

March 3rd, 2016 3:00 PM EST
Lilly Nature Center in the Celery Bog Nature Area
1620 Lindberg Road
West Lafayette, IN 47906

Attendance

Board Members Present:

All-Terrain Vehicle Users- Tim Garrett
Bicyclists- Jessica Hall
Environmental Groups- Kevin Hardie
Equestrians- Jennifer Wilson Reagan
Four Wheel Drive Users- Ryan Sweany
Health/Higher Education- Joan Cook
Hikers- Tim Calahan
Mountain Bikers- Tammy Mebane (proxy)
Off-Road Motorcyclists- Rick Dorfmeier
Parks & Recreation Agencies- Melody Jones
Pedestrians- Pat Martin
Snowmobilers- Len Neisler
Trail Support Groups- Angie Pool
Users with Disabilities- David Meihls

Board Members Not Present

Water Trail Users- Joe Rozsahegyi

DNR Staff:

Bale Brier- Outdoor Recreation
Carman Jackson- Outdoor Recreation
Amy Marisavljevic- Outdoor Recreation

Guests:

Dan Duntin- W. Lafayette Parks & Rec. Dept.
Rayce Guthrie- ABATE
Allan Horn- Friends of the White River
Jay Jackson- ABATE

Meeting Minutes

Welcome

Amy Marisavljevic welcomed everyone and called the meeting to order at 3:09 PM. She stated she would moderate today's meeting as new officers would be selected later and the current chair and vice chair were not here. She thanked David Meihls for organizing the meeting and West Lafayette Parks and Recreation Department for hosting.

Introductions

All Trails Advisory Board (TAB) members and guests introduced themselves. Jeff Fetterer gave his proxy to Tammy Mebane. Marisavljevic noted that newly appointed to the TAB were Jennifer Wilson Reagan and Tim Garrett. Also Pat Martin, Len Neisler, and Ryan Sweany were re-appointed to serve another term.

Approval of the Agenda

Marisavljevic asked for a motion to approve the agenda unless there were any changes. Joan Cook made a motion and Rick Dorfmeier seconded. Motion passed.

Review and Approval of December 3rd, 2015 Minutes

Marisavljevic asked if TAB members had a chance to review the minutes and asked for any changes. Cook said she would pass along a few minor grammar changes, but had no content changes. No other changes were suggested. Marisavljevic asked for a motion to approve the minutes with the grammar changes. Jessica Hall made a motion and Tim Garrett seconded. Motion passed.

DNR Report

Grant Updates & Deadlines

Marisavljevic reported that Congress approved continued funding for both the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) and Recreational Trail Program (RTP) for the next couple of years. Marisavljevic alerted the TAB that RTP grant applications are due to DNR by May 1, 2016 and LWCF grant applications are due by June 1, 2016. She encouraged anyone interested in applying or thinking about potential projects to contact Bob Bronson for more information.

Trails Plan & SCORP Update

Marisavljevic stated that the publication date for the State Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP), which will include a new Trails Plan chapter, has been pushed back until later this spring. She will notify the board when it becomes available online.

Trail Guideline Updates

Marisavljevic reported the DNR Division of Outdoor Recreation has finished and published the Trails Guidelines in accordance of Public Law 67 by the March 1 deadline. The guidelines address ten issues involving recreational trails. The guidelines are more relevant to municipal, county, and non-profit bicycle/pedestrian trails as much of the text includes information on resolving issues between trail managers and adjacent landowners. The new trail guidelines are available online at: <http://www.in.gov/dnr/outdoor/4126.htm>.

Hoosier Outdoor Experience

Marisavljevic reminded the TAB that there will be no Hoosier Outdoor Experience in 2016. The event will return to Fort Harrison State Park on June 10-11, 2017. The DNR hopes that the June date will allow more potential participant follow up for both activity providers and the DNR. Marisavljevic will pass along more information as the DNR begins planning the event.

Off-Road Properties

Carman Jackson reported on progress at both Redbird and Interlake State Recreation Areas (SRA) that will help them become fully operational and more customer friendly. Much of the progress revolves around increases in staff, including the newly hired assistant property managers. A full staff will enable Redbird SRA to be open seven days a week and possibly extend weekend hours later this year. So far this year, the staff has been able to rehab five miles of trail at Redbird SRA. They plan to develop two and half more miles of single-track trail as well. They also hope to open 700 acres of the property for non-motorized use in the future and further develop trails for hiking and biking. At Interlake SRA, ten miles of trail work is being done this year. Five miles will be rehabbed, including an existing beginner loop trail with connectivity to more advanced trails. Another five miles of new dual track trail will also be added. Jackson stated that Interlake SRA is targeting July for an official grand opening. She hopes to have a full staff in place by then so they can properly maintain the property and staff the gatehouse.

Old Business

Travel Reimbursement

Marisavljevic again reminded the TAB that both members and proxies are eligible for travel reimbursement. This includes the new mileage rate of \$0.36 per mile traveled in a

personal vehicle. After being entered in the state system, members or proxies only need to sign and date a travel voucher for each meeting attended to receive reimbursement. Additionally, reimbursement for overnight accommodations is available for any trip greater than 50 miles from their home with a maximum of \$89 per night, which is the state government rate. Those with documented overnight accommodations are eligible for a per diem of \$26 /day or \$13/ half day. Travel reimbursement may be particularly relevant for the next meeting in South Bend. For more information or questions about travel reimbursement policies, please contact Marisavljevic.

2016 Meetings

Marisavljevic stated the next meeting will be in South Bend on June 23. In order to see more recreational attractions in the area, the TAB could stay overnight if they desired. After some discussion, TAB members decided they would like to stay overnight on Wednesday, June 22. Marisavljevic volunteered to help organize for overnight accommodations as well as work with Kevin Hardie on potential activities. Hardie mentioned that the meeting will be held at St. Patrick's County Park, where paddling would be an option. In addition to paddling the St. Joseph River, Hardie mentioned a number of recreational opportunities along it such as trails, parks, and the East Race Waterway. Marisavljevic and Hardie will work together to come up with an agenda of activities in the coming month.

Marisavljevic stated the group still needs a meeting site for September. Jay Jackson volunteered to work with Rayce Guthrie to host at Lawrence County Recreational Park (LCRP) in Springville. The off-roading property has received RTP money in the past. Jackson added that they will organize some type of off-road activity. Dorfmeier commented that they could possibly arrange for dirt bikes to be there and showcase the Dirt Bike School. Marisavljevic mentioned that the December meeting will be in Indianapolis with tentative plans to visit White River State Park. Hardie stated the group should be able to meet at the National Institute for Fitness and Sport (NIFS). Cook said the American College of Sports Medicine would also be an option if needed. Dale Brier said Fort Harrison State Park is also option and Dorfmeier said an office off Monument Circle that could be used as well.

New Business

Celery Bog Nature Area & West Lafayette Trails

Marisavljevic introduced Dan Dunten from West Lafayette Parks and Recreation to talk about the Celery Bog Nature Area and the community's trails. Dunten stated that Celery Bog was a former lake carved out from a glacier; it eventually filled in with peat moss to become a bog and then eventually a marsh. The property was used to farm celery, other vegetables, and animals throughout most of the 20th century. Following its farm days, the water returned and cattails grew in before the Army Corp. of Engineers added a dam and standpipe in 2004. This raised the water level allowing for more diverse habitat, in particular attracting a variety of migratory birds. The Lilly Nature Center was constructed in 1999 with a 2001 addition. It is used for nature-related educational programming and community events with permanent exhibit space and a conference room. The rest of the grounds include paved and mulched trails, an amphitheater, and soon an outdoor classroom. Recent grants allowed them to improve the facilities' accessibility, signage

and interpretive programming. Also new are crank audio boxes, which will be located along the trail so visitors can learn more about the area's history and wildlife. They were funded through a Subaru of Indiana Automotive grant. The property, which sees about 8,000 visitors a year, gets a lot of help from Purdue students in the form of student or service projects as well as retirees, boy scouts, and others. West Lafayette has 30 miles of paved trails, along with four miles of mulched trails and some on-road bikeways. The trails currently connect to Purdue University as well as neighboring Lafayette through the John T. Meyers Pedestrian Bridge. West Lafayette hopes to continue to develop more miles of trails in the future, including more connections to Tippecanoe County and Lafayette trails.

Officer Nominations

Marisavljevic described the role of officers and called for nominations. Pat Martin nominated Jeff Fetterer as chair and Kevin Hardie seconded. Tammy Mebane, Fetterer's proxy, passed along his willingness to serve. Melody Jones nominated Pat Martin as vice chair and Angie Pool seconded. Pat Martin agreed to serve as Vice Chair. Marisavljevic closed the nominations and the new officers were elected by acclamation.

User Group Reports

All –Terrain Vehicles- Garrett commented on the wonderful progress being made at Redbird SRA with its new staff and soon-to-be hours. Garrett participated in a video featuring Redbird SRA made by the Department of Tourism and Ball State students. This is his second appearance in a promotional video for the property. Marisavljevic will send the TAB a link to the video. Garrett noted that many ATV accidents involve friends and not necessarily the owner. He stressed the importance of safety and training, particularly among new riders. Neisler and Garrett commented on the learner key technology, which limits speed, as a great tool for novices. Marisavljevic noted that safety and education is also on DNR's agenda this year. She mentioned Outdoor Recreation will partner with Law Enforcement to encourage safety, particularly at the Indiana State Fair.

Bicyclists – Jessica Hall stated that Bicycle Indiana (BI) continues to plan the new Active Transportation Summit with Health by Design (HbD) later this year. This past legislative season was unsuccessful for safe passing and other bicycle friendly legislation, so BI will try again next year. BI's Resource Guide for 2016 should be out later this spring.

Environmental Groups – Hardie reported that the Hoosier Environmental Council study on the proposed Mounds Greenway, which would stretch from Muncie to Anderson along the White River, is underway and should hopefully be completed by April. Several community meetings were held in order to gather feedback for the economic, health, and environmental study funded by the George and Frances Ball Foundation. The Friends of the White River (FOWR) continue to work through a mitigation project with the City of Indianapolis and the Army Corp. of Engineers. The mitigation efforts would include a new and an upgraded public access site along the White River in northern Indianapolis in response to the removal of several trees for the final phase of flood wall development. The FOWR will host a paddling event with eco-adventurer Bryan Brown, a native Hoosier and accomplished paddler, followed by a presentation from him on March 6 in Indianapolis.

Equestrians – Jennifer Wilson Reagan reported that the Indiana Trail Riders Association (ITRA) will host their spring fundraiser for O’Bannon Woods State Park on April 15-16. Funds from the event go directly towards trail maintenance at the park. ITRA is also working on the primitive campground and reconstructing a trail going out of it. ITRA will also do a clean-up at Brown County State Park on April 23-24. The Hoosier Backcountry Horseman will have a workday in Hoosier National Forest May 7-8. The Indiana Horse Council (IHC) will have their annual Hoosier Horse Fair and Expo April 1-3 at the Indiana State Fairgrounds. New this year, IHC will work with art groups for an exhibit and the Saturday Night Showcase will be more of a variety show. The schedule includes lots of competitions and educational programming as well as a trail ride led by Wilson Reagan. The Governor and other guests have been invited, so she hopes it will be a well-attended, successful event.

Four-Wheel-Drive Users – Ryan Sweany stated that the Indiana Four-Wheel Drive Association (IFWDA) has started a mini-grant program to help clubs with outreach. 4 Wheels to Freedom, a Shelbyville club, will use the grant to host a Mini Jamboree at the Backwoods Adventure Park in Campbellsburg on June 17-19 to benefit charity. The Evansville Area Jeepers will host the Wheelin’ for a Cause on May 28 at Interlake SRA to benefit cystic fibrosis. They are hoping to repeat their success from last year where they had over 350 vehicles attend and raised over \$17,000. The IFWDA will be in attendance again as they are a sponsor.

Health/Higher Education- Cook mentioned that HbD continues to work on active transportation with Indiana Department of Transportation (INDOT), Indiana Department of Health (ISDH), DNR, BI, as well as bringing the Office of Tourism and others to the table. The group hopes to complete a statewide active transportation plan. This summer HbD and BI will host a combined Active Transportation Summit instead of the former separate Bike and Pedestrian Summits. The Summit will be August 29-31 at the Omni in Indianapolis. Additionally, HbD continues to work on the Indianapolis pedestrian plan.

Hikers- Tim Calahan commented that there has been some confusion about the paving of existing hiking trails in Morgan-Monroe State Forest. The Hoosier Hikers Council has received a lot of questions in regards to the project, but are currently unclear on the details of project. Brier and Marisavljevic clarified that Division of Forestry is paving a new trail for runners, walkers, bicyclists, and campers. The trail will be a safer space than the road and accessible to all. The new trail will pave over a few parts of existing natural surface hiking trails. Marisavljevic stated she could e-mail Forestry’s official response to the TAB. Calahan expressed concern over the lack of communication and public input about this project prior to construction. He inquired who concerned citizens should talk to about the project’s details if necessary. Brier answered that Dan Ernst, Assistant State Forester, would be the best contact.

Mountain Bikers – Mebane reported that the Hoosier Mountain Bike Association (HMBA) should close out their Recreational Trails Program grants this year at O’Bannon Woods State Park and Southwestway Park. Both trails systems have thus far received very positive reviews. She then announced HMBA has received a \$50,000 grant from the

Indiana Department of Tourism to build the Hobbs Hollow Flow Trail in Brown County State Park. The grant will require HMBA to contribute a \$50,000 match. HMBA will hire Spectrum Trail Design to develop the trail. Frank Merritt is now president of HMBA and Paul Arlinghaus is secretary.

Off-Road Motorcyclists – Dorfmeier announced that he and Guthrie have become licensed off-road motorcycle instructors for the Dirt Bike School. He noted that instructor training was incredibly enlightening and useful. The goal of Dirt Bike School is to increase safety and education for off-road motorcycling in Indiana, particularly among youth and families. With more instructors, they will be able to offer more schools and help increase off-road motorcycling in Indiana. Several schools will run this year at LCRP, many of which are already full thanks to sign-ups at the Annual Motorcycle Expo in February. Additionally, Dorfmeier commented on all the exciting progress happening at both Redbird and Interlake SRA. He encouraged both motorized and non-motorized users to take advantage of these wonderful and scenic recreational properties.

Guest Jay Jackson commented that Dirt Bike School is provided by ABATE with cooperation of the DNR, Federal Highway Association (FHWA) and US Department of Transportation. Additionally, the annual Miracle Trail Ride that benefits Riley Hospital will be held at LCRP on June 11-12, 2016.

Parks and Recreation Agencies- Jones announced Westfield will be the first community to light the Monon Trail, making it a functional and safe transportation corridor after dark. They are working on the first section now. She stated the lights will be on until about 11:00 PM and then be motion activated. Jones also announced that she had been contacted by Mark Young in regards to the Indiana TAB being considered for a Coalition Recreation Trails award. Indiana is on a short list of potential candidates for this honor. Marisavljevic stated that the DNR had also been recently contacted and urged to submit a nomination. Marisavljevic will submit one for the TAB by the March 31 deadline.

Pedestrians- Martin reported that Terre Haute continues to work on the Turn to the River project. Last year the design was completed and this year they will develop a \$500,000 park along the Wabash River. Martin mentioned that the Griffin Bike Park continues to be developed in Vigo County. The park, which should officially open this fall, will include 16+ miles of trails, a skill areas, and national race venue. The community driven park, led by the friends group and family of fallen veteran Dale Griffin, continues to hold workdays. Martin said the superfund site in Terre Haute the group visited last year completed their \$500,000 clean up and the first part the Paul Dresser Wabash River Heritage Trail has opened. Progress on this trail, as well as new off-road bike trails located on a DNR owned property, will continue this year.

He also stated the Greenways Foundation (GF) has released the first version of its statewide map. The next version will include corrections and updates. He encouraged everyone to help distribute the new resource and provide feedback. The GF held their annual luncheon on February 16 in Indianapolis. The well-attended event raised funds for the GF grant program.

Snowmobilers- Len Neisler reported that it was an unusual year for snow. Some of trails were open for a few days this year, while others never received enough snow to open. The Indiana Snowmobilers Association (ISA) is exploring the possibility of expanding to include an ATV arm. Finally, Neisler reported two deaths of Hoosier snowmobilers this year, one on the trail in Michigan and one in Carroll County. He stressed the importance of the ISA as well as other motorized organizations encouraging safe riding. This includes proper education, wearing safety equipment, avoiding excess speed, not drinking alcohol while riding, and being sensitive to beginners.

Trail Support Groups- Pool thanks all those who came to the GF Luncheon. She encouraged everyone to consider getting a GF “I Support Trails” license plate from the BMV. The funds from license plate sales help support their grants program, which is now accepting applications. The GF had a disappointing legislative season, but are determined to get a funding source for the trails maintenance fund. The GF received some tips from a lobbyist and will try again in 2017. The GF is working with Indiana University’s Eppley Institute to do a follow up trail study. The study will collect trail counter information from several trails, including the original six studied in 2000. They would like to do the counts in the 2016 peak season as well as in 2017. Pool will have more information about the study in June.

She also announced the Cardinal Greenway will host their 5k run, a trail fundraiser, on June 4th as a National Trails Day event this year. Cardinal Greenways is also partnering with the City of Muncie and others on the Muncie Bike Fest set for April 12-14. The event will replace the Great Greenways Tour and contain a community ride, supported tour of the Cardinal Greenway, and criterium race. Walk Indiana is scheduled for September 10 on the Cardinal Greenway. Finally, a historic bridge spanning the White River in Muncie will begin rehabilitation this year to become a pedestrian bridge. The bridge will connect Cardinal Greenway and the White River Greenway, and should be completed by 2017.

Users with Disabilities- No report

Water Trail Users- No report

Announcements

National Trails Day –June 4, 2016

International Trails Symposium- May 7-10, 2017 in Dayton, OH

2016 Meeting Dates

June 23, 2016 –St. Patrick’s County Park, South Bend

September 1, 2016- Lawrence County Recreation Park, Springville

December 1, 2016- White River State Park, Indianapolis

Adjournment

Marisavljevic called for motion to adjourn. Hardie made a motion and Garrett seconded. Motion passed. Meeting adjourned at 5:13 PM.