



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

**IRON ORE HERITAGE RECREATION AUTHORITY
MINUTES OF OCTOBER 23, 2013
COUNTRY INN AND SUITES**

MINUTES

- I. WELCOME / ROLL CALL – Don Britton, Chocolay; Jeremy Pickens, Marquette; Lyn Durant, Marquette Township; Al Reynolds, Negaunee Township; Jim Thomas, Negaunee; Larry Bussone, Ishpeming; Dawn Hoffman, Tilden; Gary Johnson, Republic; Dotty Lajoie, Marquette County
Guests: Kathy Peters, Marquette Township Alternate; Bill Sanders, Sanders-Czapski; Jackie Koski, Humboldt Township
- II. PUBLIC COMMENT (Agenda Items – Limit to three minutes)
- III. CONSENT AGENDA – **Durant motioned to pull financials out and put under VI New Business D. Financials. Britton seconded motion. Vote and motion carried.**
 - A. Approval of Board Meeting Minutes of September 25 and Executive Meeting Minutes of October 7
- IV. APPROVAL OF AGENDA - **Durant motioned to accept agenda as amended. Johnson seconded motion. Vote and motion carried.**
- V. OLD BUSINESS
 - A. Director's Orders Marquette West Grade – Fulsher notified that Director's order was approved and Sheriff's department notified of the order. Sheriff's department can fine anyone who disobeys the order.
 - B. Lease on Greenwood and LS&I Grade/Humboldt Reroute – Fulsher noted that we are moving ahead with trying to get a director's order on this grade. This order would prohibit full size vehicles from the grade. Having the trail open to full size vehicles would affect our liability insurance and the safety of the trail so we should work to get the order established before opening the trail.
 - C. Administrator Contract – Thomas noted that a draft of the contract was sent with the meeting information. The executive committee met with Fulsher to review and felt that it was best to provide a 3-year contract which would extend from January 1, 2014 through December 31, 2016. Fulsher will go to full-time (a 40-hour work week) with a 3% increase in pay, two weeks of vacation. **Bussone motioned to approve contract as provided; Hoffman seconded motion. Vote and motioned carried unanimously.**
 - D. ATV Trail Plans – Thomas working with Ray Roberts in Ishpeming to get a trail from Winthrop Junction through Ishpeming. Maps in packet show new route through Ishpeming. Would take ATV's to old Washington Street, cross to south side of Pine Street and come up through on road. Cross back over Pine and follow Lower Pine into city of Ishpeming, cross Pine Street again and follow dirt trail behind UPEA offices to Greenwood Street (near the IOHRA trail at Greenwood). Cross Greenwood Street and follow Graham Street (one block street) before hitting snowmobile trail #8. Would cross Lakeshore behind Josephs Supermarket and parallel Hematite Drive. Parallels IOHRA from 3rd to 7th Street in Ishpeming and then splits at 7th Street and stays north while IOHRA goes south. ORV stays on snowmobile route and crosses IOHRA near Ishpeming's old landfill. In Negaunee, the ATV would follow current snowmobile trail, although the blue line on map shows an alternate route to avoid the steep hill. Trail comes out on Rail Street and goes south behind Negaunee Ice arena. Comes back out to County Road 480 east of Healey Avenue. Follows snowmobile route to r/r crossing. After crossing r/r, ATV's

continue to County Road 492 and follow the side of the Road to Eagle Mills area. Thomas and ATV subcommittee proposing IOHRA become the sponsor of this trail. As sponsor, we have to become DNR certified sponsor and then we become qualified for monies to put the trail in. We have to sign, brush and maintain. Trail permit increases are \$25 per year and \$10 to ride on trail system. Probably monies won't be available for this trail until 2015. **Durant motioned that the administrator start the process of becoming a DNR sponsor of this ORV route as outlined by Thomas and the maps from Winthrop Junction to Eagle Mills (492/35 intersection). Reynolds seconded motion.** Discussion on process. The trail would be submitted as proposed trail. DNR would then need to process and authorize us to be the sponsor and build the trail. Once authorized as grant sponsor, then allowed to accept funds to build trail. Volume of work discussion. Custodian/maintenance person may be needed. Will need additional volunteers. **Vote and motion carried unanimously.**

- E. Negaunee City Wastewater Route – The IORHA had provided an okay for the surveyors to go in to do survey work. Last week, the City requested that we meet with them to look at options for test drilling. Fulsher, Britton, and Thomas met with them and walked the route behind the ice arena. Discussed options and our requests. We asked that nothing be sticking up afterward and would want the eastern gate put back up and closed. The City will be providing us with easement language at some point. Test drilling will occur first. They will cut a swath through this area and it could serve as a trail in the future. It does not interfere with the current snowmobile trail.

VI. NEW BUSINESS

- A. 2014 Budget Draft – Fulsher noted that she has submitted a first draft of the 2014 budget. We are changing from a cash accounting system to accrual so she does need to go back and make some changes before presenting to board for approval. Discussed our newest grant funds of \$156K received from the Cliffs/Eagle Mills Community Fund. It is restricted funds to be used for the next phase construction and purchase of six kiosks for our trailheads. This does help with funds that we had committed for Phase IV. Fulsher will continue to work on draft in preparation of November meeting.
- B. 2014 Maintenance – Discussed the need for a work session to talk only about maintenance. Tentatively schedule for sometime in December. Britton noted that he had talked to Doug Gentz at Michigan Sales and asked for quote on equipment. Mr. Gentz decided to donate equipment to us in 2014 for our needs. We will provide them with letters for tax donation.
- C. Northwoods Land – Fulsher discussed the concerns of the private residences and their private road, Northwoods Lane. The homeowners association felt that the IOHRA was responsible for water pooling on their private road due to our construction project. Fulsher, Nancy Helgren, Thomas, and Britton have all been out at the area talking to the homeowners. Fulsher noted that after Helgren sent a letter to Smith Paving, they provided a quote for the homeowners to put in a culvert and catch basin on the road. Their quote has come down \$1000 since original quote. We discussed that we could put in a Swedish drain but that would cost us \$300. WE do not feel our project is the cause of their problems. Their road is substandard and has been patched. However, instead of putting in the Swedish drain, it might be best to offer them \$500 as a goodwill gesture. **Bussone motioned to provide \$500 as good will gesture but not admit any guilt and check with legal first. Johnson seconded motion. Vote and motion carried unanimously.**
- D. Financials – Fulsher went over new financials. She has been working with Mary Luttinen, an accountant who has helped us go from cash to accrual system. This means that we recognize the taxes received in 2013 even though we receive payments in 2014. We also recognize grants that way. Also set up restricted donations and grant. Fulsher will provide a cash flow analysis in November. Fulsher noted that our bills to be paid this month are \$222,670 with \$131K of it being construction. **Johnson voted to accept financials as presented and pay the bills as presented; Hoffman seconded the motion. Vote and motion carried.**

- VII. REPORTS (Meetings/Seminars attended)/CORRESPONDENCE -
Lajoie has been working with the equestrians and helping them with mapping potential trails in Ishpeming and Negaunee as well as out in Sands Township.
- VIII. BOARD COMMENT – Britton suggested we talk with Dan Torres about using Northwoods Supper Club parking lot for access to trail in Marquette Township.
Britton read the Free Press article about the woman who couldn't find the trail. Durant suggested we write a letter to the Free Press on our plans for signage. Fulsher noted that the signage committee did a drive through of entire trail and have seven pages of notes on trail signage needed..
Britton – Moose Country snowmobile club given money to build bridge across washout in Humboldt. It is a \$75K project.
Durant – Marquette Township putting a meeting together on Tuesday night discussing area wide truck route.
Thomas – Went to Humboldt area to see alternate trail through Humboldt. Trail will be on side of haul road and requires a barrier between haul road and trail.
Railroad crossing is now complete.
Rob Katona can meet next week on ATV paperwork.
- IX. PUBLIC COMMENT
- X. ADJOURNMENT
Durant motioned to adjourn meeting at 6 pm; Lajoie seconded motion. Vote and motion carried unanimously.

NEXT MEETING DATE: WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 18, 4:30 PM, COUNTRY INN AND SUITES