their funds are spent on outreach vs. new facilities vs. maintaining current facilities, etc.) Emmett agreed to provide this information to the group after the meeting.

**Renee Mattson** of Greater Minnesota Regional Parks and Trails Commission then presented her priorities for the biennial budget.

- Renee explained that all Greater Minnesota Legacy-funded projects must directly connect to park or trail master plans.
- FY2020 funding recommendations are decided by a Greater Minnesota evaluation team. Some of the projects selected include the Duluth Traverse (a mountain biking destination), Bertram Park Campground, and others.
- Site visits are conducted prior to the selection process to better understand what the applicant is interested in improving, developing, etc.
- Hole in the Mountain Park is undergoing its next level of master planning.
- Renee will also provide a more specific breakdown of how projects are categorized into the different Legacy Plan pillars. However, generally most of the projects are new development and taking care of what we have.
- Greater Minnesota is also interested in pursuing more research efforts moving forward. They are working on a comprehensive mountain bike trail map for Districts 1 and 2 as a result of new data collection.
- The organization is also developing new mountain bike standards for trail design and updating their strategic plan.
- One observation about recent project requests for Legacy dollars is related to water trails. There are a lot of river trail project requests coming in.

**Action – Emmett and Renee will share more detailed breakdown of how their respective agencies' Legacy funds were spent in each of the Legacy pillars last year.**

## **2. Continuation of committee work-planning for 2019**

Continuing progress made at the October meeting, 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.

<b>2018 Sub-committees and Work Groups</b>	<b>2019 Sub-committees and Work Groups</b>
<i>Benchmarks sub-committee</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Develops work plans and a system for prioritizing, reviewing, and evaluating progress towards achievement of goals in the Legacy Plan.</li> </ul>	<i>Benchmarks sub-committee</i> Chair: Tim Mitchell Members: TBD <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Add shared outcomes to this work in 2019.</li> </ul>
<i>Communications sub-committee</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Develop processes and policies for addressing ongoing needs related to the media, written materials, public communication, record-keeping, web/social media, etc.</li> </ul>	<i>Communications sub-committee</i> Chair: Katherine Bloom Members: Louise Segreto, Kathy Bergen, and Peter Royer <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Add branding to this work in 2019.</li> <li>Continued work on MN Great Outdoors website in 2019.</li> <li>Discuss legislative outreach strategy in 2019.</li> </ul>
<i>Funding sub-committee</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Makes specific recommendations to the full committee regarding funding allocation and formula, etc.</li> </ul>	<i>Funding sub-committee</i> Chair: Wayne Sames or TBD Members: Bob Bierscheid, Peter Royer, Pat Stieg <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Refocus on 40/40/20 funding split discussion for 2019.</li> </ul>
<i>Governance sub-committee</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Develops and reviews the Advisory Committee charter to roles, responsibilities, and related tasks are accomplished.</li> </ul>	<i>Governance sub-committee</i> Chair: Bob Bierscheid Members: Kathy Bergen <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Scope remains the same in 2019.</li> </ul>
<i>Youth engagement sub-committee</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Develop youth and adult to better reach our targets as part of implementing the Legacy Plan.</li> </ul>	<i>Inclusion sub-committee</i> Chair: TBD Members: Margot Imdieke-Cross, Les Ollila, Randy Sorensen, May Yang, Chris Crutchfield, Poppy Potter <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>For 2019, combine work of 2018 youth engagement sub-committee with 2018 accessibility workgroup.</li> </ul>

2018 Sub-committees and Work Groups	2019 Sub-committees and Work Groups
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Additional focus on how to better reach communities of color.</li> <li>• Also discussion of how to incorporate partnerships with healthcare providers into our work.</li> </ul>
<i>10-year anniversary events work group</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lead the work to celebrate, educate, and listen to Minnesotans about the impact of Legacy 10 years later and to shape its future.</li> </ul>	Not relevant for 2019. State fair work will occur in collaboration with, but outside of the Legacy Advisory Committee.
<i>Accessibility work group</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Promote, ensure, and educate about accessibility at Legacy events, and in work implementing the Legacy plan.</li> </ul>	Accessibility work group will be added to a new, broader “inclusion sub-committee” as detailed above.
n/a	<i>Statewide trails workgroup</i> Chair: Peter Royer Members: Tim Mitchell, Nancy Hanson, Les Ollila <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Members are interested in exploring what it would look like to discuss and develop a “big vision” for trails statewide, connecting corridors across jurisdictions.</li> <li>• Coordinate with MnDOT as needed to share best practices and ideas.</li> </ul>

**Additional work priorities that are already being done outside of the LAC, but will continue to seek LAC member advice and guidance include:**

State fair

- State fair committee held meeting in December
- Request for proposals for event project manager have begun
- Staff working on this will provide updates to the LAC regularly

Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan

- Many members of the LAC are also on the advisory committee for the 2019 SCORP. Regular updates on this work when it connects with Legacy work will be provided.

Coordinated research

- Legacy liaisons in coordination with agency research staff are currently having these discussions about what new research we want to do together and where can we align our separate efforts.
- Liaisons will continue to engage the LAC in discussion about research priorities and direction.

- A high priority of this focus will be on trails, and there will be some discussion of that in the new trails workgroup listed above.

**Action - Confirm with LAC members if these sub-committees and work groups reflect the December discussion in terms of scope and roles at February's meeting.**

### **3. New member recruitment updates, 2019 officer selection, selection of committee meeting dates in 2019**

Paul provided an update on the new member process and timeline; staff and liaisons are working to review and select new members for 2019. Two seats are vacant, and six terms are up, but members have applied to be reappointed. Tom Stoa has reached the limits of his term and must step down, the group gave Tom a warm sendoff. Bob Bierscheid was re-elected as chair, and Kathy Bergen, as alternate chair (for 2019). Group thanked both for their service.

### **4. General Updates**

- Status of Tenth Anniversary events report – Paul reported that this is being finalized by Stacy Sjogren of MAD and should be finished and distributed to committee before the end of the year.
- Status of planning for 2019 state fair Legacy exhibit – next step is to issue an RFP for a project manager and designer to refresh the displays in the room. Stefanie Stearns is taking over this important project. A monthly meeting of the project team has been set up.
- MN Great Outdoors – pretty quiet since the state fair. Paul and Stefanie Stearns will keep group updated on future changes.
- SCORP and Parks Rx– Arielle Courtney gave a brief update on these initiatives.
- New CCMI individual placement is Margaret Krueger. She joins DNR in mid-January and should be at the February PTLAC meeting.
- All-Legacy Funds 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebration on February 6<sup>th</sup>, 2019 – Bob Bierscheid reported on his contact with the group organizing a celebration for all four Legacy funds, and will represent the Committee and keep us informed.

Meeting adjourned at 2:30 PM.