



337 W. Washington Street
Marquette, MI 49855
906-235-2923 fax 906-228-3642
ironoreheritage@gmail.com

IRON ORE HERITAGE RECREATION AUTHORITY

DRAFT MINUTES of October 22, 2014 Board Meeting

- I. ROLL CALL – Jeremy Pickens, Marquette; Glenn Johnson, Marquette Twp; Al Reynolds, Negaunee Twp; Jim Thomas, Negaunee; Dawn Hoffman, Tilden Twp; Gary Johnson, Republic Twp; Dotty Lajoie, Marquette County
Absence: Larry Bussone, Don Britton
Guests: Jackie Koski, Kathy Peters
Staff: Carol Fulsher
- II. PUBLIC COMMENT (Agenda Items – Limit to three minutes) – No public comment.
- III. APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA – **Pickens motioned to take October Bills to Be Paid off consent agenda and move to regular agenda; Hoffman seconded motion. Vote and motion carried. Hoffman motioned to approve consent agenda without October bills to be paid. Pickens seconded. Vote and motion carried unanimously.** Consent agenda included September 24 board meeting minutes, October 2 Executive board meeting minutes and September financials.
- IV. OLD BUSINESS
 - A. Phase IV – Tilden/Republic
 1. Bruce Creek Bridge – Fulsher notified that three bids were secured. Smith Paving was awarded bridge work as low bidder of \$30,000. The IOHRA will be reimbursed \$29,000 by our insurance and DNR will reimburse the last \$1000. Work to be done in November.
 2. Republic Plans and Bid – Bids were let and we received three bids. Low bid was Wuebben Construction from Dollar Bay with \$287,420. Lindberg and Associated were other two bidders. Bid breakdown was included in packet. Discussion on bids coming in higher than expected. Want to bring back to \$200,000. We still have Tilden to pay for and total project was estimated to be \$350,000.
Sanders was asked to talk about project specs and ways to save. He said main problem was the steep grades coming by School Lake. Options for savings include: Take out tree planting for \$8K; take out the 4" gravel for \$50K and just put the 4" of ADA Gravel. Decrease width of trail from 10' gravel to 8' gravel. Some slopes may not be achievable for ADA we may leave the slopes where they are at.
Johnson (Gary) made to authorize Sanders to work with contractor to lower the cost of project; Reynolds seconded motion. Vote and motion carried unanimously.
 - B. Maintenance and Installations –
 - C.
 - a. General maintenance – Fulsher noted the general maintenance items on the list from mowing, picking up down trees, sweeping. Discussed how to continue and Thomas, Britton and Reynolds wanted to continue doing majority of work. Did discuss buying a brush hog with various attachments to make it easier.
 - c. Directional signage installations – 22 posts and 63 sleeves were recently installed at major intersections along the trail. Thomas, Britton, Reynolds, Fulsher and Kauppila finalized project over three days.
 - d. Chocolate bridges – The Chocolate bridge project is finished. The bridges were paved. Total price was approximately \$18,000 and we were billed for \$3140 as our 20% contribution. Remainder came from snowmobile fund.
 - e. Section 16 pit area - Fulsher and Thomas met with City of Ishpeming public works to discuss work needed by Section 16 pit. Water is coming up over the trail and eroding the trail.

Need to get rip rap in that area to stop the erosion. Water very high this year. Ishpeming will take care of project.

f. Ishpeming section – Thomas and Fulsher will meet with Ishpeming City Manager and Public Works Director to review needs of Ishpeming section and how we can accomplish. We need to have a formalized agreement for mowing, plowing, and sweeping Ishpeming portion of trail.

C. DNR Trust Fund 2014 Signage Update – We scored 270 out of 520 on our grant. We provided a letter from SAIL to address the accessibility issue and developed marketing plan to help get more points. The grant is under \$50,000, but very competitive this year. We will learn in December if we are successful. The grant is for ten additional free standing interpretive signs.

D. Other signage needs

1. Highway signage – Working with MDOT and MDNR to get directional signage to our trail heads on the highways. Need signage for MI Iron Industry Museum, Schwemwood, Welcome Center and Lions Field and Republic. Will also try for Ishpeming and Negaunee even though we have on Business Route 28.

2. More confidence markers – Fulsher discussed the need for additional confidence markers on trail. Perhaps put right on trail—want unobtrusive but continue to make users comfortable that they are on correct trail.

3. Street crossing signs – Fulsher discussed need to add Street name signs to the stop signs at all intersections. She will get bids.

E. Audit Quote - **Johnson (Gary) motioned to sign a three year contract with Anderson, Tackman for services at \$4000 annually. Johnson (Glenn) seconded motion.. Vote and motion carried unanimously.**

V. NEW BUSINESS

A. Budget 2015 First Draft – Fulsher presented a first draft of 2015 budget. She is not asking for approval today but will look towards November to approve. Total income of \$696,000; total expense of \$685,500 for net income of \$10,5000. Items known on income include MNRTF grant of \$281K, Cliffs Foundation grant of \$50K. Property tax of \$275K is based on past year. Items known on Expense include salary and debt service. Items semi known include Tilden/Republic project, but may have to add dollars to that project based on bids. Items to note include higher costs in rent, equipment and office supplies because of need for new office. Also noted that we added money to trail maintenance and budget is at \$20K. She included the MCACA art grand in income at \$12,500, but expense would be \$25K. She will tweak budget for November and bring back.

B. New Office Location – Due to changes at MCCVB, we have been displaced. Currently we are next door, but in same building owned by Christine Pesola. Rent will be \$100/month. No other expenses. However, the office is very hard to find and only temporary as Pesola will be looking for new tenants next year. Discussion on needs and location.

C. Art place America – Fulsher noted that Artplace America is looking for art grants proposals from the Upper Peninsula as they are a target area. She will be working on a letter of inquiry due in early November to place art installations at each of our trail heads. There is no match required and grants are \$50,000 to \$500,000. Will be very competitive but it is based on place making which we are doing.

D. Carp River Bridge MQT Repairs – Due to erosion issues with high water this year, the new bridge in Marquette that DNR owns and we use as trail needs extensive erosion control. We have not been asked to pay for anything but the bridge may be down while work is done.

E. Bills to Be Paid – Fulsher wanted to note that the \$18,000 to Smith Paving is a down payment for the Bruce Creek Bridge work and we will be reimbursed by insurance. The \$21,000 payment to U.P. Fab is for the directional signage and that came in \$5000 under budget. **Johnson (Gary) motioned to pay bills (\$78,000) as presented; Hoffman seconded motion. Vote and motion carried unanimously.**

VI. ADMINISTRATOR REPORT.

VII. BOARD COMMENT

VIII. PUBLIC COMMENT

Lajoie inquired about Yesney's medical condition. Yesney hopes to be at our November meeting. Johnson (Glenn) asked if Mqt Co Road Commission provide labor and equipment for some of our mowing and sweeping needs.

Thomas noted that there have been many work bees last few days installing directional signage. He is working with Negaunee students to make gates using pipes we own

IX. ADJOURNMENT – **Hoffman motioned to adjourn meeting; Reynolds seconded motion. Vote and motion carried.**

NEXT MEETING `DATE: NOVEMBER 19, 2014, COUNTRY INN AND SUITES