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**IRON ORE HERITAGE RECREATION AUTHORITY  
THURSDAY, JANUARY 23**

MINUTES

Present: Don Britton, Chocolay; Glenn Johnson, Marquette Township, Al Reynolds, Negaunee Township; Jim Thomas, Negaunee; Larry Bussone, Ishpeming; Dawn Hoffman, Tilden Township  
Absent: Gary Johnson, Republic; Dotty Lajoie, County of Marquette; Jeremy Pickens, Marquette

- I. ROLL CALL/Welcome of New Board Member – Welcome Glenn Johnson as new Marquette Township Representative.
- II. PUBLIC COMMENT ( Agenda Items – Limit to three minutes) - No comment
- III. CONSENT AGENDA – **Hoffman motioned to approve consent agenda as provided. Bussone seconded motion. Vote and motion carried unanimously.**
- IV. APPROVAL OF AGENDA – **Bussone motioned to approve agenda as provided; Reynolds seconded motion. Vote and motion carried unanimously.**
- V. OLD BUSINESS
  - A. Negaunee Easement for Sewer Line – Pickens had provided some changes to easement and they were accepted by Negaunee. They included that the manhole covers are at ground level and that the lease is not for exclusive use. Easement was signed.
  - B. Phase IV – Tilden/Republic - Fulsher noted that she has been in contact with Parks and Recreation in Lansing to move the lease along. She has requested that amended lease be available at our February meeting so that we can sign it and sign our Trust Fund agreement then. Information for Director's order is with DNR staff for them to move along. We have been invited to Humboldt meeting on February 10 to see if they will sign a resolution in support of Director's order.
  - C. ATV Trail Plans – City of Negaunee and Lemoines have signed an easement for the proposed ATV route through Negaunee. In Ishpeming, we are trying to find Mark Loesel, a private land owner near the Section 16 pit. We can not find him. Someone else paid the taxes on land and we have sent letters but gotten no response. Phone numbers we have found do not work. We will have to meet with Ray Roberts in Ishpeming again to look at other routes if we can not get through to Mr. Loesel. Hoffman, Bussone, Reynolds, Thomas and Britton are interested in attending when we do set up. We will also need to meet with Marquette County Road Commission on route alongside of Co. Rd. 492 in Negaunee and Negaunee Township Wisconsin Central just sent us a crossing agreement for multi-use crossing. We will have to follow up with our insurance agent to see if we are able to be insured with language as is.
  - D. Superior Watershed Partnership Response Letter – SWP response letter in packet. **Hoffman motioned to not follow up, Reynolds seconded. Vote and motion carried.** We will work with Chocolay and possible NMU to plant dune grass.
  - E. Events Policy – In packet was events permit from Kalamazoo County Parks. Fulsher will find what Marquette's policy is with events. Discussion on removal/non-removal of bollards, clean up on trail afterward, trail markings, exclusive use versus limited use, notification of special event, traffic control, etc. Parks and Recreation have a permit which they analyze on each event and then charge a fee appropriate to how much work involved.
  - F. Michigan Trails Summit – Fulsher and Britton attended Summit in TC on January 21. Were able to secure time with Jim Radabaugh and discussed Governor's Showcase Trail. He will be coming up and doing workshops and we may have the chance to be a partner in this project.

Britton attended a maintenance workshop. We need to develop a regular maintenance plan. Many trails have trail maintenance funding is through a “trust fund” ( typically set aside 10% of money for maintenance). We need to have waiver forms for all volunteers. All users need to develop trust among them. We should become well informed about all users.

VI. NEW BUSINESS

- A. DNR Grants for 2014 – A workshop has been scheduled for Wednesday January 30 at 10 am at CVB office to discuss future project priorities. Fulsher noted that she has been asked to attend several meetings where we are asked to partner or take the lead on projects. Representative Kivela had a session about trails and plans in Negaunee Township and Marquette Township and specifically and underpass on US 41 near Walmart. She also attended a Negaunee Old Town meeting to discuss trailhead facilities. She will put a list together of possible projects and we will discuss our role with each.
- B. Treasurer Position – **Britton nominated Johnson for Treasurer’s position. Hoffman seconded motion. Vote and motion carries unanimously.**  
Discussed if we should have a fourth board member on our Executive Committee. Would need an amendment to our by-laws. Our by-laws have that the Executive Committee is the Chair, Vice Chair/Secretary, and Treasurer.

- VII. ADMINISTRATOR REPORT – Fulsher attended the Michigan Trails Summit and was a good opportunity to network with trail organizers and DNR Staff. Hoping to take lead in U.P. on Governor’s Showcase Trail.  
Also attended the Old Towne meeting in Negaunee where they asked us to do the grant work on providing a trailhead facility at Jackson Mine Park. Also attended a meeting with Representative Kivela, Stacey Welling Haughey from DNR, Marquette Townships representatives and Negaunee Township representatives. Discussed trails focus in Marquette County and opportunity for underpass at Walmart/AT&T. Would like to get all trail user groups together to discuss a plan and be ready for 2016. Humboldt Township will be bringing up the Director’s order for prohibiting full size vehicles on Greenwood and LS&I grades at their meeting on February 10. Tilden, Ely and Republic have already signed resolutions in support of Director’s orders.

VIII. BOARD COMMENT –

Britton noted that we need standardized signing along the trail—own unique signs. Thomas noted that we are working on directional signage. Working with several sign companies right now to get standardized signage—materials, look, colors, etc.  
Trail map signs.  
Hoffman noted that Family night again at Aspen Ridge is in May. We will attend again.  
Thomas noted that we should consider the request from Negaunee Old Town and their need for trailhead facility.

- IX. PUBLIC COMMENT – No public comment

- X. ADJOURNMENT – **Britton motioned to adjourn meeting at 5:45 pm; Hoffman seconded. Vote and motion carried unanimously.**

*NEXT MEETING DATE: THURSDAY, JANUARY 23, 4:30 PM, COUNTRY INN AND SUITES*