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## IRON ORE HERITAGE RECREATION AUTHORITY

### DRAFT MINUTES OF JUNE 24, 2015 BOARD MEETING

- I. ROLL CALL – Glenn Johnson, Marquette Township; Al Reynolds, Negaunee township; Jim Thomas, Negaunee; Larry Bussone, Ishpeming; Dawn Hoffman, Tilden township; Dotty LaJoye, Marquette County  
Excused Absence: Don Britton, Chocolay; Jeremy Pickens, Marquette; Gary Johnson, Republic  
Guests: Jackie Koski, Kathy Peters, Marquette Township Alternate  
Staff: Carol Fulsher
- II. PUBLIC COMMENT ( Agenda Items – Limit to three minutes) – No public comment.
- III. APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA - Hoffman motioned to approve consent agenda as presented. Reynolds Seconded motion. Items included May 27 board meeting minutes; May Balance Sheet, May Profit/Loss Statement, May Actual v Budget, and May's General Ledger. Also approved to pay June bills in amount of \$133,623. Vote and motion carried unanimously.
- IV. APPROVAL OF AGENDA – Bussone motioned to approve agenda as presented; Johnson (Glenn) seconded. Vote and motion carries unanimously.
- V. OLD BUSINESS
  - A. Phase IV – Tilden/Republic
    - 1.. ORV Signing, Grading – ORV Signing is done with many volunteers over several days. Grading has been awarded by DNR but has not begun yet.
    - 2.. Republic Construction – Approx. 75% is done. There was a problem near the School Lake with the trail being only 10 feet when it needed to be 14' for snowmobile. Wuebben is going to be fixing this area.
    3. Tilden Construction Plan – A pre-bidders meeting will take place on Tuesday, June 30 at 1 pm. Meet at Winthrop Junction and will travel through to look at trail construction needs with potential bidders. Bids are due in IOHRA office by July 15 with project completion by September 30.
    4. LS&I grade washout – Humboldt – Extensive washouts on the LS&I grade in Humboldt Township. A beaver dam broke and then a series of damns broke after it near Tower Lake. Ron Yesney working with DEQ to see how they want the area repaired. A detour has been set up bringing trail users on County Roads around this section. We will wait to see what DEQ recommends in that area.
  - B. Greenwood Grade, DNR PERMIT language – Permit language was included in the board packet. This permit language is intended to provide three landowners short term vehicle access to their lands via the Greenwood Grade while a permanent solution is found. The Director's Order on this grade prohibits the use of full size vehicles unless permitted by the DNR. Bussone had talked to Rogers (one of the landowners) who was okay with permitting access through his land. Bussone working on the railroad grade off U.S. 41 but still needs his boss, Gabe Johnson, to catch up with it. Working with Darryl and Roger Storm from Real Estate Division. Not clear of ownership on the railroad grade off of US 41. Question on propane deliveries using other road that Barbieri can use, but Bussone advised that a hill on that road is prohibitive for that type of vehicle.. . Change "should" to "shall" and should add 2015 after Nov 30. . Bussone motion to approve the attached language with two changes, add year 2015 after November 30 and change the word "should" to "shall", and with Picken's review and approval. LaJoye seconded the motion. Vote and motion carried. Fulsher will make changes to the language and send to Jeremy Pickens to review.

C. ORV Route through Ishpeming – An ORV site tour through Cliffs property from Howard Oil to Cedar Lake to Lake Angeline to Winthrop Junction was taken on June 3. Britton, Thomas, Reynolds, Bussone, Fulsher, City Manager Slown of Ishpeming, and Rob Katona from DNR scouted a proposed route. Discovered this area is pretty hilly, rocky and wet. Need Katona to give us some ideas on costs of making that area more palatable. Plus Cliffs needs to give blessing. Fulsher noted that since Ishpeming roads are open to ORV traffic, we might want to propose to Ishpeming that the ORV traffic coming off of the Greenwood Grade use Ishpeming roads to get through to the trail at Third Street and into Negaunee. We could post maps and language. This could be a short term solution for ORV's as well as provide an option longer term for those who don't want the challenging Cliffs route (should we get Cliffs agreement to use land.)

D. Grant Updates

1. ArtPlace America – Still waiting to hear if we will be awarded grant for three urban trailheads at cost of \$350,000.
2. 2015 Recreation Passport - In review; Grant reviewer has scheduled a site visit for July.
3. MCACA Pellet Pavilion Proposal Awarded – Mike Lempinen came in with his hand drawings. He now needs to color and replicate. Rick Kauppila doing the steel cut outs.
4. 2014 MI Natural Resource Trust Fund – 10-12 more signs between Negaunee and Marquette will be in process shortly. Timetable is to have these done and up by autumn of 2016 although we have until spring of 2017 to complete.

F. Maintenance Schedule

1. Gates Installed and Painted – Gates are up and painted twice. No other concerns have been relayed to office. There was a problem with ORVs in Negaunee near the big hill so we put pipes back in at that area. We've also applied safety tape on gates but not sticking. Safety store will be getting replacement tape for us.
2. Panel Installation – Four panels were installed: two in Mqt Twp, one at Welcome Center and replacement of Mather sign at Cliffs Shaft.
3. Ishpeming High School clean up - Since the School wants to be involved with our trail annually, Reynolds thought we should get a "adopt a trail" sign for them. Bussone suggest we may want to have them plant perennials or place decorative rocks around each mile marker.
4. Mowing Bid – The bids went out and we had only one bidder: Loy Lawns (Kimme Peterson) of Negaunee. Bid was \$750 for 7.5 miles which is 15 miles because of mowing both sides of trail. Will also add Negaunee (.8 miles) to it so it can be done before July 4. Reynolds approved contract for Loy Lawns. Hoffman seconded motion. Vote and motion carried unanimously.
5. Other needs – Thomas noted that we are still trying to place a nice piece of hematite at Negaunee to commemorative Cliffs donation. Pat Gingras from Republic Memorials working with us on it and it is taking a long time.

G. Interpretive Signage – Fulsher listed the amount of interpretive signs that we need completed prior to 2016. The 10-12 signs through the grant, four at the Lions Field trailhead, two more at Mqt Township trailhead, one more at Michigan Iron Industry Museum trailhead. Sign committee will be very busy this fall and winter.

VI. NEW BUSINESS

- A. Biannual Municipal Report – Fulsher included in the packet a proposed Municipal update. Discussion on dressing up the update as a newsletter and also sending to other places such as Senior Centers, at trailheads, etc. Fulsher will work on that. In the future, we could also do a snap shot of projects completed thus far.

VII. BOARD COMMENT – LaJoye inquired about the "Dark Stores: repayments. Fulsher noted that we just had to pay back \$3000 for Lowes, Kohls and Target. Johnson noted that Best Buy may also be in the mix.

Thomas – ORV tearing the aggregate apart on the steep hills in Negaunee so they put the posts back in. Twelve new larger signs will also be going up to notify of the Director's Order and the \$500 fine. After signage put up, Thomas will go to Police to ask for help. Someone purposely damaging the trail. Camera may have to be put up or at least a sign saying camera.

- VIII. PUBLIC COMMENT – Koski noted that the Mining Journal just printed two full pages on Michigamme. Maybe MJ will do that for us. Asked if we have looked into process for renewal. Also suggested that we could ask jail to provide some workers. Art Loren is program director.
- IX. ADJOURNMENT – Bussone motioned to adjourn meeting at 5:30 pm; Hoffman seconded motion. Vote and motion carried unanimously.

*NEXT MEETING DATE: AUGUST 26, 2015, COUNTRY INN AND SUITES*