Greater Minnesota Regional Parks and Trails Commission

**Minutes for January 21, 2017**

Initiative Foundation, Little Falls MN

# Approved

**Commissioners in Attendance:** Tom Ryan, Marc Mattice, Rick Anderson, Tim Kennedy, Keith Nelson, Rita Albrecht, Bryan Pike, Barry Wendorf, Peg Furshong, Jannik Anderson, LuAnn Wilcox

**Commissioners Absent:** Mike Hulett, Tom Schmitz

**Staff and Consultants Present:** Renee Mattson, Executive Director, Joe Czapiewski, System Plan Coordinator, Tess Dandrea, DT Consulting

1. **Meeting called to order by Vice Chair Ryan**
2. **Approval of December 28, 2016 Minutes:**

**Motion** by Nelson

**Second** by Furshong

**Motion Approved**

1. **Funding Resolution:**

The Greater Minnesota Regional Parks and Trails Commission recommends funding for FY18 and partial FY19 for the following projects and amounts:

**Project** **Amount** **District** **Fiscal Agent**

Lake Wobegon Trail $980,000 4 Stearns County

Moorhead River Corridor $661,000 3 City of Moorhead

Detroit Mountain Recreation Area $1,246,000 3 City of Detroit Lakes

Cascade Lake Park $999,000 FY18 6 City of Rochester

Cascade Lake Park $551,000 FY19 6 City of Rochester

Mesabi Trail $750,000 1 St. Louis & Lake County Regional Rail Authority

Tioga Recreation Area $50,000 2 City of Cohasset

Milford Mine Memorial Park $60,000 2 Crow Wing County

Memorial Park $596,000 3 City of Granite Falls

Dakota Rail Trail $647,000 5 McLeod County

Lake Brophy Park $875,000 3 Douglas County

Cook County Mountain Bike Trails $278,000 1 Cook County

Robbins Island Regional Park $606,000 5

Total $7,762,600

**Motion** by Nelson to approve the funding resolution as amended with the rounded numbers.

**Second** by Wendorf

**Motion Approved**

1. **Unfinished Business:**
   1. **Zumbro Watershed Request**

Zumbro Watershed District requested funds from the Commission to complete a Master Plan for the Watershed. Commission Nelson pointed out that the Commission had in fact made a decision that there would be no funding for requests like this. Commissioner Ryan agreed that such a decision had been made. The Executive Director was instructed to review past minutes and confirm the decision has been made and to respond to the Zumbro Watershed District. The Executive Director was further instructed to invite the group to use the Master Plan Portal to complete a master plan.

Commissioner Wilcox asked what had been done previously with respect to Granite Falls Memorial Park and the funding recommended in FY16 for their Master Plan. Czapiewski stated that while they had submitted a Master Plan for scoring it was not as robust as it could have been so they were funded as a prototype project to see how the Master Plan portal could work.

Commissioner Wilcox went on record as being opposed to all types of prototype projects. Vice Chair Ryan asked that there be follow up conversation about this issue and requested that Commissioner Wilcox contact him to schedule a time for this issue to be included on a future agenda.

* 1. **Tioga Recreation Area Recap**

Vice Chair Ryan stated that he had an offering from Jeff Schoenbauer to help and assist Tioga. Commissioner Ryan provided a recap of the conversation he had with Jeff regarding the offer. Ryan would like the Commission to consider the offer and weigh in and make a decision, along with input from Mattson and Czapiewski.

Commissioner Nelson asked if Schoenbauer was entering into a contract with Tioga? And if the Commission was paying for the consulting he would have an issue with that. If Schoenbauer was entering into a contract between himself and Tioga that would be a different. Commissioner Ryan was not sure about the financial arrangements. There followed discussion about what the Commission needed to know regarding consultants entering into contracts outside their Commission work. There is no exclusivity regarding contracts between consultants and other work, it’s reasonable to assume that other work will be done by consultants.

There was discussion that it was not appropriate for the Commission to be paying for contracts to help where help was not requested.

Mattson stated her opposition to treating the City of Cohasset as needing special help under the assessment from one person that they are incapable of managing this project on their own. We have no reason to believe a city that handles construction projects on a regular basis cannot manage this project without our assistance. It appears as though the Commission is overstepping their bounds.

Commissioner Kennedy stated it appears we are treating mountain bike trail projects differently than other projects we provide funding for and singling them out. We should not be pursuing this amount of oversight.

Czapiewski likes the aspect of bringing other people into the process for more public engagement. We don’t have the depth of knowledge about the contractual side of the process as the DNR handles the contracts on behalf of the Commission and we could do a better job on the front side with the funding application process.

There was further discussion about the fact that the contract with the Schoenbauers has been almost expended and the Commission does not have the funds to pay additional fees for consulting on a project where there has been no request from the city of Cohasset for help.

After further discussion among the group is was decided that we will not move forward with Jeff’s recommendation and Commissioner Ryan will relay to Jeff that the Commission has taken no action on the request.

1. **Consent Agenda:**

Consulting Services $33,357.59

Commissioner Expenses $2,625.71

City of Bemidji Administration Fee $12,112.17

Total $48,095.47

There was discussion related to the administration fee. The fee is 7% of the grants for Bemidji being the fiscal agent.

**Motion** by Nelson

**Second** by Wilcox

**Motion Approved**

1. **Election of Officers**

There was no election of officers as the current officers will be in their positions for another year.

In February, we will revisit Connecting People to the Outdoors. Mattson has clarification from the Senate Analyst Office about what can and cannot be included.

**Meeting Adjourned**