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## IRON ORE HERITAGE RECREATION AUTHORITY MINUTES OF THURSDAY, MARCH 26

### MINUTES

- I. ROLL CALL – Don Britton, Chocolay; Jeremy Pickens, Marquette; Glenn Johnson, Marquette Township; Al Reynolds, Negaunee Township; Jim Thomas, Negaunee; Dawn Hoffman, Tilden Township; Dotty Lajoie, Marquette County  
Absent: Gary Johnson, Larry Bussone  
Staff: Carol Fulsher  
  
Guests: Kathy Peters, Marquette Township; Ron Yesney, DNR; Joni Gleason, Heritage Hills, Jackie Koski, Humboldt Twp
- II. PUBLIC HEARING – Chairman Thomas opened the public hearing. Fulsher noted that we are applying for a Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund Grant for Signage along the section of trail from Negaunee to Marquette. We are asking for \$22,000 grant and committing \$8400 of our funds to the project while Sanders-Czapski is providing in-kind engineering of \$3400. Peters noted this is a good project and we have lots of opportunities for interpretation. Reynolds also echoed that comment and felt we have many natural resource based interpretive needs along this section. Chairman Thomas closed the public hearing.  
**Hoffman motioned to sign the resolution in support of applying for the Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund Grant; Reynolds seconded motion.** Discussion included spreading the signage out along the 12 miles. Great opportunities of natural resource based interpretation with the wetlands, Carp River, quarries, rock bluffs, and mine sites. Roll call was taken.  
**Roll Call – 7 ayes, no nays. Motion carries unanimously.**
- III. PUBLIC COMMENT ( Agenda Items – Limit to three minutes) -  
Joni Gleason noted she does have a grant for signage for the trail portion open to equestrians west of Ishpeming. Need to find how many we should put on trail. Brown signs that show equestrians and yield to signs. Also need some directional signage on how to interact with horses on the trail..
- IV. CONSENT AGENDA – Pickens moved to approve consent agenda; Hoffman seconded motion. Vote and motion carried unanimously.
- V. APPROVAL OF AGENDA – Britton motioned to approve agenda with addition of 7H – trail parcel from Heritage Trail. Reynolds seconded motion. Vote and motion carried unanimously.
- VI. OLD BUSINESS
  - A. Phase IV – Tilden/Republic
    - i. Plan for development update – Fulsher to contact Bill Sanders next week to get an update on project. Trust Fund grant was signed and returned to us so work can commence. She believed that Sanders was going to add some platforms at river. Still looking to have construction this summer on the five mile portion.
    - ii. Director’s order update – Fulsher noted that she and Yesney had discussed the needs for the Director’s order. Yesney noted that what he is running into is that eliminating full size vehicles is an impediment to hunting and therefore we need letters from Ruffed Grouse Society or Whitetails Society. Britton noted that Humboldt Township did not support the Director’s order. Britton motioned that we apply for Director’s order from Winthrop Junction to Co. Rd. 601 at this time. Hoffman seconded motion. Yesney noted that the LS&I grade has more CFA land around it that people use to hunt on. We also did get push back from Moose Country on the LS&I grade. Fulsher noted the dichotomy

of the State in pursuing trails as a priority yet keeping trails as forest roads rather than trails. Vote and motion carries unanimously.

B. ATV Trail Plans

Thomas has been working with Rob Katona on pursuing costs on two different routes through Ishpeming. First route follows the Heritage Trail from Winthrop Junction to Greenwood Street. Second route goes south from Winthrop Junction and parallels Pine Street. Ray Roberts has updated the planning commission and they prefer Option One. Maps and prices are in packet and board will discuss at April meeting.

C. Events Policy - Fulsher noted that we had approved an "Events Policy" at the last meeting with the addition of event planners providing for road crossings. Fulsher noted that she was also concerned that event organizers may think the IOHRA owns all of the trail and we do not. Event organizers will have to work with State and cities of Ishpeming, Negaunee and Marquette and she felt that language should be added to note that. Discussion on time to get permit in place at State level. We should also make sure they apply 60 days in advance for permit process:

D. Trailhead Proposals

- i. Interlocal Agreement with Chocolay Township (and Republic Township) – Britton motioned to approve the interlocal agreements with Chocolay and Republic Townships that the IOHRA would maintain the kiosks and signage at the trailheads; Lajoie seconded motion. Vote and motion carried unanimously. Fulsher noted that we also offered letters of commitment of cash matches of \$25,000 to each of these municipalities should their grants be successful.
- ii. Marquette Township – We offered a letter of commitment for cash match of \$25,000 for their grant.
- iii. Negaunee – Negaunee did not apply for Trust Fund Grant or other grant at this time. Looking at 2015 application.

E. Trust Fund Grant Resolution. – Moved to Public Hearing (above).

VII. NEW BUSINESS

A. Board Appointment for 2014 – Thomas and Bussone were both reappointed to the board for three years.

B. Officer Elections for April – Nominations opened. Pickens motioned to nominate Jim Thomas as chair, Glenn Johnson seconded motion. Vote and motion carried. Lajoie nominated Britton for vice chair/secretary. Hoffman seconded motion. Vote and motion carried unanimously. Reynolds motioned to nominate Johnson (Glenn) as Treasurer; Britton seconded motion. Vote and motion carried.

C. Proposed Executive Committee Change in By-laws – Language for by-law change in your board packet. Board will vote on at annual meeting in April.

D. Recreation Authority Ad Hoc Committee Draft Feasibility Study – Fulsher noted that she had sent the draft feasibility study to the board members for review. Included in packet is the information that references our Recreation Authority. The Ad Hoc Recreation Authority made up of citizens of Marquette City, Marquette Township, and Chocolay Township made a presentation to the Marquette City Commission approximately three weeks ago. Commissioner Stonehouse felt that the IOHRA should not be in the study. Britton (who also serves on the Ad Hoc committee) and had just come from a meeting asked that we respond to the Ad Hoc committee on what we want. Discussion ensued on the draft study and the language specifically concerning the IOHRA. Pickens motioned that the IOHRA not be part of this other recreation authority at this time and direct Fulsher to write a letter to them stating this. Lajoie seconded motion. Discussion on what projects we still have to do for the Heritage Trail. We are flattered with the positive comments on our Authority but we have lots of interpretive work, trail work, trailhead work, plus maintenance to consider. Vote and motion carries unanimously.

E. Governor's Trail – Fulsher is collecting information from Planning organizations, North Country Trail, Forest Service looking for "unfiltered" possible routes for the trail through the Upper Peninsula. She did speak to Rep. Kivela about the need for resolutions and he felt they weren't necessary. She has until end of April to collect this information. Questions on whether we would retain our autonomy if we were a part of the larger trail. What routes do bikers use now when they cross the U.P.

- F. Senate Bills on Pure Michigan Trails and Trail Towns – Fulsher noted that there are several bills in the Senate right now in regards to Pure Michigan Trail designations, Pure Michigan Trail Towns, and renaming the Michigan Snowmobile and Trails Advisory Committee to the Michigan Trails Advisory Committee. Information in packet. We will follow these bills as they could be important to us.
- G. NMPA Collaborative Approach to Parks, Recreation, Natural Resources – The Northern Michigan Public Service Academy offering seminar on collaborative approach to Parks, Recreation, Natural Resources on April 10 at Lakeview Arena. IOHRA will pay for members who want to attend. Please fill out by April 4 and get to Fulsher.
- H. Trail connector – Yesney noted that the DNR has been approached by Bob Taylor about swapping a strip of land that follows the pole line in Marquette Township from the Heritage Trail to U.S. 41 by Best Buy and across U.S. 41 and that the snowmobile trail uses as a route to Big Bay. He asked if the Recreation Authority would be supportive and sees a value of the DNR owning this strip. Discussion on the importance of the connector as the current snowmobile trail and that there isn't another route right now. **Britton motioned to support the potential land swap between DNR and Taylor. Reynold seconded motion. Vote and motion carries unanimously.**

VIII. ADMINISTRATOR REPORT –

Fulsher noted that the Marquette Rotary is going to adopt three miles of trail. She has suggested signage on the trail that would allow for organizations to adopt a mile and promote them. Pickens suggested we develop a policy on what it means to “adopt a mile”. Fulsher will research how other trails use volunteers to keep trails clean.

Fulsher also noted that the MSHS environmental group has approached her about helping to plant beach grass behind Welcome Center.

Fulsher also noted that she has been working with several companies on bidding on the directional signage for the trail. She noted that Mike Lempinen provided some drawings for the signs needed (approximately 21 posts and 50 sleeves). U.P. Fab and Signs Now have provided bids thus far but they are very different because of different materials used. She will bring information to next meeting.

- IX. BOARD COMMENT – Hoffman wants access to pine cones by mid-May for Aspen Ridge. Thomas talked to LS&I to coordinate picking up 30 sticks of rail by Smith's property. Rick Kauppila of U.P. Fab will provide a flat bed truck for loading. Once the snow goes, we'll get a truck up there to get the rail. U.P. Fab needs rail for our kiosk order.
- X. PUBLIC COMMENT –No public comment.
- XI. ADJOURNMENT Britton motioned to adjourn meeting at 6 pm. Hoffman seconded motion. Vote and motion carried unanimously.

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