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**IRON ORE HERITAGE RECREATION AUTHORITY
MARCH 27, 2013 4:30 PM**

APPROVED MINUTES

- I. WELCOME / ROLL CALL – Don Britton, Chocolay Township; Jeremy Pickens, Marquette; Lyn Durant, Marquette Township; Al Reynolds, Negaunee Township; Jim Thomas, Negaunee, Larry Bussone (excused absence); Dawn Hoffman, Tilden Township; Gary Johnson, Republic (excused absence), Dotty Lajoie, Marquette County
Guests: Joni Gleason, Jackie Koski
- II. PUBLIC COMMENT (Agenda Items – Limit to three minutes) - Joni Gleason noted that she and Joan Duncan met with DNR. They are researching an engineering grant for trails between Ishpeming and Negaunee. Joni noted that she has a book that has examples of signage for multi-use trails.
- III. APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA - **Durant motioned to pull March bills to be paid and discuss under VII D. Hoffman seconded motion. Vote and motion carried unanimously. Durant motioned to approve consent agenda as amended. Reynolds seconded motion. Vote and motion carried unanimously.**
- IV. APPROVAL OF AGENDA - **Reynolds motioned to approve agenda as revised; Hoffman seconded motion. Vote and motion carried unanimously.**
- V. OLD BUSINESS
 - A. Ely Township Millage Request – Fulsher noted that Globe Printing has printed the millage flyers and will send out when we say go. Board felt it should go out on April 1 because absentee ballots are out. Dotty will provide half a dozen 11 x 17 maps to display at businesses. Fulsher will work with Mining Journal writer for a story on proposed trails plans.
 - B. Tilden Township Trail Engineering Work – Executive Board met and decided to prepare a purchasing policy for the IOHRA. Decided that the purchasing policy would cover engineering bids as well since most of that work is larger dollar amounts. Fulsher noted that she would prepare a bid RFP in May after the Ely Township vote
 - C. ATV Updates
 - i. Ishpeming Route - Thomas updated on Ishpeming City Council meeting in early March. Presented two routes for ATV's through Ishpeming. In April, City Council will have on its agenda a resolution to approve both routes.
 - ii. We have requested to have our crossing of CN include ATV's. We have not heard back yet.
 - iii. City of Marquette voted not to award any ATV trails on Heartwood Forestland Property before having a land use plan for that area.
 - iv. Dave Keto from Moose Country notified Thomas that they may lose their connection into Ishpeming through Greenwood Grade at Seelen's property.
 - D. Land Management - The committee for land management took Matt Wattkeys, Forester with Marquette Alger Soil Conservation District out snowshoeing the property with us. He had several ideas of what to do. One was to try and qualify for some programs to pay for a management plan. Since that time, he found that we do not qualify for programs for forest management because we are not a non-profit. If we want to hire a forest consultant, it would cost us money in the short term. We may make money long term on harvesting plans. Reynolds suggested we let it go for a few years and see what we can harvest later. Lajoie stated we inventory what we have including the gravel. Board agreed to plan for a fall trip on

trail to inventory trees and see if anything can be cut in winter. Durant suggested it would not be good to do anything before our trail gets built.

- E. Trail Map – Fulsher noted that she has tried several companies to bid on map project and only Lake Superior Press provided bid. She has talked to CVB and they will sponsor 50% of \$4000 cost of map that Lake Superior Press bid for printing of 5000 full-color maps. Fulsher did not have size, but will be foldable to a 4 x 9 for display on racks. **Durant motioned to direct administrator to work with LSP to design a map with 50% sponsorship picked by CVB. Hoffman seconded motion. Pickens made a friendly amendment to insure we do not exceed \$2000. Hoffman seconded friendly amendment. Vote and carried unanimously.**

VI. NEW BUSINESS

- A. Bid Policy – Board sent to Executive Committee to discuss a bid policy. They brought purchasing policies from other municipal entities. Pickens did note that it is not a Michigan statute to have a bid policy. They are usually in charters of local municipalities; however, better to have one for those who could bid. Lajoie noted that the TC/Garfield Township RA was pretty extensive, but did like the idea that they advertise so community knows what we are doing. The Executive Committee will finalize a bid policy and bring back to board at April meeting.
- B. Executive Committee – Discussion on nominations versus ballot. All three current executive committee members (Thomas, Britton, Durant) are willing to serve again. Durant, Britton, and Thomas all accepted. We can accept other nominees at the April meeting.
- C. Fundraising/Donations - Fulsher noted that when she spoke at the U.P. Environmental Coalition someone wanted to give money and didn't know how. Should we place donation boxes along the trail? Board felt that donation boxes are not the best way to get donations. Directed Fulsher to price signs that could be put on the trail to let users know where to send donations. Also will look at our web site and see if the paypal portion works and we could take donations that way as well. We should also note on our kiosks that we take donations. Fulsher also noted that another attendee had been out of town and saw a trail advertised on a railroad overpass. Is it something we could do on the Soo Line Bridges? Fulsher directed to check with MDOT and City of Marquette. Discussion also on the new pavilion built on the trail. Should we put a metal roof on it? Perkins may be interested.
- D. Bills to be Paid - **Durant motioned to pay bills as presented. Britton seconded motion. Vote and motion carried unanimously.**

VII. REPORTS (Meetings/Seminars attended)/CORRESPONDENCE -

Thomas noted that Durant and Britton requested that Thomas and Fulsher attend a Recreation Authority Ad Hoc Committee meeting in March. Britton represents Chocolay Township on the Committee while Durant attended the last meeting. Durant provided background on this ad hoc group being formed. Started with Marquette, Marquette Township, Chocolay Township and Sands Township. How would Recreation Authority be formed among them. Given maps of all recreational opportunities in their boundaries which included five pages of 11 x 17 maps. Ad hoc committee was given 18 months to come up with suggestions on what would be included and how to fund. First five meetings there was no consensus on direction of new Authority. At sixth meeting, trails became the consensus because they are what the three municipalities had in common. Durant noted she became nervous about how that will affect our Authority. Suggested to ad hoc committee about the Iron Ore Heritage Trail Recreation Authority. Sands Township in meantime backed out of group. She wondered if we really want two authorities for trails?

Reynolds asked when our six years is up and if we are going for another millage. Thomas noted that our millage goes into 2017 and we have not decided on renewal at this time, but it would be something to consider for other projects and maintenance.

Lajoie noted that the discussion is something like the library where the facility is in Marquette and other municipalities are using it and they want to set up where the other municipalities help contribute.

Thomas noted that at the March 21 meeting he and Fulsher attended, the idea came up to

incorporate this ad hoc committee into the Iron Ore Heritage Recreation Authority and become one Authority to deal with trails. There was also an idea of going for a grant for purchasing Heartwood Forestland property.

Thomas had lots of questions after the meeting. Our cash flow goes up to 2016 and we haven't even done 50% of our projects yet. Our bylaws would have to be changed; our Articles would be affected. Each municipality would have to vote on that.

Thomas noted that out of 48 miles we proposed to finish, 12 are currently under construction and not paid for yet, plus we have another 16 after that. How is west end going to receive this? We do not have spine completed yet. We don't have any maintenance equipment or plan. This idea raises lots of questions.

Fulsher noted that we need to build the Iron Ore Heritage Trail. That's what our millage is for and that is what we promised the voters. Too early to talk about this and too much unknown. She felt that this conversation would scare other municipalities especially while we are going for a millage in Ely.

Durant noted that the City of Marquette applied for \$50,000 grant to develop a business plan and sent a letter to Marquette and Chocolay Townships requesting they share in the cost. The grant stipulated that all members must participate to validate the grant. Marquette and Chocolay townships agreed to support the concept but not with financial support, particularly because they weren't notified initially of the grant

Reynolds motioned to extend our meeting for 15 minutes to finalize the discussion; Hoffman seconded motion. Vote and motion carried unanimously.

The Ad Hoc's next meeting is April 22 prior to City commission meeting. The committee will then attend the City Commission meeting to update them on what their group is considering; they would also like to attend our meeting in April.

Thomas motioned to send a letter to this steering committee that we are not interested in exploring this concept of a joint Recreation Authority further at this time. Reynolds seconded motion. Vote and motion carried unanimously.

Fulsher noted that several members attended the ATV Trail meeting at University Center. It was centered on raising registration fees. Lots of discussion.

Fulsher noted that she met with Governor's northern representatives, Dave Nyberg, to update him on our project and request that the Iron Ore Heritage Trail become part of the Governor's proposed Belle Isle to Ironwood trail.

VIII. BOARD COMMENT -

Thomas noted that he spoke with Scott LaCombe of Hiawatha Trails and that signs will go up on trail next year to keep snowmobiles on trail through GAD property.

Also noted that he asked Scott LaCombe to come to our meeting with Chocolay Township when we go look at the bridges. Britton noted that he does not have those bridges. They are U.P. Central which is Smith Paving.

IX. PUBLIC COMMENT – No public comment.

X. ADJOURNMENT

Reynolds motioned to adjourn at 6:10 pm; Hoffman seconded motion. Vote and motion carried unanimously.

NEXT MEETING DATE: WEDNESDAY, MAY 22, 4:30 PM, COUNTRY INN AND SUITES