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## IRON ORE HERITAGE RECREATION AUTHORITY

### BOARD MINUTES OF APRIL 22, 2015

- I. ROLL CALL – Don Britton, Chocolay; Jeremy Pickens, Marquette; Glenn Johnson, Marquette Township; Al Reynolds, Negaunee Township; Jim Thomas, Negaunee; Dawn Hoffman, Tilden Township; Gary Johnson, Republic Township; Dotty Lajoie, Marquette County  
Excused Absence: Larry Bussone  
Staff: Carol Fulsher  
Guests: Jackie Koski
- II. PUBLIC COMMENT ( Agenda Items – Limit to three minutes) – No Public Comment
- III. APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA – Gary Johnson motioned to approve consent agenda including March 25 minutes, March financials (balance sheet, profit/loss, general ledger and actual v budget) and April Bills to be paid in amount of \$88,114 (\$77,000 was loan payment plus interest). Dawn Hoffman seconded motion. Vote and motion carried unanimously.
- IV. APPROVAL OF AGENDA – Don Britton motioned to approve agenda as presented; Al Reynolds seconded motion. Vote and motion carried unanimously.
- V. OLD BUSINESS
  - A. Phase IV – Tilden/Republic
    1. Director's Order Greenwood Grade - The Director's Order for the Greenwood Grade was approved at the Department of Natural Resources April Commission meeting. This means that motorized vehicles larger than 65" larger are prohibited from using the grade. Hunting from the grade with firearms and/or bow and arrow is also prohibited. This is effective immediately. Fulsher then turned in ORV request for signing dollars to sign grade as State recognized ORV 65" and less trail. Discussion on signage and maintenance needs.
    2. Route Update on LS&I Grade – Fulsher was contacted by Roger Storm that an appraiser has been hired to appraise the LS&I grade for possible resurrection as rail grade. Johnson (Gary) noted that Republic and Humboldt Township working on securing railroad grade for possible rail line from Republic to Humboldt Mill. Fulsher noted that our trail construction in Republic is going to happen this year and that the trail upgrades are as far west on the grade as possible and should not be in jeopardy. IOHT and townships should work together for possible reroutes of Republic to Humboldt should the rail line come in. Fulsher suggested Co. Rd. 601 be considered for biking option.
    3. ORV sponsorship – Recreation Authority will be ORV sponsor for Winthrop Junction to Humboldt/Clowry split north of Republic. We will be responsible for signing the route and maintenance, but will be eligible for State ORV funds. Rob Katona from DNR has already put bid together for grading Greenwood Grade this year.
    4. Tilden Plans – We still need to get the bid documents from our engineer. This project has to be finalized this year.
  - Grant Updates
    1. ArtPlace America – This grant is being reviewed and we will hear in June if we were successful.
    2. 2015 Recreation Passport – Fulsher reported that she finalized and submitted the Recreation Passport grant for custom bike racks, benches and bike fixing stations at four trailheads: Lions Field, Welcome Center, Schwemwood Park, and Republic. The submission will be reviewed this summer and we will learn late in the year if we are successful.
    3. MCACA Pellet Pavilion Proposal Awarded – A review committee scored the two proposals

submitted and the project was awarded to Mike Lempinen. Information in meeting packet on the proposal. Discussion on how to get to project and the ability to move the pellets for installation.

4. 2014 MI Natural Resource Trust Fund Resolution - A resolution is in the packet to accept this grant and provide the necessary match money to move forward. Gary Johnson motioned to sign the resolution; Dotty Lajoie seconded the motion. Pickens noted that we need to add the word "DEPARTMENT" in first paragraph. Gary Johnson motioned to accept the friendly amendment to the motion; Lajoie seconded. Roll call was taken. The motion passed with 8 yesses, 0 nos and one absent.

- B. Maintenance Needs Summer 2015 – Fulsher and Thomas worked on list of maintenance needs for Summer of 2015. Discussion on mowing, signage and gate installations. Fulsher requested we have an Executive Meeting next week to discuss in depth.

## VI. NEW BUSINESS

- A. Officer Elections – Hoffman motioned to accept slate as presented (Thomas, Chair; Britton, Vice Chair/Secretary, Glenn Johnson, Treasurer; and Alan Reynolds, Member-at-Large. Pickens seconded motion. Vote and motion carried.
- B. Budget Amendment – Fulsher went over the amendment. More is known on millage income, office expenses and additions to Tilden/Republic construction. We will take \$5000 less out of reserved fund balance because of \$8000 extra in millage income, but added to office expenses of \$1600 and added \$15000 to Tilden/Republic. Had to take \$13000 from maintenance. Net income will drop from \$10,000 to \$6000. Glenn Johnson motioned to approve budget amendment as presented. Don Britton seconded motion. Vote and motion carried unanimously.
- C. Carp River Historic Bridge – The Carp River Bridge off of U.S. 41 South in Marquette has been decommissioned and MDOT needs to remove it. We have been asked if we want it. Fulsher spoke to Bill Sanders and Lloyd Baldwin, MDOT Historian, about possible reuse. MDOT would like us to have it and is looking for money to secure removing and moving. Fulsher noted that it is 20 feet across and 65 feet long. It could be placed in wetlands area east of Negaunee to provide separated trail and a viewing platform in wet area. We would need to secure approaches to the bridge from either side to get through approximately 100 feet of wetlands. Project for 2016.
- D. Tax Tribunal – Fulsher noted that the Big Box Store Black opinion will affect us. We have not seen what the number is yet on the refund. .
- E. Tree Planting – Conservation District has ordered 80 trees to plant on May 8 or 9. Blue spruce, white spruce and white pine. Fulsher will get more information.
- F. Mile marker for Christine Pesola - Johnson (Gary) motioned to purchase mile marker for Christine Pesola as thank you for housing our office for five months and donating a table to us; Pickens seconded motion. Vote and motion carried unanimously.

## VII. BOARD COMMENT – May 20 is the Aspen Ridge Family Night. We will share a room with Cliffs Shaft and Rock and Mineral club.

Fulsher noted that our budget for 2015 is extremely tight again, but 2016 will open up for us to get more maintenance items done.

Thomas noted that the railroad gate was hit by the snowmobile groomer this past winter. Scott LaCombe from Hiawatha Trails was at r/r crossing this past weekend fixing it. Noticed pavement over r/r is getting beat up from snowmobile studs. LaCombe will find if he can apply for snowmobile funds to get that material covered with epoxy so it doesn't wear as badly. Same as highway crossing.

Thomas reviewed some trail problems. Jeeps getting into our land east of Negaunee. Need some gates and fencing up there.

We are working with coalition of other trail users to provide mapping on Cliffs Property so DNR can get long term easements with various trail groups.

Lajoie noted that we have a problem with County equalization director not allowing the Cliffs property to be released unless we pay \$500. We will need to write a letter to County Commission asking for a waiver of fee.

VIII. PUBLIC COMMENT – No public comment.

IX. ADJOURNMENT – Britton motioned to adjourn meeting at 5:45 pm. Reynolds seconded motion. Vote and motion carried unanimously.

*NEXT MEETING DATE: JUNE 24, 2015, COUNTRY INN AND SUITES*