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

MINUTES

- I. ROLL CALL – Don Britton, Chocolay; Glenn Johnson, Marquette Township; Al Reynolds, Negaunee Township; Jim Thomas, Negaunee; Dawn Hoffman, Tilden Township; Gary Johnson, Republic Township; Dotty Lajoie, Marquette
Absent; Larry Bussone, Ishpeming; Jeremy Pickens, Marquette
- II. PUBLIC COMMENT (Agenda Items – Limit to three minutes) - No public comment
- III. CONSENT AGENDA – **Johnson (Gary) motioned to approve consent agenda as presented; Hoffman seconded. Vote and motion carried.**
- IV. APPROVAL OF AGENDA - **Britton motioned to approve agenda with addition of VI.F. New Business – Governor’s Trail added. Reynolds seconded motion. Vote and motion carried unanimously.**
- V. OLD BUSINESS
 - A. Phase IV – Tilden/Republic
 - i. State Lease Addendum for Greenwood and LS&I grades – **Reynolds motioned to sign the State’s Addendum to Lease providing Iron Ore Heritage Recreation Authority as local manager of the State owned corridors of the Greenwood, LS&I and Chocolay grades. Hoffman seconded the motion. Vote and motion carried.**
 - ii. Resolution to Sign DNR Trust Fund TF12-049 – **Johnson (Gary) motioned to approve and sign the Resolution to accept the DNR Trust Fund Grant TF12-049. Britton seconded the motion. Roll call vote: Hoffman, Reynolds, Britton, Thomas, Johnson (Gary), Johnson (Glenn) voted yes. Six yeses; 0 nos, 3 absent and excused.**
 - iii. Director’s order update – Britton, Thomas, Reynolds and Fulsher attended the February meeting at Humboldt Township. They discussed the Director’s order to restrict full size vehicles from the grades. The topic was tabled until March meeting. Thomas thanked Jackie Koski for her support.
 - B. ATV Trail Plans
 1. Railroad Crossing – Fulsher explained the correspondence we received from Wisconsin Central. They sent a new license to use the railroad crossing that included ATV crossing; however the license also subrogated all liability to the IOHRA. Our insurance company reviewed the language and felt that they could not cover the license with that language. In the meantime, while meeting with DNR representatives to discuss how to approach railroad, we reviewed our current license and process for getting crossing. We had to work with the State’s MDOT rail safety division to get the crossing so we sent them a letter requesting that the crossing include ATV vehicles. However, we learned that Rail Safety does not approve ATV nor snowmobile crossings of railroads. Therefore, we need to work directly with railroad. Discussed options on how to proceed and decided to have our insurance agent work with railroad on what it would take to write us a policy. Contact the insurance company and have their attorney work with railroad attorney. Fulsher discussed phasing the trail proposal so that we can get going with Ishpeming portion and therefore Phase I would be Winthrop Junction to Negaunee Ice Arena area where we could add a staging area. This will help us meet the May 1 proposal

deadline. Phase II will be from Arena area to Negaunee Township.

Discussed the Pepin/Dyno Nobel crossing, but that is a different scenario. When State worked with the exchange of property, the crossing was written in.

2. Loesel property – Loesel property is important to the trail in Ishpeming. He owns south of Section 16 pit. Thus far we cannot find the owner through tax record addresses. First letter came back. Second letter did not, but we received no phone call and we don't have phone numbers. Sent a Certified letter to last person who paid property tax, but it is at PO Box and has been sitting there since February 14. Johnson (Gary) suggested we contact a private investigator.

C. Events Policy – Fulsher noted to look in packet for events permit sample. Johnson (Glenn) noted that we should include a provision on providing safety and personnel at road crossings. **Britton moved to adopt trail use permit with additional language on personnel at road crossings; Johnson (Glenn) seconded. Vote and motion carried unanimously.** Also discussed a possible limit of events on trail from Negaunee to Marquette due to live railroad crossing.

D. Work Session Review – Fulsher went through the different priorities that we discussed at the work session Upgrading trail surfacing; adding trailhead facilities; working with municipalities on match funding for trailhead facilities. Johnson (Gary) said he would be very grateful for our help to get their Old Bank building up and running. Chocolay Township working on a Michigan Natural Resource Trust Fund grant for Lions Field trailhead. Deadline is April 1. Chocolay would be a bathroom facility and trail to IOHRA. Marquette Township also working on Trust Fund Grant for Schwemwood Park/Trailhead. Negaunee is looking at 2015 grant cycle. Discussion on how to approve and when monies would be available. Discussion on other communities and trailheads, specifically Cliffs Shaft, and discussion on what constitutes a trailhead. Decided that trailheads need restrooms, parking, signage, connection to trail. IOHRA would like to see the proposals and have opportunity to approve the project.

Johnson (Gary) motioned to authorize the matching grant process for the trailhead facilities. Hoffman seconded motion. Vote and motion carries unanimously.

Discussed benches on trail. Fulsher contacted Boy Scouts that we would like to have more benches for the trail. Boy Scouts responded that they would forward that information on to interested scouts. Each scout gets to decide his project. Lajoie will talk to Al Feldhauser who works with Eagle Scouts to see if any of them are interested.

VI. NEW BUSINESS

- A. DNR Trust Fund Grant for Signage – Discussion on 30 days. Fulsher to contact Mining Journal asap to give hearing.
- B. Proposed Executive Committee Change in By-laws: Language included in packet. Would need to vote in April 23.
- C. 2014 Map and Promotion – Fulsher notified that 10,000 maps are on order. Advertisers came in again and their advertising dollars will cover the cost of printing.
- D. Signage Plans for 2014 – Directional signs and interpretive sign discussions.
- E. Wheel and Sprocket Bike Expo April 4-6 Milwaukee – Fulsher notified board that the Marquette County CVB is sponsoring a booth and she was asked to man the booth and promote the Heritage Trail.
- F. Governor's Trail – Fulsher notified board of her conversation and request by Jim Radabaugh, State Trails Coordinator, to work on possible routes for Governor's Trail through the Upper Peninsula. **Johnson (Gary) motioned to authorize Fulsher to work on this project; Reynolds seconded. Vote and motion carried unanimously.** Discussion on what the IOHRA could receive in return if we became part of the Governor's Trail. Discussion on how we should get involved for the trail to come through Marquette County. Fulsher to work with Lajoie on resolution language for County board.

15 minute extension – **Britton motioned to extend meeting by 15 minutes to 6:15 Hoffman seconded motion. Vote and motion carried unanimously.**

- VII. ADMINISTRATOR REPORT - Fulsher noted that the Recreational Authority Ad Hoc Committee will be presenting their draft report to the Marquette City Commission on March 6 at 5:15 Room 103 of Marquette City Hall. Fulsher noted that our Articles and the millage bind us with a specific purpose and we should be careful about changing that. There are people in the community who think that this group can roll into ours, but our purpose is to build, manage, and maintain the Iron Ore Heritage Trail.
Britton noted that this is a feasibility study and the three municipalities would have to vote to become an Authority just as we had.
Fulsher also noted that she is working to set up a saving account for us to earn some interest on. Right now we have a no interest checking account. Interest rate is .15%
- VIII. BOARD COMMENT
- IX. Hoffman noted that May 21 is the date Aspen Ridge School family night. Fulsher noted that we should promote the ATV trail.
- X. PUBLIC COMMENT
- XI. ADJOURNMENT - **Britton motioned to adjourn meeting at 6:15 pm. Hoffman seconded. Vote and motion carried.**

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