



Greater Minnesota Regional Parks and Trails Commission

Minutes for June 24, 2020

Meeting Via Zoom Video

APPROVED

Commissioners Present: Tim Engrav, Beth Pierce, Bryan Pike, Matthew Hill, Peg Furshong, Brad Bonk, Rick Anderson, Ted Suss, Barry Wendorf, Marc Mattice, Tom Ryan, Tom Stoa, Jen Foley

Commissioners Absent: None

Consultants Present: Renee Mattson, Executive Director, Joe Czapiewski, System Plan Coordinator

- 1. Meeting Called to Order by Chair Ryan at 10:05am.** Welcome to everyone, we have full attendance with the exception of Margy Hughes who is having a knee replacement today. *Commissioner Ryan* raised the issue of meeting in person for a meeting in July. Though the Commission typically does not meet in July, it is necessary this year due to the missed meetings in March and April. Meeting would be held in Sartell. *Mattson* discussed the COVID-19 protocols in place to address meeting safety. Ryan asked for Commissioner input during the meeting to let Mattson know of their wishes to meet in person. Call in option would also be available to those not wishing to attend in person. *Commissioner Stoa* noted that he started the conversation due to the importance of meetings being in person for the funding application discussions.
- 2. Acknowledge Members of the Public in Attendance and Introduction of Commissioner Beth Pierce.** No one from public in attendance. A warm welcome was extended to Commissioner Pierce.
- 3. Approval of Agenda for June 24, 2020, Minutes from May 13, 2020, and Treasurer's Report through May 2020**
Motion by Anderson
Second by Wendorf
Motion Approved with no opposition

4. **Executive Director's Report** Mattson expanded more on the Funding Work Group report. Discussion took place regarding the proposals by the three groups and the Greater Minnesota response to the initial proposals.
5. **System Plan Coordinator's Report** Czapiewski did have master plan applications for Detroit Mountain and Hok Si La parks that had too many missing elements and were returned for more work. There was also a Jackson County Park designation application that was returned for more work. Three plans that were subpar and were not noted in his report.
6. **Items from Members and Letters to Commission** Anderson had a conversation with the Jackson County group and would like to get back to them about the application. Engrav was contacted by Lake Vermilion Trail group and would like to touch base with Joe prior to his meeting with the group. Stoa noted that when we can resume meetings around the state, he would like to schedule meetings in Cook County and Willmar and look at the new park and trail. Ryan noted that the Zumbro River Trail group has been working on their master plan.

7. New Business:

7.1 Designation and Master Plan Discussion

Motion to accept 20-002D Wright County Great River Trail High Rank by Bonk
Second by Wendorf

Wendorf asked why one of the ETeam members ranked the evaluation low.

Czapiewski responded it was the ambition of the plan and the eventual cost. Stoa asked if the joint powers agreement was complete and in place. Czapiewski, we have not yet received it and cautions to wait until it is in place. Mattice questioned why we were asking for a joint power's agreement for a designation, didn't think we required this for a designation. Agreed it was in effect for a funding application but not for a designation. Czapiewski said there does need to be some type of MOU in place and we have precedent for this, i.e. Lake Vermilion Trail and Detroit Mountain. Pike asked what other entities were involved in the plan.

Motion Approved with no opposition

Motion to accept 20-004D Mankato Area River Valley Trail System High Rank by Anderson

Second by Mattice

Wendorf asked if this is the first time we've had an application for an entire system? Czapiewski noted they have applied previously but did not rank High. Pike suggested that when we receive the Master Plan we will be better able to determine if all the trails belong in the system. There may be requests for funding that do not address the most regional segments. Czapiewski agreed that the

Master Plan would afford us the opportunity to turn back segments that are not regional in scope. Ryan asked for clarification about the steps, the first step of ranking does not mean they will be designated. It is just the first step.

Motion Approved with no opposition

Motion to approve 20-002D Wright County Great River Trail Master Plan for Designation by Engrav

Second by Bonk

Czapiewski asked for clarification as to whether the designation was contingent on having a joint power or other agreement in place. Mattice said that when alignment gets started then the MOU should be put in place. Felt the MOU should be in place for funding applications but not for designations. Anderson concurred with Mattice. Engrav clarified his motion was not contingent on the MOU in place for designation. Discussion ensued about whether MOU, MOA, JP should be in place prior to designation.

Motion Approved with no opposition and one abstention by Mattice

Motion to approve 19-021D Stearns/Benton County Great River Park Complex Master Plan for Designation by Engrav

Second by Mattice

Discussion about the two separate park facilities and how that works with regard to funding applications and maintenance. Czapiewski noted we have a number of entities that have similar arrangements.

Motion Approved with no opposition

7.2 Budget Preliminary

Mattson presented a proposal for a preliminary budget to submit to DNR for their initial budget work. Mattson will bring to the group two alternate proposals for consideration at the July meeting. Basic question was should we continue to request 4.5% off the top for operating expenses.

8. Old Business:

8.1 Strategic Plan Update

Czapiewski provided background on the work that has been taking place over the last year and a half.

Section I – No comments

Section II – Discussion at the theme call about wrapping in new language related to “emerging tourist destination”. Related to the more sparsely populated areas of the state. More discussion of the regional center concept and how many people make up a regional center and the arrived upon number in the 25-Year plan of 8,000. Discussion about what existing facilities would have fit this destination. Hill

suggested incorporating it into current language. Additional section comments provided by *Wendorf*.

Section III – Large section, good comments and feedback. Water resources language was discussed in detail. Classifications have been streamlined. Trails have been rolled into one classification rather than separate. Special Recreation Feature Park has been streamlined into Special Recreation Feature. Supportive Partnership classification is new. Much discussion surrounding this new classification.

Criteria has been condensed into four across all classifications, from a large number of criteria previously.

Water quality standards and how they would differ in areas of the state was discussed. Also a discussion point in Section IV.

9. Approval of May Expenses

Consultants:	\$15,125.00
Commission:	\$3,155.00
June Total	\$18,280.00

Motion by Engrav

Second by Wendorf

Motion approved with no opposition

10. Next Meeting and Agenda Items