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IRON ORE HERITAGE RECREATION AUTHORITY

APPROVED MINUTES of SEPTEMBER 24, 2014

- I. ROLL CALL – Don Britton, Chocolay Township; Glenn Johnson, Marquette Township; Al Reynolds, Negaunee Township; Jim Thomas, Negaunee; Larry Bussone, Ishpeming; Dawn Hoffman, Tilden Township; Gary Johnson, Republic; Dotty LaJoye, Marquette County
Absent: Jeremy Pickens
Staff: Carol Fulsher
Guest: Todd Poquette
- II. PUBLIC COMMENT (Agenda Items – Limit to three minutes) - No Comment
- III. PRESENTATION – Snow Bike Event – Todd Poquette, NTN/906 Adventures – Presentation on snow bike event they want to host on parts of our trail on Saturday, February 21. The race would begin on Main Street in Ishpeming then use our non-motorized trail from Ishpeming to Negaunee; then on snowmobile portion trail from Negaunee to 492/35 and continue on Heritage trail (dnr owned) to Holiday Inn. They will cap at 250 bikers. Also would use the single track fat bike trails in Ishpeming and Marquette. Will be part of a Fat Tire bike series in Michigan and Wisconsin. Sweep crew will go through. Researching waivers from other fat tire races. Reynolds suggested ham radio operators.
- IV. APPROVAL OF AGENDA – **Hoffman motioned to accept agenda as presented; Britton seconded motion. Vote and motion carried unanimously.**
- V. FINANCIALS
 - A. 2011, 2012, and 2013 Audits – Johnson (Glenn) motioned to accept the audits of 2011, 2012 and 2013. Hoffman seconded motion. Vote and motion carried unanimously.
 - B. 2014 2nd Budget Amendment - - Johnson (Glenn) motioned to accept the second budget amendment of 2014. **Britton seconded motion. Fulsher noted that this amendment addresses the changes in taxable income as unearned income in year billed but revenue the following year. Also, moved all expenses and DNR reimbursements (except for engineering charges) associated with Republic/Tilden project to 2015. Vote and motion carried unanimously.**
 - C. August Financials – Fulsher reviewed the balance sheet, profit/loss, budget v actual, general ledger. **Hoffman motioned to accept financials as presented; Bussone seconded motion. Vote and motion carried unanimously.**
 - D. September Bills to Be Paid –Fulsher presented September bills to be paid totaling \$23,547. Includes \$14,000 in Engineering for Tilden/Republic project; **Bussone motioned to pay bills as presented; Reynolds seconded motion. Vote and motion carried unanimously.**
- VI. OLD BUSINESS
 - A. Phase IV – Tilden/Republic
 1. Bruce Creek Bridge Repair – Fulsher noted that we received three bids. Smith Paving was low bid. **LaJoye motioned to allow Fulsher to go ahead with insurance and hire low bidder. Reynolds seconded motion.** Johnson asked about rubber mat on bridge. Fulsher noted that was part of the Tilden/Republic project bid and not the bridge repair bid. **Vote and motion carries 6 to 0 with Britton abstaining.**
 2. Republic Plans and Bid – Republic bid has been sent to companies. An ad will be in Monday's Mining Journal. A walk through with interested bidders is planned for Thursday, October 9 at 1 pm meeting at Republic Township Hall. Sealed bids are due on October 21.

3. Tilden Plans – Tilden Plans not ready yet. **LaJoye motioned to move bidding to spring 2015; Johnson seconded motion. Vote and motion carried unanimously.**

B. Maintenance and Installations

a. General maintenance issues – Will start with Executive Board next month during budgeting process; all the general items that will continue to come up in maintenance. We do have a list of items that have been done; who has done it; and how many hours.

b. Chocoy Bridges/Harvey beach area - Bridges still waiting for paving. Fulsher will follow up with DNR.

c. Directional signage installations – One out of 23 posts done now has the directional signage on it. Thomas setting up work bees once the remainder of the sleeves have been delivered.

d. Ishpeming/Negaunee Paving – This maintenance project has been finalized.

e. Section 16 pit area – Thomas noted that the beaver are still active in that area and the water is getting very high and washing into the blacktop. Bigger aggregate next to water and smaller aggregate near trail and filter cloth. Johnson suggested getting a beaver trapper as well. \$20 to \$25 per tail. Thomas and Fulsher will talk to Jon Kangas of Ishpeming DPW to see if they can help.

D. Non-motorized Trail Workshop Review – MDOT, DNR, and Michigan Travel Commission were in attendance at non-motorized trail workshop. Thomas and Fulsher provided a tour of parts of the trail as well as Fulsher presenting on our project. We were showcased as one of the “best practice” trails. We did not have our directional signage up yet though and attendees were asking about them.

F. Michigan Council for Arts and Cultural Affairs Grant – Fulsher wants to request \$12,500 for the pellet pavilion project. Will issue an RFP to artists to come up with a creative way to interpret the pelletizing or transportation of pellets while solving the problem of keeping pellets off the trail. We will have to match the \$12,500 if we are successful in grant writing. **Johnson (Gary) motioned to approve the application. Johnson (Glenn) seconded motion. Vote and motion carried unanimously.**

G. Audit Contract - \$4500 per year to Anderson, Tackman. Fulsher will call Anderson, Tackman to get a price for a three year contract.

VII. NEW BUSINESS

A. Wisconsin Bike Summit – Fulsher noted that Keith Laughlin of Rails to Trails will be at Wisconsin Bike Summit along with other speakers who are important to trail project. Would like to attend. **Johnson (Gary) motioned to send Fulsher to Summit; Lajoye seconded motion. Vote and motion carried unanimously.**

B. Budget 2015 – Fulsher noted that she will prepare a first draft and provide to Executive Committee first. Hopes to have final draft in front of Board by November meeting.

C. Events – The Board discussed the 906 Fat Tire Race and will sign the trail use permit with the understanding that Mr. Poquette gets permission from DNR and has to have a safety plan for DNR. LaJoye also suggested we have a one year permit to evaluate. Also discussed need to have signs that a special event is going on and to have signs at Holiday Inn to notify snowmobilers of special event. Fulsher will also notify Mr. Poquette of CN train crossing.

D. Adopt a Trail – Rotary Club of Marquette adopted from Holiday Inn to Negaunee Twp/Mqt Twp line and will begin this year with blowing leaves off of trail and trimming work in late October.

VIII. ADMINISTRATOR REPORT –Fulsher noted that our DNR Trust Fund grant for additional signage scored 280 out of 520. She will work on two items to get score up: a marketing plan and a letter of support from Superior Alliance of Independent Living. Johnson’s noted that their Republic Bank trailhead grant came in at 270 but think they can get to 360. We believe that the Lions Field trailhead grant score came in high but don’t have their score.

IX. BOARD COMMENT

Britton – U.S. Fish and Wildlife looking for funding to help us with Welcome Center sand issue.

Thomas – Volunteer forms needed for volunteers.

LS&I is donating more rail to us.

He is drawing up plans to retool the bollards and make into gates. Negaunee High School will make

some of the gates for us if we supply the products. Will keep a 40" or so opening to help get bikers through safer.

X. PUBLIC COMMENT – No public comment

XI. ADJOURNMENT

Britton motioned to adjourn at 6:00. Reynolds seconded motion. Vote and motion carried.

NEXT MEETING DATE: OCTOBER 22, 2014, COUNTRY INN AND SUITES