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**IRON ORE HERITAGE RECREATION AUTHORITY
MINUTES OF AUGUST 28, 2013 4:30 PM**

- I. **WELCOME / ROLL CALL** – Don Britton, Chocolay; Jeremy Pickens, Marquette; Lyn Durant, Marquette Township; Al Reynolds, Negaunee Township; Jim Thomas, Negaunee; Dawn Hoffman, Tilden Township; Gary Johnson, Republic Township; Dotty Lajoie, Marquette County; Kathy Peters, Alternate, Marquette Township
Excused Absent; Larry Bussone, Ishpeming
Guests: Jackie Koski, Humboldt, Lon Markham, Jim Schuster, Ron Yesney, DNR
Administrator: Carol Fulsher
- II. **PUBLIC COMMENT (Agenda Items – Limit to three minutes)** - Kathy Peters mentioned that her visiting kids spent time on the new section of trail and loved it.
- III. **CONSENT AGENDA – Durant motioned to approve the consent agenda; Johnson seconded motion. Vote and motion carried unanimously.**
- IV. **APPROVAL OF AGENDA – Johnson motioned to approved agenda with amendments: Item V. IOHRA Documentary Presentation and VIIF. Bills to be paid before next meeting. Hoffman seconded motion. Vote and motion carried unanimously.**
- V. **Jim Schuster presentation** – Jim Schuster and Lon Markham want to provide a video documentary on the Iron Ore Heritage Trail. It would be their private venture and are asking for our support for interviews on history of project, etc. They filmed the August 13 ribbon cutting. They would sell the video. They did a 70-minute documentary on Cleveland Cliffs so have a track record. They would be selling the video. Board members provided positive feedback and inquired about getting some clips for our web site. **Hoffman motioned to support the project through our interviews; Durant seconded motion. Vote and motion carried unanimously.**
- VI. **OLD BUSINESS**
 - A. Director's Orders Greenwood Grade/Lease on Greenwood and LS&I Grade/Humboldt Reroute
Fulsher noted that we are still working on getting our State lease amended to add in the Greenwood and LS&I grades. Roger Storm, Real Estate DNR needs to provide the legal description of the Humboldt reroute. Once we have that, our Lease will be amended to include. Fulsher noted that she has started work on support for the getting the director's order on the Greenwood and LS&I grades to prohibit full-size vehicles and hunting from the grade, but has run into a road block. Moose Country Snowmobile Club did not want to support and she is worried that others won't support as well. The only support we have received thus far is from Tilden Township. Yesney noted that he will help us get some analysis from other grades; also noted that adjacent land owners don't want full size vehicles; Fulsher would like to get as much as we can to help our cause. Yesney updated on the Director's Order for the Marquette West Grade. DNR Chief Olson wanted a letter from Wildlife Division, but they don't want to put anything in writing. He's working to get something from Law Division. Fulsher expressed disappointment in process and not being able to control the grade. Discussion on what to do next to move along. **Johnson motioned that we write a letter to Director Creagh and explain our need for this order as soon as possible. Durant seconded motion. Durant inquired about the hierarchy within the DNR. Chief Olson is Chief of Parks and Recreation and Director's order is on his desk waiting for Law Enforcement and Wildlife.**

Director Creagh has final say on the LUOD. Vote and motion carried unanimously.

On the issue of the Humboldt reroute, maps were provided on reroute with profile information. Britton noted that the profile shows a 20% grade and that is way too much for most users. Design also shows 12' wide. Dave Keto and Britton went with John Meyer and tried to push the issue on the grade. Yesney needs to address this issue. Yesney, Britton and Thomas to meet tomorrow morning with John Meyer.

- B. Negaunee to Marquette Construction Updates – Nancy Helgren, our engineer with UPEA , had final walk thru with MDOT. In the meantime, the Northwoods Homeowners Association wanted us to look at their private road. They feel that there was damage due to Smith Paving working on trail. Helgren sent a letter to Smith Paving. Marklein, the on-site engineer, did not see the damage while he was working on the project. We have other issues on the trail. By R/R crossing, full size vehicle drove right over sign. They are coming off of Co. Rd. 480. Discussion on gates, fencing, etc. needed to control unwanted traffic. Johnson recommends we make an on sight decision on how to manage getting rid of full size vehicles. We have inherited the same issues as Pete O'Dovero had when he owned the property.
- C. Trail Opening Ribbon Cutting Review - Fulsher thanked the board for all their help with ribbon cutting.
- D. Grant Work Session - Thomas, Britton, Lajoie, and Fulsher met about various grants we could apply for. We chose several that match what we are trying to do. Discussed the Rio Tinto/Cleveland Cliffs Grant and our needs. **Hoffman motioned to submit for the Rio Tinto/Cleveland Cliffs grant, Pickens seconded motion. Vote and motion carries unanimously.**

VII. NEW BUSINESS

- A. Negaunee Request for Easement for Wastewater Pipe – A map is in the packet showing the route for a proposed City of Negaunee sewer line on our property behind the Negaunee Ice Arena. City of Negaunee has requested that their engineers have access to our property for surveying. **Britton motioned to allow the City of Negaunee's engineers to survey our property behind the Negaunee Ice Arena at this time per the map provided; Durant seconded the motion. Thomas discussed some concerns he had because of another project he had been involved with. IOHRA should make sure we have conditions in writing when it comes time to do the work. Vote and motion carries unanimously.**
- B. Snowmobile Trail Request – Britton who is a member of the Hiawatha Snowmobile club suggested a reroute on a portion of the snowmobile trail on our property by the railroad crossing. A map is provided in packet of current route and proposed new route. The groomer has a hard time making the 90 degree turn off of the railroad grade. Snowmobile Club wants to move more of their trail onto newly constructed trail south of the r/r crossing instead of making the sharp 90 degree turn as currently have. The reroute would head straight south across r/r tracks, would require the removal of barriers and then would turn west through a utility corridor before meeting up with snowmobile route. New route provides advantage to snowmobile club by providing an easier route for groomer. Disadvantage is that the ballards would have to be pulled out to accommodate the groomer and snowmobiles, the new route provides a new way for ATV's to have access to newly upgraded trail, and there's a culvert in the area and slopes in that area that are prone to washouts. Thomas suggested a different route that would provide the groomer with more room but would not go through the ballards. Britton noted that in order to get snowmobile monies, he has to have his requests in by June of each year; otherwise will not get funded through snowmobile trail monies. Discussion at pros and cons. Suggestion to have a trail work committee to tackle these issues. **Britton motioned to take Thomas's recommended route. Johnson seconded motion. Vote and motion carries unanimously.** Thomas to flag the route.

Durant motioned to extend meeting 20 minutes; Johnson seconded. Vote and motion carried.

C. Phase IV Work - Durant tabled issue until September meeting. Hoffman seconded motion. Vote and motion carried unanimously.

D. Marquette Marathon 2014 – Fulsher noted that the Marquette Marathon committee requested use of our trail for the 2014 marathon. Want to start at site of old Bell Hospital and travel route into Marquette. Yesney noted that when they use the State grade, they do need to get an event permit.

E. Bills to be paid – Fulsher noted that we have a cash flow issue. Marquette millage monies are coming in later than expected—they changed their due by date to September from August. The Cliffs check was made out to a different entity and therefore we could not cash that check. A new one is coming, and DNR Reimbursement #2 needed some back up materials from Road Commission before reimbursement. Therefore a few checks need to be held back until we get these funds. A list of bills was provided to board. **Johnson motioned to pay the bills as money comes in; Durant seconded motion. Recommend that we call MCRC to let them know about our cash flow. Vote and motion carries unanimously.**

VIII. REPORTS (Meetings/Seminars attended)/CORRESPONDENCE -Fulsher noted the Letter to Editor from Tom Leone that was very positive. Also noted that Thomas and Fulsher attended a meeting on the DNR Trust Fund and its future. Some suggestions included raising the cap on acquisitions and development grants to \$1B from the \$5M that it currently is. Also give grant reviewers latitude on acquisition vs development based on the requests—not on a set in stone percentage.

IX. BOARD COMMENT -

Reynolds – Had a pacemaker put in and feeling fine.

Johnson – IOHRA will have another Mining Journal article on Sunday extra section. Zac Jay spent two hours with Johnson on Republic's portion of trail and what Republic has already invested in. Durant –we occasionally have issues that come to us that should go to Executive Committee first so they can provide recommendations for the board; we seem to be taking up too much meeting time discussing things that either a work session could accomplish or the exec committee could sort through; perhaps the board could appoint working committees when these issues come before us. We also need to work more cooperatively with the snowmobile clubs. Need to conduct ourselves more professionally at board meetings and not single out board members with personal issues.

X. PUBLIC COMMENT – Koski agrees that we need to have board members provide written requests to have items put on the agenda.

XI. ADJOURNMENT – Pickens motioned to adjourn meeting at 6:20 pm. Durant seconded motion. Vote and motion carries unanimously.

NEXT MEETING DATE: WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 23, 4:30 PM, COUNTRY INN AND SUITES