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**IRON ORE HERITAGE RECREATION AUTHORITY
MINUTES OF DECEMBER 18 4:30 PM**

MINUTES

- I. ROLL CALL – Don Britton, Chocolay; Jeremy Pickens, Marquette; Lyn Durant, Marquette Township; Al Reynolds, Negaunee Township; Jim Thomas, Negaunee; Larry Bussone, Ishpeming; Gary Johnson, Republic; Dotty Lajoie, County of Marquette
Absence: Dawn Hoffman, Tilden Township
Guests: Scott Richards, AECOM; Mike Pond, AECOM; Glenn Johnson, Marquette Township
- II. PUBLIC COMMENT (Agenda Items – Limit to three minutes) - No public comment
- III. CONSENT AGENDA – **Pickens motioned to approve consent agenda, Durant seconded motion. Vote and motion carried unanimously.**
- IV. APPROVAL OF AGENDA – **Bussone motioned to approve agenda with amendment of moving Negaunee Easement to Old Business A. Pickens seconded motion. Vote and motion carried unanimously.**
- V. OLD BUSINESS
 - A. Negaunee Easement – A copy of the easement was attached in the packet. Pickens noted that what the easement is purporting to do is give City of Negaunee an easement for use and maintain a wastewater line through our property (behind the Negaunee Ice Arena). Pickens noted that the easement should be non-exclusive. Perpetual easement is below, over and across land. Easement stays with property. Negaunee is required to clean up spills. Johnson requested more of a description and that there is no above ground manholes. Mike Pond of AECOM was asked to attach their plans to the easement as well. Pickens will talk to Bruce Houghton (Negaunee’s attorney) and request the following changes.
 - 1) Add non-exclusive term,
 - 2) Exhibit B, the plan for what will be done.
 - 3) No structures above grade**Johnson motioned to have these three things changed in new easement and refer to Executive Committee to review and sign once these changes have been made. Pickens seconded motion. Discussed the Plan and found it is only 4 sheets. AECOM to provide copy. Vote and motion carries unanimously.**
 - B. Lease on Greenwood and LS&I Grade/Humboldt Reroute –. We are still waiting for DNR Real Estate Division to get the property descriptions so that we can get the easement for the land for Tilden and Republic project. We can then sign our DNR Trust Fund grant and get this project going. Fulsher will follow up with Lansing staff. We will also work through the winter to get a Director’s order to keep full size vehicles off trail.
 - C. ATV Trail Plans – We are working through the process of getting an easement with the City of Negaunee to get a designated route through Negaunee. Most of property ownership is either City or IOHRA. Looked at Snowmobile trail 8 through Negaunee. The bluff is pretty steep so we want a bypass. City of Negaunee would like us to run back of Jackson Park (parallel to Business Route M-28). The bypass would be paid for and maintained by IOHRA since the State only wants one trail. Discussed our liability on this route. Fulsher to follow up with our

insurance carrier to see if we are covered/can be covered for this type of trail use. The trail over the bluff will be the State route. In Negaunee, we also need an easement with Lemoine's. In the City of Ishpeming, we are looking for a land owner that it is crucial to the proposed route near Winthrop Junction. One letter that was sent to him came back with address unknown. It is the address that the City of Ishpeming has for tax bills. Lajoie will find if property taxes are delinquent and if there is an address for him. We have to work through the City process there as well as with several other private land owners.

We will need to work with Marquette County Road Commission for an easement on County Road 492 and with Negaunee Township should we go to Township hall.

Also working through CN process for r/r crossing.

- D. Gerko Signage – Reynolds rode the trail and looked at signs and no Gerko graffiti left so had been cleaned already.
- E. SWP letter – Fulsher noted that we have a bill for \$1685 from Superior Watershed Partnership for restoration project undertaken behind the Welcome Center. Unfortunately the bill is higher than we had agreed upon and the work was not done as we had agreed upon. As noted in November, the board requested a letter be sent. Letter is in packet. Letter states that we will pay the agreed upon amount once the work has been done that we requested. **Britton motioned to send letter as attached in packet, Johnson seconded motion. Vote and motion carried unanimously.**

VI. NEW BUSINESS

- A. Events on Trail - Marquette Marathon will be utilizing our trail on August 30, 2014 for the marathon. We do have to work through the railroad to make sure no trains run during a crucial period of time as the Marathon is a Boston qualifier and marathoner times are very important. Fulsher working with railroad company on this issue.
Fulsher also noted that the group 40 below also want to plan a biking race on the trail in 2014. Discussion on how to work with event organizers. What is our liability, how do we keep multiple events from same dates. What about manpower needed to remove bollards.
Discussed the need for large scale events to come to the board to discuss event and get approval from board. Discussion on an events policy. Fulsher will research other trails to see if there are event policies we can review. The burden is on events organizers to have liability insurance and manpower. However, we do need an events policy to control user conflicts, congestion, double booking of events, etc.
- B. 2014 Calendar – Fulsher attached our meeting calendar for 2014. She will be out of town on Wednesday, January 22 so moved our January meeting to the 5th Wednesday of that month. However, that date conflicts with Michigan township association meeting. Moved January meeting to Thursday, January 23. **Durant motioned to accept 2014 meeting calendar as presented with change to January 23; Britton seconded motion. Vote and motion carried unanimously.**
- C. Michigan Trails Summit – **Durant motioned to send Fulsher and Britton to Michigan Trail Summit in Traverse City on January 20 and 21; Lajoie seconded motion. Vote and motion carried unanimously** Fulsher noted that the State's Non-motorized committee she sits on will pick up her lodging and Summit registration.
- D. DNR Grants Workshop – There is a grants workshop on January 15 at Peter White Public Library in Marquette beginning at 9 am.
- E. Equestrians - Gleason had emailed IOHRA that we promised the equestrians a trail across Marquette County. Fulsher noted that we always said that equestrians were going to be welcome on the trail from Ishpeming west. Lajoie working with group and does have issues with equestrians sharing some trails with other users. Gleason is working with MSTAC equestrian group in Lower Michigan. Discussion on how to work with them. Can share some trails, but can not accommodate all trail users on all the trail.

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

Johnson noted that Republic Township received a \$172K grant for campground at end of Heritage Trail (west side of School Lake and Michigamme River).

Durant would like to see us record the meetings and provide name plates for board members.

Britton noted that the bridge over the Black River has been repaired on Trail #82 between Humboldt and Republic. Moose Country Snowmobile club paid for the bridge at a cost of \$78K.

VIII. BOARD COMMENT

Thomas noted that xc ski grooming has begun on the trail.

Britton asked about Mr. Larson phone call about plowing his condo tenants (corner of 3rd and Hematite). Called about a fence that was put up. Fulsher noted that she told Larson to call the City of Ishpeming as it is an issue between them. It is City property and she believes the City put up the fence.

Bussone noted that Cliffs Natural Resources has hired a new manager in Land Department. His name is Gabe Johnson and he replaces Mark Dryer who retired.

IX. PUBLIC COMMENT

Glenn Johnson, a friend of Dennis Liimatta and Marquette Township resident came to meeting. He may be interested in becoming a board member. He works with Range Bank and uses the trail.

X. ADJOURNMENT

Britton motioned to adjourn the meeting at 5:45 pm, Bussone seconded motion. Vote and motion carried unanimously.

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