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**IRON ORE HERITAGE RECREATION AUTHORITY
JUNE 26, 2013 4:30 PM
COUNTRY INN AND SUITES**

MINUTES

- I. WELCOME / ROLL CALL – Kathy Peters, Marquette Township; Al Reynolds, Negaunee Township; Jim Thomas, Negaunee; Larry Bussone, Ishpeming; Dawn Hoffman, Tilden Township; Dotty Lajoie, County of Marquette.
Absent: Don Britton, Chocolay Township; Jeremy Pickens, Marquette; Gary Johnson, Republic Township; Lyn Durant, Marquette Township
Administrator: Carol Fulsher
Guests: Nancy Helgren, UPEA; Ron Yesney, DNR; Jackie Koski, Humboldt; George Sedlacek, Mike Lempinen
- II. PUBLIC COMMENT (Agenda Items – Limit to three minutes) - Nancy Helgren, our engineer from UPEA, updated on progress. Paving is done, handicap ramps are done, signs in progress, fencing in progress. Woven wire fencing is up. ORV gates are up at railroad crossing. Seeding and mulching to be done. Crushed granite yet to be laid down. Expect to be done on July 6. Original completion date was July 1 and got a 4.5 day extension with gets them to the 6th. Gravel crusher is done and have 6000 ton of gravel crushed. Localized area near Tony Popko's property east of 492/35 needs some engineering work. Friday we will go through punch list tour of trail. Currently at 5-6% over bid price, but not sure of how much savings from cuts we made.
- III. CONSENT AGENDA – **Bussone moved to approve consent agenda; Hoffman seconded. Vote and motion carried.**
- IV. APPROVAL OF AGENDA - **Reynolds motioned to approve agenda as presented; Hoffman seconded. Vote and motion carried.**
- V. OLD BUSINESS
 - A. Director's Orders Update Eagle Mills Grade and Greenwood Grade – LUOD for Marquette west grade is in process in Lansing. Restricts wheeled motorized vehicles and hunting or discharging firearms from grade. State land without director's order allows almost any use. This legally enforces our wishes.
 - i. Resolution – We have a resolution in the packet to review and vote on: Resolution would be to restrict access along the Greenwood Grade and the LS&I grades to vehicles larger than 65" wide and firearm discharge and hunting from/on trail. Fulsher working to get letters of support from various groups and did get some push back in Republic from Moose Country Snowmobile Club. Up for debate whether we want to do this restriction on the entire grade. Hunting came up. Yesney noted that private property owners are worried about hunters shooting from the grade into their property. Consensus is to keep both grades restricted. Other spur information for vehicles for property owners not confirmed yet.
Reynolds motioned to sign the resolution as presented. Peters seconded motion. Bussone questioned that if we pass this, it says we can't drive on this trail anymore which creates a situation for some businesses and property owners who have a perpetual easement. Yesney suggested we add those exceptions as 2 (a)(d) on the resolution. This order does not apply to the following circumstances and/or vehicles:

Do we want to reconsider language. Create some language for portions that can be open to vehicles authorized by DNR. **Reynolds rescinded the motion; Peters seconded.** Yesney and Fulsher will work on language for the resolution by July meeting.

- B. Negaunee to Marquette Construction Updates – U.P. Pipe, who provided the retaining wall, will paint the wall (at their cost) so that it blends in with trail.
 - i. Engineer Change Order Request - Helgren noted that UPEA is requesting a change order on the engineering contract. Soil borings and reroute the trail added to original contract; requesting up to \$30K over the \$166K original contract. Add ons because of reroute of trail from original thoughts of being on rail grade. Also, the extension of contract means extra personnel hours. Since it is an MDOT project, an engineer needs to be on site at all times when contractor working. Fulsher noted that with the change, they are still within the usual 15% of total contract. **Hoffman motioned to approve change order; Peters seconded. Vote and motion carries.**
- C. Map Update – Waiting for first proof.
- D. Trust Fund 12-049 Agreement
 - i. Scope Change – At our last meeting, we discussed a change order on scope of DNR Trust Fund for Tilden Township project. Original scope of project was an additional five miles of surfaced trail west of Winthrop Junction. That would have brought us into Ely Township. We asked DNR Trust Fund if we could take the 2.5 miles of surfaced trail and move to Republic Township since they voted in millage and are still on trail. Scope change was approved and we will work in Republic.
 - ii. Resolution – We will need to sign a resolution with the Trust Fund for the agreement but have to get land control. We need easements from Republic Township, Republic Mountain Lake LLC (Roger Crimmins) and State Lease. Fulsher noted we may have to call special meeting to get this done.

VI. NEW BUSINESS

- A. Trail Opening Ribbon Cutting/Party – Tentative August 13 – 3 pm at Old Towne Trailhead. Also will go to Soo Line bridge later in day to cut ribbon on that end. Fulsher sent out “save the date” emails, and will follow up with invites later as plans are set.
- B. Grant Work Session - Fulsher noted that the Cliffs Foundation grant of \$200,000 was awarded to us and we will receive \$50K per year for 4 years. First check will come in August or September and we’ll have a check receiving photo op. These monies will help to pay for the Eagle Mills area where we moved off the rail grade. Need to keep looking at other grant sources for various projects—Kaufman, Reynolds, Shiras, Cliffs/Rio Tinto. Would like board to give direction on what we’d like to do. Set up a work session in August to look at various grants and what they support and how we could use those monies.

VII. REPORTS (Meetings/Seminars attended)/CORRESPONDENCE – Reynolds and Thomas putting out trail signage.

- A. Lake Bancroft Request – We have been asked to attend a meeting with various stake holders in Ishpeming who are requesting funds from Cliffs/Rio Tinto grant to upgrade Bancroft Lake area and previous Cliffs/Rio Tinto office building. We will go to meeting and see how it can benefit our trailhead. No definite day/time was given.

VIII. BOARD COMMENT -

Thomas – need to set up work session in July to 1) get fence down at Bell Hospital site and move to Eagle mills; put in mile markers.

Thomas noted that roots are coming through in some areas between Ishpeming and Negaunee. Will wait for them to pop through and then cut off that asphalt to get to roots and put a herbicide in to kill roots. Then repave.

Malton Road has been a problem on the trail since they cut the pavement to put the road through but stopped. Lindberg is starting the asphalt pavement today and section should be fixed within next two weeks.

Ballards are out in Ishpeming and Negaunee and we have received no complaints thus far.

Working with NMU to get disks made to cover the holes.

IX. PUBLIC COMMENT –.

Fulsher on vacation July 15 -29. Phone will say office closed for two weeks. Emergency phone calls can go to Jim Thomas.

Sedlacek noted that Negaunee is working on a grant application for Old Towne trailhead.

Grass in Ishpeming and Negaunee needs to be cut.

X. ADJOURNMENT – **Hoffman motioned to adjourn at 5:45 pm. Bussone seconded. Vote and motion carried.**

NEXT MEETING DATE: WEDNESDAY, JULY 31, 4:30 PM, COUNTRY INN AND SUITES