



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

## IRON ORE HERITAGE RECREATION AUTHORITY

### DRAFT MINUTES OF MAY 27, 2015

- I. ROLL CALL – Don Britton, Chocolay; Jeremy Pickens, Marquette; Glenn Johnson, Marquette Township; Al Reynolds, Negaunee Township; Jim Thomas, Negaunee; Larry Bussone, Ishpeming; Dawn Hoffman, Tilden Township; Dotty Lajoie, Marquette County  
Excused Absence: Gary Johnson, Republic  
Guests: Eric Walters, Jackie Koski, Mike Lempinen, Mike Springer, Ron Yesney  
Staff: Carol Fulsher
- II. PUBLIC COMMENT ( Agenda Items – Limit to three minutes) – No Public Comment
- III. APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA - Bussone motioned to approve the consent agenda including April 22 board meeting minutes, April Balance Sheet, Profit and Loss, and Budget v Actual plus May bills to be paid totaling \$43,574. Hoffman seconded motion. Vote and motion carried unanimously.
- IV. APPROVAL OF AGENDA – Bussone motioned to approve agenda as presented; Reynolds seconded motion. Vote and motion carried unanimously.
- V. Iron Range Roll Presentation – Eric Walters from 40 Below and Mike Springer gave presentation on Iron Range Roll taking place on Heritage Trail on Nationals Trails Day, June 6. The event raises funds for YMCA Reach and Rise Program. Starts at 1pm. Bike, run and relay event that begins at Cliffs Shaft in Ishpeming and uses trail to finish line at Marquette Commons. All their paperwork is in and insurance is secured.
- VI. Phase IV – Tilden/Republic
  - A. ORV Signing, Grading –Katona from DNR is soliciting proposals for grading the Greenwood Grade and there was a bidder so the grade will get graded this spring/summer. Our volunteers going on Thursday, May 28 to install ORV confidence markers, Director’s Orders signs and the “Rule Signs” for multi-use trail users.
  - B. Republic Construction - Wuebben Construction has begun the project in Republic. They have submitted their first invoice. They are working near School Lake first.
  - C Tilden Construction Plan – Tilden timeline is in packet. The bid plans are being sent to DNR Trust Fund Grant Reviewer for approval and then we will begin bidding process.
  - D. Private Property needs: Barbieri, Pepin, Ogea – Fulsher explained that several property owners used the Greenwood Grade to access their property while it was considered a forest road. Now that we have the Director’s Order limiting full size vehicles, these property owners can get permitted through the DNR. We need to work on the language for that permitting. Meanwhile, we are working with property owners and DNR to find permanent access without using the Greenwood Grade. Barbieri wants to live out there which develops a whole other issue with permanent access to his property. He wants formal permission and ability to plow and get a fire number. Bussone noted that Barbieri has access into his property from another route. Pepin is only one that doesn’t have access to his property and neither does Cleveland Cliffs (who has perpetual easement). If we can get railroad spur to get to their property (Ogea property is now Rene Rogers), Rogers would

need to give easement to get through their property. Bussone will try to pursue access through this railroad spur. Looks doable and then would just be a crossing on trail. Railroad spur 100 feet wide and title needs to be researched. Plum Creek owned property before Barbieri. Cliffs eligible for easement--Barbieri is not because he has other access. DNR land person, Darryl, now has all the research papers for railroad spur and looking through it. Our goal is to provide language for DNR to permit Cliffs, Pepin, Rogers, and Barbieri access along the Greenwood Grade until there is a long term legal access to their property. Give them permit until November 1 and no plowing. State needs to get ownership of that spur track. State paying pilt but that does not mean they have ownership.

Pickens questioned if we have to have language now and could we table for a month and come up with language so that we could vote on specific language. Issue was tabled until June meeting while IOHRA and DNR come up with permitting language.

#### E. Grant Updates

1. ArtPlace America – We are still waiting for word on this \$350,000 grant. Should hear in June.

2. 2015 Recreation Passport - We needed to get better boundary maps for our grant reviewer.

We were able to submit within timeline and now grant is in review process.

3. MCACA Pellet Pavilion Proposal Awarded – Project awarded to Mike Lempinen. We received a \$6000 deposit from MCACA.

4. 2014 MI Natural Resource Trust Fund - Contract signed for 10-12 interpretive signs, but budgeted for 2016

#### F. Maintenance Schedule

1. Gates – Posts have been replaced with the gates. Gates have been painted with safety yellow. We will review to see if another coat is needed prior to putting up safety tape as well. Fulsher notified that she received an email this past weekend that a mother and child had difficulty getting through the gates and that the eight year old daughter hit the gate and fell. She wondered if we could open the gate. Currently there is a 31” opening between gates. IF we opened one side, it would be enough to allow vehicles and ORV’s through which is why we put up gate. Board discussed issue. If we get more complaints, we could make gate opening 4” wider. Will keep closed as is now and monitor the situation.

2. Panels – Four panels are ready to go up on several kiosks. Another four Republic kiosk panels are almost done so those should be ready late summer.

3. Clean up Schools – Ishpeming High School approached us about dedicating an afternoon to cleaning, brushing, sweeping, planting along Heritage Trail. It is Mr. McFarren’s woods class who is leader. We have decided that they can pull garlic mustard between 3<sup>rd</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup>, can fix the fence between 3<sup>rd</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup>, sweep the trail and brush out the roundhouse, and fix a bench that was damaged. This will happen on May 29. City of Ishpeming will pick up the brush and trash on Monday.

4. Mowing Bid – Mowing Bid went out yesterday from Carp River bridge to Kawbawgam Road. It went to five businesses.

### VII. NEW BUSINESS

A. UPPCO Towers – UPPCO getting rid of towers between Ishpeming and Negaunee. We have asked to have two donated for possible head frame in future for entrance into Negaunee Trail Head. We could store at Howard Oil.

#### B. Marketing

1. Maps – 1000 additional maps are getting printed and the CVB is picking up the tab this year.

2. Michigan Trails Magazine – This magazine is including the Upper Peninsula this year for the first time. The IOHT made the cover and has a nice article inside.

3. Highway Signage - - Fulsher working with DNR and MDOT to get highway signage directing highway traffic to trailheads. MDOT has approved signage for Republic, Michigan Iron Industry Museum, and Welcome Center. Once the trail connections have been made at Lions Field and

Schwemwood, we can get those highway signs up as well.

VIII. BOARD COMMENT -

Thomas – May has been a busy month with posts and gates going up at all intersections where bollards used to be, painting the gates, and signing the Greenwood Grade for ORV, plus the Greenwood Grade ribbon cutting. Should taper off soon.

IX. PUBLIC COMMENT - No public comment.

X. ADJOURNMENT – Britton motioned to adjourn meeting at 5:30 pm; Pickens seconded. Vote and motion carried unanimously.

*NEXT MEETING DATE: JULY 22, 2015, COUNTRY INN AND SUITES*