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**IRON ORE HERITAGE RECREATION AUTHORITY**

**APPROVED MINUTES OF WEDNESDAY,MARCH 25, 2015 4:30 PM**

1. ROLL CALL – Glenn Johnson, Marquette Township; Al Reynolds, Negaunee Township; Jim Thomas, Negaunee; Dawn Hoffman, Tilden Township; Gary Johnson, Republic Township; Dotty Lajoye, Marquette County;   
   Absent: Don Britton, Chocolay; Larry Bussone, Ishpeming; Jeremy Pickens, Marquette  
   Staff: Carol Fulsher  
   Guests: Mike Lempinen, Mike Springer, Steve Johnson, Dave Keto, Tom St. Aubin
2. PUBLIC HEARING on submission of 2014 Recreation Passport Grant application for IOHT Trail Head Amenities – Mike Springer, Mqt Twp Recreation Committee. Supportive of the passport grant and amenities.
3. PUBLIC COMMENT ( Agenda Items – Limit to three minutes) -
4. APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA - Hoffman motioned to approve consent agenda; Gary Johnson supported. Vote and motion carried unanimously. Consent agenda included minutes of February 25, February balance sheet, profit and loss statement and budget v actual for January and February plus March bills to be paid totaling $6128.
5. APPROVE OF AGENDA – Reynolds motioned to approve agenda as presented. Glenn Johnson seconded motion. Vote and motion carries unanimously.
6. OLD BUSINESS
   1. Phase IV – Tilden/Republic  
      1. Director’s Order - Fulsher reviewed the timeline of the requested Directors Order. In June of 2011, the Ishpeming to Republic ORV route was tentatively approved by State with conditions: A Director’s order was needed to restrict full size ORV’s. The North Country Riders were going to be the ORV sponsor. They have since pulled out. The IOHRA requested the Director’s Order last year since we have the lease with the State. We have support from Tilden Township, Ely Township, North Country Riders and others. The Greenwood Grade is not wide enough to have full size vehicles plus be an ORV 65” or less trail plus non-motorized. The D.O. was on the March agenda of Natural Resource Commission as information only and will be resolved at following NRC meeting. Then we can submit an ORV application for monies to maintain and sign the route.   
      2. Republic Plans and Bid - Weubben Construction has signed the contract and we are waiting for weather to begin construction in Republic. Still need to get plans for Tilden project.  
      3. ORV Route and Updates - Still working on trail through Ishpeming. We have a proposed route south of Ishpeming through Cliffs land and one private property owner.
   2. Grant Updates  
      1. ArtPlace America – The Artplace America grant was submitted on March 13. The grant is for $350,000 to help with three trail head projects provide better access to business centers.   
      2. 2015 Recreation Passport Resolution – GaryJohnson motions to approve and sign the resolution requesting $16,800 from the Recreation Passport Grant and provide $10,000 in matching funds for total of $26,800 to provide for custom IOHT bike racks, benches, and bike fixing stations at four trailheads where we have a lease with State. Lajoye seconded the motion. Vote and roll call taken. Vote carried with six ayes, zero nays, and three absents.   
        
      3. MCACA Pellet Pavilion – We received two proposals for the artwork/pellet protector. Thomas, Reynolds and Lajoye will be subcommittee to review the proposals and award the bid.   
      4. 2014 MI Natural Resource Trust Fund – The Governor has approved the expenditures for DNR Trust Fund and we should be getting contract shortly. Fulsher noted that she did not budget monies for this year, but for 2016 for the grant. We do have two years to finalize after contract signed.
   3. Office Space – The IOHT will be moving into office space on April 1 at 102 W. Washington Street, Suite 232. The rent is reasonable and the space will work very nicely for us. We have signed a one year lease for the space and we will need to hook up internet.
7. NEW BUSINES
   1. Millage Renewal – Fulsher noted that she will work on a timeline to work up towards millage renewal request in August 2016. We need to get work done in Tilden and Republic first.
   2. 2014 Audit – The 2014 draft audit is done. We had a positive direction in net position from $1.9 million in 2013 to $2.1 million in 2014.
   3. Executive Board Ballot – Hoffman motioned to provide ballot of executive board for Annual Meeting as follows: Jim Thomas, Chair; Don Britton, Vice Chair/Secretary; Glenn Johnson, Treasurer, and Al Reynolds, Member at large. Johnson Glenn seconded the motion. Vote and motion carried unanimously.
   4. Cliffs Natural Resource Meeting – Thomas noted that Fulsher, Thomas, and Rob Katona from DNR met with Gabe Johnson, land manager and E.J. Kutchie, Public Relations at Cliffs to discuss ORV routes through Cliffs land south of Ishpeming. Johnson wants to look at route when snow leaves to see how close it comes to operations. He also suggested that we work on an inclusive map with all trail managers who use Cliffs land and he will look at providing a blanket easement. DNR will take the lead.
   5. Next Board Meeting Change to April 29 – Fulsher noted that she may be in Lansing the week of our next board meeting attending a bike trail strategic plan meeting. She requested we move the Annual meeting back one week. Hoffman motioned to move Annual meeting from April 22 to April 29.
8. BOARD COMMENT – Reynolds noted that he, Thomas and Fulsher attended an ORV meeting on Saturday for trail managers. Opportunity to learn how to submit proposals, maintain trails and sign them.   
   Hoffman noted that Aspen Ridge Family Night is May 20  
   Johnson, Gary noted that Republic Township put in a formal application to Cliffs to acquire the Wetlands .  
   Johnson, Glenn – Range Bank has office equipment for us to look at for new office.

Jim Thomas noted the recent Mining Journal article on the grants given to projects associated with the Iron Ore Heritage Trail.

1. PUBLIC COMMENT

Dave Keto and Tom St. Aubin spoked on behalf of Moose Country Snowmobile Club and wanted to know about restrictions and gates associated with the Land Use Order. Discussion ensued on grades and bridges bought with snowmobile monies and Trust Fund monies. How will the restrictions hurt the Moose Country snowmobile Club. They do want the corridor opened up to ORV’s. Discussion on hunting as well. The LUOD would prohibit hunting from the grade which is mostly surrounded by private property. Better communication between the two entities is needed.

The gates will be placed to allow side by sides access to the corridor and will be open for snowmobile season. We will make sure they are placed so that the groomer has room in the winter season.   
A group called the West End Wheelers with 8-12 people can be called upon for volunteers to help with ORV maintenance and signage.

1. ADJOURNMENT – Hoffman motioned to adjourn meeting at 5:55 pm. Gary Johnson seconded. Vote and motion carried.

*NEXT MEETING DATE: MAY 27, 2015, COUNTRY INN AND SUITES*