

**Indiana Trails Advisory Board  
March 7, 2013 - 3:00 PM  
Fort Harrison State Park  
5753 Glenn Road, Indianapolis, IN 46216**

**Meeting Minutes**

**Board Members Present:**

Neil McCammack - All Terrain Vehicle Users  
Kevin Hardie - Environmental Groups  
Ryan Sweany - Four Wheel Drive Users  
Timothy Calahan - Hikers  
Jeff Fetterer - Mountain Bike Users  
Tom Hartman - Off-Road Motorcyclists  
Melody Jones - Parks & Recreation Agencies  
Pat Martin - Pedestrians  
Ric Edwards - Users with Disabilities  
Dan Plath - Water Trail Users

**DNR Staff:**

Dale Brier  
David Cox  
Leah Kopp

**Guests:**

Karen Bohn – Greenways Foundation  
Terry Fletcher – Indiana Trail Running  
Roy Garrett - ABATE  
Marlo Sweany

**Welcome**

Vice Chairman Tom Hartman welcomed everyone.

**Introductions**

Everyone introduced themselves. Three new board members were introduced. The new members include Neil McCammack – All Terrain Vehicle Users, Ryan Sweany – Four Wheel Drive Users, and Pat Martin – Pedestrians.

**Officer Elections**

Pat Martin moved the nomination of Yvette Rollins as chairwoman. Kevin Hardie seconded. Motion carried. Pat Martin moved the nomination of Dan Plath as vice chairman. Kevin Hardie seconded. Motion carried. Dan Plath proceeded to run the remainder of the meeting in the absence of the chairwoman.

**Review and Approval of December 2012 Minutes**

Pat Martin moved to approve the minutes. Tom Hartman seconded. Motion carried.

**Department Report**

David Cox reminded everyone that June 1, 2013 is National Trails Day. Governor Pence will be signing a proclamation designating Trails Day in Indiana. Members were encouraged to list their Trails Day activities on the American Hiking Society website. Melody Jones requested that David send out a copy of the proclamation when it's signed. David said he would send it to members so they could promote Trails Day. He reminded everyone the Indiana Bike Summit

will be held March 14-16, 2013 at the Alexander Hotel in Indianapolis. The RTP Manual is online and the deadline for RTP project applications is May 1, 2013. All projects will be reviewed before the June meeting with a vote on recommendations held at the meeting. David stressed the importance of attending the June meeting.

### **Old Business**

**Hoosier Outdoor Experience** – The event will take place September 21-22, 2013. Please mark your calendars and make sure your user groups participate.

### **TAB Board Position Discussion – Trail Running**

Terry Fletcher with Indiana Trail Running addressed the board about creating a trail runners position on TAB. He presented what his group does which is basically run on dirt (non-paved) trails such as hiking and mountain bike trails. They do not maintain any trails and are not interested in doing so. They are a large group with great participation in their events. Their goal is to have a voice on the board. Terry feels the organic growth shows the importance of community support which should merit a board position. Tom Hartman said he would encourage them to come and see what TAB is doing before the trail runners say they need a TAB position. Tom explained the board was started in 1994 for Indiana to be eligible for federal trail money. Indiana has one of the nation's largest boards. TAB is a microcosm of various user groups with the final decision resting with the DNR Director. The board feels it represents trail users of all types. TAB asked Terry to provide it something in writing listing the reasons trail runners should be granted a position and why they currently believe they are not adequately served by the current board. Tim Calahan moved to table Terry Fletcher's request until a written list of reasons can be prepared. Pat Martin seconded. Motion carried.

### **2013 Trails Conference Planning**

With Yvette unable to attend the TAB meeting, David said she has a timeline set for planning the 2013 trails conference. A save-the date postcard will be sent out. A brochure should be completed for hand-outs. Registration will be able to be received online. Details will be coming and David said all board members needed to promote the event this summer. Melody Jones suggested the save-the date postcard look like it was coming from TAB and whatever is sent out should do the same. She suggested each user group could personalize them if they wanted. Yvette is working with Gary Williams of ABATE and information will be sent to TAB members. David said the conference location (LCRP) is available on April 6 for those who want to see the property.

He stated everyone would be hearing more from Yvette in the upcoming months as TAB plans, promotes, and approaches the November conference. The board was reminded this requires all members to help. Yvette needs everyone to step up to the plate to make this event successful. There will be conference calls as well.

More information is needed for speaker recommendations, the budget, and logistics. Volunteers are needed so please volunteer before you are assigned.

The focus of this conference is on trail building and to promote understanding and trails for all. David stressed the conference is TAB's so it requires the board's input and help to work. There is ample opportunity to share information about the event. Tom Hartman said he is committed to helping anyway needed with the conference.

Jeff Fetterer wanted to know if any progress has been made on talking to hotels in Bedford or Bloomington for special rates. David said Yvette was going to contact them. The Lawrence County Recreation Park is allowing use of its property free of charge. The budget committee could look for sponsorships. Melody Jones suggested a logo be developed. Dan Plath said he could probably get one designed. Tim Calahan moved to have Dan Plath look into a logo design. Melody Jones seconded. Motion carried.

### **New Business**

Dan Plath brought a matter before TAB concerning a primitive campground on the Pigeon River that is of great concern to paddling groups. He has been contacted by several paddling clubs because DNR Fish and Wildlife closed the Pigeon River primitive campground. The paddling groups want the campground kept open and preserved since the river is one of the most popular water trails in the state. He recommended the DNR review the closure. Dan moved to have TAB send a letter to DNR Director Carter to review the closure. Tom Hartman seconded. Motion carried.

### **User Group Reports**

**All Terrain Vehicle Users** - Neil McCammack reported a work day is scheduled at Redbird. He announced the Trail Riders of America has adopted a trail at Redbird. Neil said the ATV groups are segmented and he would like to unite the ATV groups. TRA will be sponsoring an ATV safety training at the Lawrence County Recreation Park.

**Environmental Groups** - Kevin Hardie updated TAB on the planning process for Indy Greenways. On Saturday, April 13, there is a White River cleanup which will be limited to 200 volunteers. He also reminded everyone to participate in Earth Day.

**Four Wheel Drive Users** - Ryan Sweany reported they have been working on Redbird cleanup. They plan to hold the summer ride at Redbird with the goal of 80-100 vehicles. Work is being done on Trail 19. He informed the board they are getting a lot of pressure from constituents in northern Indiana wanting ORV facilities.

**Hikers** - Tim Calahan had nothing to report.

**Mountain Biker Users** - Jeff Fetterer reported five new trails are planned at Brown County. They are also one of four finalists for a \$100,000 grant. The Southwestway Trail should open this fall. He also talked about a joint RTP grant with equestrians.

**Off-Road Motorcyclists** - Tom Hartman announced Interlake construction is on target and the RTP money was put to good use. A race-ride event will be held there in September and

they are expecting 700 – 750 people. They have added 40 new miles of single track with 5 miles dedicated to hiking. He also spoke about a trail connecting Evansville to Newburgh.

**Parks and Recreation Agencies** - Melody Jones handed out a new brochure with maps and updates on trails. She reported the first phase of the Madison to Boone County trail had just been completed. Westfield has created nine different bike loops. She also talked about the Bike to School event that will be held on May 8 and the Bike to Work event scheduled for May 18.

**Pedestrians** - Pat Martin announced that January 1 kicked off the Year of the River funded by an NEA grant. There are events planned throughout the year. He spoke of the Wabash River Hiking Trail and how a group of freshmen civil engineers are trying to develop a mountain bike trail.

**Users with Disabilities** - Ric Edwards had nothing to report.

**Water Trail Users** - Dan Plath spoke about the paddlers effort to extend water trails. The Lake Michigan Water Trails Conference will be held in Saugatuck, Michigan. The Lake Michigan Water Trail will have the first fully ADA water trail access site as the \$86,000 project will begin in July at the Kankakee River site. The Northwest Indiana Paddlers Association will have their new offices open at the Shirley Heinz Land Trust. Canoeicopia will be held in Madison, Wisconsin.

### **Announcements**

National Bike Summit – March 4-7, 2013

Indiana Bike Summit spIN– March 14-16, 2013 (Alexander Hotel, Indianapolis)

American Trails International Trails Symposium – April 14-17, 2013

Hoosier Outdoor Experience – September 21-22, 2013

Mid-America Trails and Greenways Conference – October 27-30, 2013 (Chicago)

Trails for All Conference – November 7-10, 2013 (Lawrence Co. Rec. Park)

Roy Garrett with ABATE reported much work is being done at Lawrence County Recreation Park. Safety classes will start in April at LCRP. He spoke about the International Motorcycle Show and the Miracle Trail Ride/Race.

### **Future Meeting Dates**

June 20, 2013 - Dan Plath will see if he can host it in northwest Indiana.

September 5, 2013 – David said Nancy Tibbett (Bicycle Indiana) was interested in hosting a meeting and will see if this date works.

### **Adjournment**

Melody Jones moved for adjournment. Tom Hartman seconded. Motion carried.

