



Greater Minnesota Regional Parks and Trails Commission

Virtual Meeting

Minutes for November 23, 2022

APPROVED

Commissioners Present: Rick Anderson, Barry Wendorf, Bryan Pike, Jonathan Wolf, Jen Foley, Beth Pierce, Peg Furshong, Tom Stoa, Reid Huttunen, Tim Engrav, and Brad Bonk.

Consultants Present: Renee Mattson - Executive Director and Tess Dandrea - Administrative Assistant.

- 1. Call to Order by Chair Anderson at 9:01 am**
- 2. Acknowledge Members of the Public in Attendance.** No one from the public was in attendance
- 3. Approval of Agenda for November 23, 2022, Minutes from October 26, 2022, and Treasurer's Report through October 2022**
Motion by Engrav
Second by Wendorf
Motion Approved
- 4. Executive Director's Report**
Nothing additional to report
- 5. System Plan Coordinator's Report**
No report from the System Plan Coordinator
- 6. Items from Members and Letters to the Commission**
Pierce – no
Foley – no
Pike – no
Stoa - no
Engrav – no
Huttunen – no
Wolf – no

Bonk – no
Anderson-no
Foley - no
Furshong – did not arrive until later in the meeting

7. New Business:

7.1 Resolution 024 Luverne Loop & Blue Mounds Trail

Motion by Pike to accept the requested scope change and the additional project work using the unspent funds

Second by Bonk

Motion Approved

7.2 Resolution 025 Red Lake River Corridor

Motion by Engrav to eliminate the storm shelter component from the restroom/shower facilities in Crookston and Red Lake Falls and allow Crookston to bid the campground design in two ways, one with the full build of 33 full service sites and one with 21 full service sites. Additionally to modify the East Grand Forks project and move the kayak launch from Folsom Park to LaFave Park and use the \$20,000 budgeted for the fishing pier for the kayak launch.

Second by Foley

Motion Approved with one abstention

7.3 Contract with Jake Carstens of Dirt Dojo for completion of the Mountain Bike Trail Development Guide

Requesting an additional \$12,000 to complete the writing and proofing of the project.

Motion by Engrav

Second by Pike

Motion Approved

7.4 Preview of 2022 Policy and Planning Report

8. Old Business: None

9. Approval of November Expenses

Consultants - \$79,537.40

Commission - \$ 112.50

Total \$79,649.90

Motion by Wendorf to approve the November 2022 expenses

Second Wolf

Motion Approved

10. Next Meeting and Agenda Items

No December Meeting

The next meeting will be held on January 25, 2023 in St. Cloud at a location to be determined

Meeting adjourned 9:41am.

Chair Anderson

Date

**Greater Minnesota Regional Parks and Trails Commission
Director's Report for November 2022**

Partner Meetings

- GMPT Newsletter Article
- GMPT Communications Committee
- PTLAC Liaison's Calls
- Minnesota Recreational Trail Users Association, annual meeting at Tettegouche State Park, October 30

2022 Policy and Planning Report

The report is written and our new graphic designer at Evolve Creative is working on the design. I was hoping to have a draft for the Commission meeting, but it looks doubtful. I will have a draft of the first section to provide an idea of what the creative is looking like. Overall, I'm pleased with the new design and feel the change up is good.

DNR Funding Application Meeting

On November 7, Rick, Joe and I met with Audrey Mularie and Mai Neng Moua in Sartell to discuss the FY25 funding application and talk about any edits/additions ideas we all might have. With the legislature following the funding recommendations for so many years we've transitioned into telling successful applicants to move forward with permitting so they're ready to contract as soon as the funds are encumbered. DNR will have some updates to their grant manual, but overall, we feel the close working relationship is beneficial to our applicants and are happy to have this streamlined application process.

Media Release for FY24 Funding Recommendations

Greenfield Communications sent out a statewide media advisory announcing the FY24 funding recommendations. I had a few phone conversations with the New Ulm paper talking about District 5 projects. I've heard and seen some media follow up in articles and radio, so the release has been picked up. We also sent out a template for grantees to use for their own media releases locally. This was a new initiative in 2021 and highly appreciated.

Mountain Bike Trail Design Standards

The guide is completed, and sections are being forwarded to the copy editor hired by IMBA for this part of the project. As the copy editor completes a section of the guide it will go to Evolve Creative for the graphic design, ensuring we're efficient in completing the project. We are still on track to have the project complete in December, then to the printer for a limited number of print copies. The downloadable pdf will be available at the IMBA and GMRPTC websites and we've ensured the pdf is accessible. We are tentatively planning for a joint news conference at the Capitol in early January. I've connected Steve Greenfield, Greenfield Communications with the IMBA and Rock Solid marketing/media folks.

Mountain Bike Survey and User Count

I had the wrap up meeting with Parks and Trails Council today and you will see the final report, Winona Bluffs Traverse shortly. The surveys were done as you recall at Lake County Mountain Bike Trails, Cohasset Tioga Recreation Area and Winona. We will get this survey on the website and out to the participants in coming days.

Summer Camping Survey

We had a wrap up with this project as well recently and are pleased with the work the SRDC did on our behalf. This information as well will be placed on the website and shared with participants.

Data Management System

Phase VI is a very big step forward for our CRM capabilities and communications! We will have a much, much more user friendly interface on the back side of the system, allowing Joe and I to work in a streamlined process and have a much easier way to track emails, send emails from the DMS and communicate with partners.