



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

**IRON ORE HERITAGE RECREATION AUTHORITY
WEDNESDAY, JUNE 25, 2014, 4:30 PM
COUNTRY INN AND SUITES**

MINUTES

- I. ROLL CALL - Attendance: 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 Township
Guests: Ron Yesney, DNR; Kathy Peters, Marquette Township Alternate
Staff: Carol Fulsher
- II. PUBLIC COMMENT (Agenda Items – Limit to three minutes) - N/A
- III. CONSENT AGENDA – **Reynolds to approve consent as presented including May 28 board minutes; May financials and June bills totaling \$31,856.45. Hoffman seconded motion. Vote and motion carried unanimously.**
- IV. APPROVAL OF AGENDA - **Pickens motioned to approve as presented; Lajoie seconded motion. Vote and motion carried unanimously.**
- V. OLD BUSINESS
 - A. Phase IV – Tilden/Republic – LS&I grade from Humboldt to Republic reactivation is a real possibility. Both Yesney and Roger Storm from DNR have been notified. Our trail project for this year utilizes some of the corridor. It was suggested to keep trail over to the western part of corridor and we will be safe. Trail improvements go up to split at Humboldt/Republic Township line—LS&I corridor goes straight up to Humboldt. Republic/Clowry grade goes westerly to Champion. A trail connector between the Greenwood Grade north of U.S. 41 and the Republic/Clowry trail would allow for an uninterrupted trail to Republic for snowmobile and ATV's. Possible use of Co. Rd. 601 for pedestrians and bikers. Perhaps improved shoulders on 601. Question on role of reactivator to provide these connections. Yesney noted that every rail banking agreement is written differently. Britton inquired about the \$80,000 snowmobile bridge that was put in 2013 and if they will they get reimbursed for it. Yesney will keep track of issue and keep us apprised.
 - i. Director's order update – Yesney noted that all the letters of support and resolutions with package were sent in today. Director's orders are difficult to get these days, but the support we've received is a good packet. Goes to DNR departments for review. Once approved, it can be a maintained ORV route with dollars for maintenance. Washout and culverts need attention, but no money right now.
 - B. ATV Trail Plans – Need to set up meeting with Gabe Johnson (land manager for Cliffs) with Cliffs Natural Resources to review the north route around Ishpeming from Winthrop Junction to Howard Oil. Option through Ishpeming past Moyle property is iffy due to Moyle's concerns and costs of building trail through wetlands. Fulsher to set up meeting with Cliffs, DNR, IOHRA, and City of Ishpeming.
 - C. Adopt a Mile Policy - Fulsher presented an adopt a mile policy with two sample volunteer waivers. Fulsher instructed to work up the DNR sample with our information and bring back to board in July.

- D. Iron Range Roll Review – Hoffman heard some negatives about event. We need to make sure organizers clean up within 24 hours of event. We should also instruct event organizers to have porta potties at Cliffs Shaft since there is not enough capacity there for large groups.
- E. Maintenance Issues
- a. Vandenboom/492/Northwoods Road – Problems with ATVs, dirt bikes using trail and bringing gravel up onto trail. Bollards went back up after Iron Range Roll event. DNR Land Use Order signs were installed this week. May have to put security cameras up. Another problem area is the Big Bay snowmobile trail connection with the IOHT near Northwoods. Trail is wearing away because of ATV's crossing over. Possible to add a load of gravel to that area. Discussion on putting gate up to stop the traffic in summer. **Britton motioned to put gate on north side of IOHT at Trail from Big Bay. Reynolds seconded motion.** Discussion on if gate will work. Terrain around gate is tough to maneuver. **Vote and motion carried unanimously.**
- b. Welcome Center – Fulsher met with High School Environmental club teacher and Public Works manager of Chocolay. Area needs more than just beach grass planted. Boulders were suggested, but fencing may be a good solution as well. Either 2 x 6's may work or silt fence. Provides a barrier for the sand coming up as well as directing people to one area to gain access to beach.
- c. Chocolay Bridges – Fulsher noted that these bridges are in bad repair and she heard from Britton that someone was injured on bridge. IOHRA has a surface use lease with State of Michigan and we have a responsibility for this trail. However, Smith Paving is the snowmobile groomer on record with the State and does have \$14,500 in snowmobile funds to repair the bridges. We have also offered up to 20% of the cost of repair. What can we do to get bridges repaired as soon as possible. Yesney noted that Smith has two years to fix bridges. Right now they need to get bid specs together and bid this project out. We can push along by calling Smith out to area and going through plan with us and DNR. Fulsher will contact Smith to get out there and look at getting bid together. Right now we are covered under State law for ordinary negligence; however if there was gross negligence we may have a liability. Britton did notice that the belting has been rearranged and adhered better and has helped. **Hoffman motioned to have Fulsher and Britton work with Yesney and Smith to get project moving along. Reynolds seconded. Vote and motion carried unanimously.**

VI. NEW BUSINESS

- A. 2014 Budget Amendment – Fulsher noted that the Negaunee to Marquette project bills came in later than expected. We budgeted \$50K for 2014, but because of lapse in invoicing, we have \$122K in 2014. We had a larger fund balance in 2013 due to lateness of invoices. **Pickens motioned to amend the budget as presented. Britton seconded motion. Vote and motion carried unanimously.**
- B. Negaunee/Ishpeming Trail – Fulsher informed board that IOHRA does not own the trail in Ishpeming and Negaunee. The cities own the trail where it is city owned land, but we have the easements with private property owners. Should we approach cities to see if they would deed over trail to us. We are doing the maintenance on the trail. It is a convoluted system when part of trail is owned by us, part by State, parts by cities of Ishpeming, Negaunee, and Marquette. Event organizers have to approach many different entities when using the trail and it's difficult. Discussion on pros and cons of owning the trail. Fulsher instructed to work with both cities to make sure communication flows both ways when events are planned.
- C. Audit 2011, 2012, 2013 – Draft of audit provided. Fulsher noted that our net position went from (\$33,867) in 2011 to \$1,989,458 in 2013. Audit will be provided to municipalities once it has been approved by Anderson, Tackman.
- D. Signage Review and Trail Work – Six kiosks are coming in soon, directional signage coming in as well, 10 panels being shipped from New York, and ten additional panels being sent to New York. Need work bees to get kiosks, directional signage up. Twenty eight posts for directional signage need to be installed. Marquette City will put posts up within city limits. Discussion on methods for installation. Will rent equipment from OK Rentals to help with easier installation.

Britton motioned to extend meeting by 15 minutes; Hoffman seconded motion. Vote and motion carried unanimously.

E. Upcoming Events – Fulsher noted upcoming events on trail. BB/BS hosting a 10K Run on July 12 using Negaunee to Ishpeming portion of trail. MIIM heritage bike tours July 11, 18, and 25. Marquette Marathon on August 30 from Ishpeming to Marquette.

VII. ADMINISTRATOR REPORT – Fulsher noted that in packet is a schedule of a non-motorized workshop taking place in Marquette, August 26 – 28. Will be doing tour of Heritage Trail. MDOT, MDNR, Michigan Travel Commission, National Parks Service involved. Will include case studies of “best practices”.

She also noted that Andy Sikkema, MDOT, is retiring. An open house is scheduled for July 12 at MDOT Service Center in Ishpeming from 1-3 pm.

VIII. BOARD COMMENT

Britton – he cut grass in Chocolay and sees need for dog bag stations in Chocolay. Need trash receptacles. Should be at Welcome Center, M28/trail intersection, Lions Field, and Green Bay Avenue. Also put behind Holiday Inn and at Northwoods Lane.

Bussone motioned to purchase six dog stations, bags and trash bins. Hoffman seconded motion. Vote and motion carried unanimously.

Britton also noted that the kiosk at Lions Field should not be installed until improvements are made there.

Reynolds - noted that he just came back from Alaska and has sent pictures of benches he saw there.

Johnson – heard about some wolf sightings on trail .

Thomas – need maintenance at wetlands. We will ask Nancy Helgren if trail has any warranty. There is sloping at wetlands and area at low spot after r/r crossing where water is collecting.

IX. PUBLIC COMMENT – N/A

X. ADJOURNMENT – **Bussone motioned to adjourn meeting at 6:12 pm; Reynolds seconded. Vote and motion carried unanimously.**

NEXT MEETING DATE: TBD, COUNTRY INN AND SUITES