



Greater Minnesota Regional Parks and Commission

Minutes for September 25, 2019

Lac qui Parle State Park

Watson, MN

APPROVED

Commissioners Present: Tim Kennedy, Tim Engrav, Bryan Pike, Peg Furshong, Brad Bonk, Marc Mattice, Barry Wendorf, Rick Anderson, Tom Ryan, Tom Stoa, Jannik Anderson

Commissioners Absent: Rita Albrecht, Tom Schmitz

Consultants Present: Renee Mattson, Executive Director, Joe Czapiewski, System Plan Coordinator, Margy Hughes, Administrative Assistant

1. Meeting Called to Order at 10:00 by Chair Ryan

2. Acknowledge Members of the Public in Attendance: Amy Baldwin, Otter Tail County, Community Development Director; Ted Suss, Chair, Greater Minnesota Parks and Trails; Brad Harrington, GMPT; Mike Nigbur, GMPT; Karlin Ziegler, GMPT Dist.6; Elizabeth Wefel, Lobbyist, GMPT; Kristi Fernholz, UMRDC. Welcome by Lac qui Parle State Park hosts, Terri Dinesen, Lac qui Parle Park DNR, and Walt Gessler, Lac qui Parle State Park Manager & Director WMA. Terri gave an overview of the Park programs, activities and plans for future. Legacy dollars have been granted and used for Habitat projects.

3. Consent Agenda: Approval of the minutes of July 24, 2019, Agenda for September 25, 2019, and Treasurer's Report through July 2019. Budget remaining \$406,923.94 , through July 31, 2019, of month 1 of 12.

Motion by Pike

Second by R. Anderson

Motion Approved

4. **Greater Minnesota Parks and Trails and GMRPTC Joint Meeting** GMPT Suss promoted an upcoming membership meeting Oct 9, in Little Falls. All are welcome to attend and still may register by contacting Elizabeth Wefel. Regarding the split for the 40-40-20, discussion, *Ryan* asked the Commission to respond and discuss with comments and expectations that will take place over the next six months. *Mattson* reported that the DNR and Met Council have not yet selected members for the Funding Work Group that will be meeting, with a report due on June 16, 2020. The GMRPTC and GMPT have selected their three members. Anticipate 6-7 meetings to take place, not all of them in the Metro, and we hope to initiate first meeting in November. *Suss* indicated that GMPT membership has a legislative agenda item to support an appropriation from general fund for the Commissions operating costs. *Wefel*, encouraged members to fill out the survey that was presented for this funding split. *Ryan*, hopefully there will be a time at one of the upcoming meetings to discuss who we are, and what we do. How long do we feel we want this new funding agreement to last? *Furshong*, reminder of the Governor's initiative that we are One Minnesota. Visitors to parks and trails in GM come from all over the state. We should be thinking about what equity is involved here. *Kennedy* feels DNR and Met Council needs to be looking at all our reports and how the service of GMPT and GMRPT has evolved greatly. What have we accomplished and what are planning for the future? *Nigbur* one bite at a time rather than one big bite for the split. *R. Anderson* Need to find a baseline to use and get a three biennium agreement. *Suss* the current split in the base is a reality. *Pike* over the next 6 meetings, we will have a legislative session happening. Do we approach the legislators? Or do we get the June 16, 2020, report to them? Small pieces I support. *Furshong* Rationale to provide for us as we negotiate, point of leverage that many trails have been designated by us and we are a volunteer commission and still able to do all this establishing trails etc. *Wefel* Do not anticipate discussion of this item in the 2020 session. *Mattice* Should go in with an offensive position at these meetings. The DNR and Met Council will not be our adversary. Legislators will be the ones needing convincing. We have a much better story to tell now than eight years ago. *Ryan* Over the next three months we need to discuss as a Commission to have the points ready to present. Are we ready to do that? *Bonk*, if you are talking to your representative, be sure you are all using the same talking points. *Mattson* This working group report will go to the Governor's office. *Furshong* Talking points should be same. *Wefel* If the Governor approves and supports our report, that is huge. Easier if the recommendation comes from the Governor but ultimate will be the legislature. *Suss* Generate contacts from members constituents throughout the state. Good to cheer them on. *Wendorf*, Likes the three biennia with an equal split of anything over a baseline. What do we see is coming and what future looks like so we have reason for asking to seek a change. *Nigbur* Warning about risk due to population changes. *R. Anderson* We work with other agencies and should we be communicating this to the AMC and LMC. *Ryan* Have to form a working group to prepare. *Pike* Keep hammering the thirds and the split of over monies. *Ryan* asked for a motion.

Motion by Furshong to create a working group to create bullet points in preparation for the larger working group discussion. The working group is made up of members from the GMRPTC and GMPT

Second by Kennedy

Motion Approved

Wefel updated the Commission regarding the 2020 legislative session for bonding. During the month of October, the Governor will be discussing his bonding proposals that will be brought to the Legislature in January. The DNR will be requesting \$4 million to fund the local and regional grant programs. That request is number nine out of 10 on their list. So, we need to push for the grant programs. It is in their (DNR) ask, but we need to have as our priority. You can help as individuals and you can ask your local governments to get requests to the Governor's office. It is important, that we get to the Governor's office with support for that bonding request to be included and have his support.

Ryan, I thank all the members of the GMPT for their extraordinary efforts and meeting with us today.

5. Executive Director's Report (See attachment **ITEM 5** by *Mattson*)

6. System Plan Coordinator's Report (See attachment **ITEM 6** by *Czapiewski*)

7. Items from Members and Letters to Commission **Bonk** reported that Brophy Park was opened to the public with a completed playground and mountain bike use. There has been a great response on weekdays and weekends even with the start of school. Many thanks to all that were involved. *Wendorf* reported there was a 2nd annual disc golf tournament at Springvale County Park and also a 10th Annual Fall Festival at Irving and John Anderson Regional Park. *Mattice* reported on a successful Color Me Fall 3rd annual event with about 300-400 folks. There has also been a start to a partnership with the Monticello School District for a pre-school nature project. A second disc golf will be going in at Montissippi Regional Park. The campground expansion at Collinwood Regional Park is delayed due to rain. There will be a Waterfowl Hunt for Disabled Veterans at Robert Ney Regional Park sponsored by Wright County Parks and Recreation, Wright County Chapter of Pheasants Forever and the Four Point Retriever Club. *Stoa* spent time at the north west angle on a fishing trip that takes you back and forth into Canada and back to the United State. *Kennedy* reported on the completion of the Cook County Mountain Bike Trails this Fall. There was \$278,000 from Legacy Funds for this Trail that will come to about a total of \$1.1 million in partnership with other agencies. He has photos that he will send to the Commission. *Furshong* reported on several Tall Grass Prairie walks at locations in Big Stone County, Lake Pokegema and Byllesby County Park with the Cannon River water walk. *R. Anderson* worked at the

State Fair in the Legacy exhibit to educate the visitors on the work of the Parks and Trails Legacy partners by sharing information on the displays and answering questions along with obtaining information from the visitors. He also reported that the re-bid on the Twin Lakes Projects will be \$150,000 less than originally projected and that the County will be needing to contribute. *Pike* reported that the 4-5 mile stretch of the Cuyuna State Bike Trail in the Crosby Ironston area has continued. *Engrav* spent time at the State Fair as well at the Legacy exhibit, answering questions and having some interesting conversations with the visitors. He joined *Czapiewski* on two site visits. There was a ribbon cutting event for the Vermillion Bridge. District 1 is working with landowners for the planning of OHV trails and there are several groups trying to find funding sources for trails. He spent 18 days in Alaska working forest fires that were taking place. This is his one year anniversary as a Commissioner.

8. Old Business

8.1 Strategic Plan Update (see attachment **ITEM 8.1 Czapiewski**) subcommittee of *Kennedy* and *Wendorf*. Draft document.

R. Anderson, these criteria will be difficult to consider for the south west part of the state. There are too many privately owned lands and use of roadway is way more accessible. Getting easements will be difficult to achieve. *Mattice* recommend some fleshing out on sections of the document to see what can be written to accommodate the different districts and areas of the State.

Ryan Have the ETeam look at this. Pose the question to them at next meeting.

8.2 DNR Grant Contract for FY20/21 Grant

Was approved at last meeting and now has been signed by all parties.

8.3 System Plan Coordinator Contract Renewal as proposed by *Czapiewski* of JFC Strategic Services

Motion by *Stoa*

Second by *Pike*

Motion Approved

9. New Business

9.1 Funding Application Overview *Czapiewski* presented an overview of all 22 applications for FY21.

9.2 Master Plan Scoring for Designation: Jay C. Hormel Nature Center

Move to the Agenda for October 23, 2019 meeting.

9.3 Designation Application Ranking for Mount Itasca

Move to Agenda for the October 23, 2019 meeting.

9.4 Lake County Split Rock Wilds Funding Application Resolution to Change of Scope

Motion by Wendorf

Second by Mattice

Motion Approved

10. Consent Agenda:

Approval of August and September Expenses

August Consultants and Expenses	\$25,414.34
September Consultants and Expenses	\$27,382.42
State Fair Expenses / Mattson Reimbursement	\$ 572.50
State Fair Expenses-Commission	\$ 1,369.53
<u>September Commission Expenses</u>	<u>\$ 3,809.44</u>
Total	\$58,548.23

Motion by Mattice

Second by Wendorf

Motion Approved

11. Next Meeting and Agenda Items

Sartell Community Center October 23, 2019.


Tom Ryan – Chair

10/23/19
Date

Greater Minnesota Regional Parks and Trails Commission

Director's Report for October 2019

FY21 Funding Application Review

Joe and I have been working with applicants to understand if phased projects are possible and other ways we might provide options to the commission that would fund more projects. We've worked on funding suggestions from Commissioners and will present information at the October 23 meeting.

Legacy Parks and Trails Liaison Meetings

The liaisons had an interview with Aimee Gourlay from the Mediation Center for facilitation of the Funding Workgroup meetings. Aimee was impressive and clearly understood what we were seeking from a facilitator. Laura Preus from DNR has been steering the contracting process. We plan to hold the first meeting before the end of the year, the completion deadline is June 16, 2020.

Mountain Bike Design Guidelines

The draft document has been provided to the committee for review and edit. The timeline for completion has been pushed back to the January commission meeting.

Streetlight Data Meeting

Discussions about how the Streetlight data can be used for counting projects continues with the liaisons group. We have a meeting at the DNR Offices on Monday, September 23 to review a proposal that would see the liaisons partnering to hire a project research lead, with coordinating funds, to perform research across all three systems for 12-months. This could be extremely useful in our mountain bike research piece, as well as gaining a better understanding across our system of visitor counts, origination etc.

Mountain Bike Collaborative

The second meeting of this group was held on October 14 in Grand Rapids. There was both good attendance and good progress at the meeting. Meeting minutes are attached for your review. We plan to meet quarterly to continue advancing the phasing planning; partners are on board for research and cooperative marketing.

I attended a meeting in Chisholm of the Laurentian Vision Partnership on October 16. The meeting is held quarterly with a focus to update various initiatives across the region. The meeting I attended centered on mountain biking systems with a panel of speakers on various related topics.

Project Partner Visits/Assistance

Detroit Mountain Recreation Area is working on a revised project budget due to overruns on the cost of the tree house component of their funding application (16-031F). Sartell has a Legacy Grant dating back to the DNR distributing GM funds that may not be able to be used to do cost overruns.

Minnesota Recreational Trail Users Association Annual Meeting

A nice drive (after the first snowstorm of the season which led to white knuckle driving) to Itasca State Park on October 13 for my annual report to this group. Laura Preus from DNR was there as well to report. We always get good interest and questions from MRTUA and the outreach is beneficial.

Greater Minnesota Parks and Trails

The GMP&T annual meeting was held in Little Falls on October 9. We had great GMRPTC participation; Commissioners Wendorf, Mattice, Pike and Albrecht, Joe and Evaluation Team member Wayne Sames. My presentation topic for this year was our funding application process. Always an interested audience and more good questions.

GIS System

Joe and I had a great meeting with Jillian Reiner to receive some initial training on the ARCGIS online system. This will provide us with better tools to map the GM system.

GMRPTC
System Plan Coordinators Report
October, 2019

DPC and Administrative Support

I am anticipating that we could have a series of DPC membership applications coming in over the next couple of months. Not surprisingly, the strongest interest seem to be coming from areas that have the highest number of funding applications. We will have to include this in our planned November discussion about the DPC's.

Strategic Initiatives

Renee and I met with Jillian Reiner in early October to review and train on the new GIS system and inventory. While the data will continue to be a work in progress, this is a significant step up in our capabilities. Designation analysis, system planning, and strategic planning will all benefit from the new system. We will continue to practice and train on the ARCGIS online system.

Karen Umphress has wrapped up the Mountain Bike inventory and analysis for D1 and D2. She worked extra at our request to make sure that it is a document that will be useful to us as well as our partners across Minnesota. It has made significant advances since you saw the last progress report in the spring. She will be at the October meeting to present the results.

On-Site Reviews and Technical Assistance

No on-site reviews were conducted in October. We have received one Designation Application that will be reviewed by the ETeam at their next meeting, probably in early December. We have provided technical assistance to 3-4 other entities that are preparing either Designation application, new Master Plans, or updated Master Plans.

Funding Application Updates

Renee and I have been busy wrapping up application corrections, working with applicants to find phasing options, and responding to Commissioner requests and ideas for prioritization.

Strategic Plan Update

The Regional Definition Theme committee has not been able to meet but may have a report. The Strategic Plan update will serve as the basis for the conversation with the ETeam.

DMS Update

We held a phone call with Giant Voices (our graphic designers) and Full Circle (our DMS developer) about wrapping up the Master Plan export design. Significant ground was covered, and I'm hoping that we will be able to present the final product at our November meeting.