

September 3rd, 2015 3:00 PM EST
Cardinal Greenways- Wysor Street Depot
700 E. Wysor St.
Muncie, IN 47305

Attendance

Board Members Present:

Bicyclists- Jessica Hall
Environmental Groups- Kevin Hardie
Equestrians- Yvette Rollins
Four Wheel Drive Users- Ryan Sweany
Health/Higher Education- Joan Cook
Hikers- Tim Calahan
Mountain Bikers- Jeff Fetterer
Parks & Recreation Agencies- Melody Jones
Pedestrians- Pat Martin
Snowmobilers- Len Neisler
Trail Support Groups- Angie Pool
Users with Disabilities- David Meihls

DNR Staff:

Amy Marisavljevic- Outdoor Recreation

Members Not Present:

All-Terrain Vehicle Users- Neil McCammack
Off-Road Motorcyclists- Rick Dorfmeier
Water Trail Users- Joe Rozsahegyi

Guests:

Karen Bohn- Greenways Foundation
John Craddock- Cardinal Greenways
Allen Horn- Friends of the White River
Tim Maloney- Hoosier Environmental Council
Dorothy Neisler- IN Snowmobilers Association
Michael Popa- Hoosier Environmental Council
Greg Wilkins- Muncie Light Horse Club
Jennifer Wilson-Regan- Indiana Horse Council

Meeting Minutes

Welcome

Chair Yvette Rollins called the meeting to order. Rollins welcomed everyone to the Cardinal Greenway and thanked Angie Pool for hosting the meeting.

Introductions

All the members and guests introduced themselves.

Approval of the Agenda

Rollins asked if there were any changes to the agenda. Angie Pool asked that John Craddock be able to speak to the Trails Advisory Board (TAB). He was added to the agenda as a guest speaker under New Business. Rollins asked for a motion to approve the agenda. Melody Jones made a motion and Pat Martin seconded. Motion passed.

Review and Approval of March 5th, 2015 Minutes

Rollins asked if everyone had a chance to review the minutes and asked for any changes. Marisavljevic noted she made a few changes prior to the meeting that Joan Cook pointed out. Kevin Hardie requested a minor spelling change for a name. Rollins asked for a motion to approve the minutes. Jones made a motion and Pool seconded. Motion passed.

DNR Report

Trail Guideline Updates

Marisavljevic again reminded the board that the Division of Outdoor Recreation has been tasked by the legislature with writing Trail Guidelines by March 30. The Division plans on sending out a survey to gain feedback about trail issues for the guidelines. An online survey would be out later this year and be targeted to trail managers. Any survey will be e-mailed out to the TAB so that applicable members could take it and/or pass it along. She reported that Dale Brier and Bob Bronson attended a meeting in Muncie a few weeks back among non-profit bike/pedestrian trail managers. The meeting provided the Division with good understanding of some of the issues facing these types of trails.

Federal Legislation & Grant Funding

Marisavljevic stated that both the Land & Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) and the Recreational Trails Program (RTP), whose grant programs are managed by the Division of Outdoor Recreation, are dependent on federal funding. The LWCF is set to expire on September 30th if not renewed by Congress. The RTP is a part of a previous transportation bill that continues to be extended. A new transportation bill is currently being discussed by Congress. Marisavljevic encouraged everyone to stay abreast on what's going on in Congress as this would have an impact on outdoor recreation funding in Indiana. She reminded members that they can contact their elected representatives as individuals and as part of their user groups, just not on behalf of the TAB.

Hoosier Outdoor Experience

The Ford Hoosier Outdoor Experience will be September 19th and 20th at Fort Harrison State Park. The event will be walkable this year and no longer have trolleys to shuttle guests around the park. This has caused some activities to not participate this year. New this year will be the Learning Center, featuring six half-hour classes per day targeted for outdoor enthusiasts, and the Harrison Hustle 5k Run/Walk on Sunday morning. Also new is the voyageur canoes activity being provided by Wilderness Inquiry's Canoemobile program. Marisavljevic thanked all of those who plan on participating again this year.

Trail Studies & Resources

Marisavljevic reported that she recently attended the Indianapolis Cultural Trail news conference where results of their trail study were reported. Notable statistics include 200,000+ people a year use the trail and 95% of users surveyed felt safe on the trail. Furthermore, the average user spent about \$53 on the trail and property values within 500 feet of the trail went up 148% since 2008. Marisavljevic also mentioned a recent study by Singletracks.com that focused on mountain bike tourism. Marisavljevic encouraged the members to look to these types of studies and resources for facts and figures when trying to garner support for trails, especially from the community.

Redbird & Interlake SRAs

The DNR recently was informed that the two assistant property managers positions at Redbird and Interlake were approved by the State Hiring Committee. They have been posted on the state job bank. These positions should greatly impact the daily operation and development of these off-road properties. Marisavljevic requested that members pass along this news to anyone who may be interested in applying.

Old Business

Future Meetings Suggestions

Marisavljevic requested the TAB let her know if they had any preference on future meeting locations, guest speakers, or topics. The next meeting will be in Indianapolis with a tentative plan to visit Southwestway Park first. If possible the group will try to have their meeting nearby. Kevin Hardie suggested possibly visiting the trails and other facilities at White River State Park for a meeting and hearing from Bob Whitt, White River State Park Executive Director. Jeff Fetterer suggested contacting Michael DeChant, property manager, or Stephen King, Hoosier Mountain Bike Association lead trail volunteer, for a tour when visiting Southwestway Park.

New Business

Mounds Greenway Proposal

Tim Maloney introduced himself as well as his colleague, Michael Popa. Both work for the Hoosier Environmental Council (HEC), the statewide non-profit environmental education and advocacy organization. In 2014, residents in east central Indiana contacted the HEC about concerns about the proposed Mounds Reservoir. The HEC alternatively suggested a greenway as they believed this would conserve the natural habitats along the White River as well as provide opportunities for outdoor recreation and economic development. The Mounds Greenway would be a linear park following along the White River between Muncie and Anderson. Currently, the land is mostly undeveloped along the river, but is privately held. Beside the greenway, the conceptual plan could potentially include connections to existing regional trails, additional public access points for boating and fishing, picnicking & camping areas, and an interpretive center. The greenway would only acquire private land from willing sellers. The ownership and management of the proposed greenway is still being discussed. Currently, HEC is trying to educate people about this proposal and garner community support. There will be a Ride for the Mounds on September 19th, which will be a bicycle tour and camping event. More information about the project and Maloney's contact information can be found at: <http://www.hecweb.org/>.

John Craddock Wetlands Nature Preserve

John Craddock introduced himself and explained his educational and recreational involvement in Muncie. As a one of the board of the directors of Cardinal Greenway, he reported that the members of the community adamantly opposed the trail 20 years ago. Now, the community views the trail as a huge amenity and welcomes its economic benefits. The 27 acre nature preserve that sits next to the White River Greenway that many of the TAB members toured earlier includes hardwood forest, wetlands, and prairie. Projects in the nature preserve currently total \$800,000 and include a boardwalk and pavilion. The improvement projects are set to wrap up in another 6-8 months. The city-owned land will soon be sold to Cardinal Greenway for \$1, allowing for the organization to maintain the area for educational and recreational purposes. East-central Indiana has received financial support for a number of projects from the Bicentennial Nature Trust, the Ball Brother Foundation, and George & France Ball Foundation. Finally, Craddock mentioned the water quality and biodiversity of the White River has drastically improved over the years in the area.

TAB Membership Terms

Marisavljevic informed the TAB that the terms of the representatives of All-Terrain Vehicle Users, Equestrians, Four-Wheel Drive Users, Pedestrians, and Snowmobilers will expire at the end of February 2016. A call for nominations for these positions will begin on December 1st. Members interested in re-applying should do so in December. More information about the nomination and selection process will follow, but Marisavljevic asked everyone to pass along this announcement to anyone they might know who would be interested in serving on the TAB.

Other Business

Fetterer reported the Quiet Sports Expo at the Boat, Sport and Travel show has been canceled for 2016. He also passed along Rollins messages about the Hoosier National Forest (HNF). A rash of forest fires out west has forced the Forest Service to cancel all spending at HNF for the remainder of the year. This will affect repair and maintenance to the trails. She encouraged those who have trails in HNF to help by volunteering if they can. She also reported that less than half of the trail fees collected in HNF are actually going to trail repair and maintenance. Feel free to let Forest Service know of your concerns about the usage of fees.

Marisavljevic reported the Division of Outdoor Recreation is trying to improve trail etiquette across the state through education efforts. Their State Fair display was dedicated to this topic and they recently added a “Share the Trail” page to their website, which includes a few short videos created by the DNR. She will e-mail out the links to the webpage and videos.

User Group Reports

All –Terrain Vehicles- No Report

Bicyclists – Jessica Hall announced that Bicycle Indiana will work Health by Design and others on a combined bike/pedestrian summit next year instead of the bike summit.

Environmental Groups – Hardie stated the two-week White River Festival starts on September 11 and includes a variety of environmental, recreational, and arts events. The Ride for Mounds as well as a GoFishIN tour will be a part of that festival. You can find more information at the Friends of White River or White River Alliance website. Hardie says that you can now access the White River Guide app, but it remains a work in progress. The Friends hope it helps connect a younger generation to White River. He reminded the group that greenways and trails not only provide recreational opportunities, but also ones for observing the natural environment that the corridors protect. Finally, he reported Leinenkugel’s will host their second Canoes for a Cause in the state on September 18 in Indianapolis. Leinenkugel with the St. Joseph Parks Department hosted a successful Canoe for a Cause on the St. Joseph River in August.

Equestrians – Jennifer Wilson-Regan reported on behalf of Rollins that Indiana Horse Council will host their Octoberfest Charity Horse Show on October 16-18 at Hoosier Horse Park in Edinburgh, Indiana. It is a multi-disciplinary competition and all proceeds go to the horse park.

Four-Wheel-Drive Users – Ryan Sweany reported the 5th Annual High Lift Trail Day was held on August 22 at Redbird SRA. Hi-Lift Jack Company of Bloomfield sponsored the event as well as the gate fee for the first 100 vehicles. The event was a success with over 300 vehicles

participating. Sweany reported that Indiana Four Wheel Drive Association (IFWDA) will not be at the Hoosier Outdoor Experience due to event changes. The Four Wheel Drive Jamboree will be September 19-20 at the State Fairgrounds. They anticipate a couple thousand in attendance. Two clubs will host Toys for Tots events later this fall. One will be at Haspin Acres and the other at Interlake SRA. A \$15 toy donation will get participants access to all events, including guided trail rides.

Health/ Higher Education- Joan Cook reported she continues to work on a team with DNR, Indiana Department of Transportation, and State Department of Health. They will work on an Active Transportation Plan for the State. Marisavljevic commented they are starting to draft a Memorandum of Understanding between the three state agencies on active transportation. Cook also stated Health by Design will work with partners on a statewide combined Bike/Ped Summit that should be held in 2016.

Hikers- No Report

Mountain Bikers – Fetterer reported that the International Mountain Bike Association (IMBA) has recently named Brown County a bronze level ride center. The Hoosier Mountain Bike Association (HMBA) along with Brown County Tourism hopes to use this honor to attract more riders. The Bobcat Bowl in Brown County State Park is about halfway completed; they hope to get it and the trails in Yellowwood State Forest completed by the Brown County Epic, which will be October 9-11. HMBA and their volunteers have been doing a lot of trail work in the past week, particularly with Cummins Employees for a Day of Service. HMBA anticipates over 500 people at the Brown County Epic, their largest annual fundraiser. Hasmerfest is September 26-28 at Versailles State Park. It's a fundraiser to build more trails on the other side of the park. Finally, the Gravel Grovel, a large mountain bike race, is November 28th in the Hoosier National Forest.

Off-Road Motorcyclists – No report

Parks and Recreation Agencies- No report

Pedestrians- Martin announced that Indiana State University completed over a mile of new trail that connects the new track & field facility with downtown this summer. Furthermore, the first half mile or phase 1 of the Paul Dresser Wabash Trail has also been completed. This is all a part of the larger combined sewer overflow project as well as the Turn to the River project funded through a National Endowment for the Arts. By this time next year, they hope to have four miles of trail open.

Snowmobilers- Len Neisler reported they are just waiting for snow. He also asked everyone to keep Craig Erickson, ISA President, in their thoughts as he is ill.

Trail Support Groups- Pool announced that the Greenways Foundation (GF) continues to work on getting a funding source for the Trails Maintenance Fund. They hope to be successful in the next legislative session. The GF is also thinking about working on a paper map of all the trails in the state. Marisavljevic reminded Pool that the Division of Outdoor Recreation already manages

a database of all the trails with an interactive map. She encouraged GF to contact the Division for any help and to ensure they are not repeating efforts. Len Neisler commented that they should look into the Polaris app and David Meihls told them check the American Trails database. The GF hosted a workshop dedicated to non-profit trail providers last month. Pool said the GF will hopefully continue this type of programming for other types of trails across the state. Finally, she reminded everyone of their license plate program, which funds the GF grant program.

Users with Disabilities- David Meihls reported that this year celebrated the 25th Anniversary of the American with Disabilities Act (ADA). This included a national tour with three stops in Indiana to continue to raise awareness and educate people on the Act. Meihls believes Indiana has come a long way in 25 years and hopes this anniversary will re-commit people to continuing their accessibility goals. He encouraged trail managers who have not done so yet, to start thinking about a policy for other power-driven mobility devices (OPDMDs).

Water Trail Users- No report

Announcements

The Ford Hoosier Outdoor Experience- September 19-20, 2015, Fort Harrison State Park The Mid America Trails and Greenways Conference- October 25-28, Des Moines, IA

2015 Meeting Dates

December 3, 2015- TBD in Indianapolis

Adjournment- Fetterer called for a motion for adjournment. Cook made a motion to adjourn the meeting and Sweany seconded. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned.