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IRON ORE HERITAGE RECREATION AUTHORITY

DRAFT MINUTES OF NOVEMBER 19

- I. ROLL CALL - Don Britton, Chocolay; Glenn Johnson, Marquette Township; Al Reynolds, Negaunee Township; Jim Thomas, Negaunee; Larry Bussone, Ishpeming; Gary Johnson, Republic Township
Absent: Jeremy Pickens, Marquette; Dotty Lajoie, County of Marquette; Dawn Hoffman, Tilden Township
Staff: Carol Fulsher
Guest: Shane Fulsher
- II. PUBLIC COMMENT (Agenda Items – Limit to three minutes)
- III. APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA – **Johnson (Gary) motioned to approve consent agenda. Larry Bussone seconded motion. Vote and motion carried unanimously.** Consent agenda included minutes of October 22 meeting, October financials and November bills payable of \$9453.
- IV. APPROVAL OF AGENDA – **Britton motioned to approve agenda with inclusion of snowmobile trail change as item VIC. Bussone seconded motion. Vote and motion carried unanimously.**
- V. OLD BUSINESS
 - A. Phase IV – Tilden/Republic
 1. Bruce Creek Bridge - Fulsher spoke to Andy Smith on Monday and he said they were picking up materials that morning and heading out to set up. Moose County checked on Tuesday and no work had been done yet. Thomas thinks he saw their equipment moving today. They are aware that bridge needs to be finalized by December 1. Discussion on temporary route around until bridge finalized.
 2. Republic Plans and Bid – Sanders is working with grant funder to find places to shave expenses on project. Our goal was \$353,000 for Tilden and Republic projects and Republic came in at \$287K so we need to find savings. Will go to ten foot limestone surface rather than twelve foot. Johnson noted that they can bench along the hills rather than up and over to help with bulldozing costs. Fulsher suggested we do that as well in Tilden to keep our project close to budget.
 - B. 2015 Budget Draft – Fulsher noted some changes from last budget presented. She added \$30K in Tilden/Republic project costs. Took out some interpretive signage expenses. Budget will be tight this year due to project costs and loan repayment of \$150K plus interest. Last year of big repayment. We have a \$75K fund balance from 2013 and expect to add \$25K in 2014. Will need to use \$80K of that to put into budget. Expect income of \$708,190.00 including tax payments, MNRTF reimbursements, fund balance and Cliffs Foundation grant. Total expenses of 697,917 include capital outlay of \$465,500, loan repayment of \$150K, and payroll of \$60K for total expense of \$698K for net income of \$10K. **Britton motioned to approve the 2015 budget as presented; Johnson (Glenn) seconded motion. Vote and budget approved unanimously.**
 - C. Maintenance Updates
 1. Ishpeming meeting - Fulsher and Thomas met with City Manager and Public Works director to review each organization's responsibilities for trail. We asked if City staff could do mowing and sweeping of trail and we could pay based on their costs. Waiting for proposal from Public works Director.
 2. Adopt a Trail– Rotary Club of Marquette cleaned up from Holiday Inn to Northwoods Lane.

Blew leaves off trail and brushed trail. Took away loads of debris. They will also go out in the spring to clean trail.

3. Gates – Railroad gates were left open during Hiawatha Snowmobile Club’s brushing. Concerns about leaving gate open when not officially snowmobile season. Discussion on remedies. Hiawatha to call the administrator and let her know when they will be on property to do brushing. Gates need to be closed after they go through to protect us from liability. Also we should talk to DNR about that grade being open to snowmobiling before December 1. Britton also noted that he will put up the “Stay on Trail” signs on our property.

D. Grant Updates

1. DNR Trust Fund Signage – Fulsher noted that we scored down the list for our signage grant. Unless they fund all requests under \$50K as they have done in the past, we won’t be successful in this grant. We should hear in December. Lions Field project in Chocology scored in top ten. Republic project could be successful.

2. MCACA Grant – We applied for \$12,500 for pellet pavilion art project. Project will be reviewed on December 4.

3. Artplace America – This is a national non-profit that wants communities to use art in “sense of place” projects. The U.P. is a geographic area that they have targeted for monies. Fulsher put in letter of inquiry to add artwork to each of the trailhead facilities. Requested \$350K to tell unique stories through art at each trailhead facility. If they like project, we will be asked to submit a grant application.

E. Signage Updates – Five interpretive signs in and will be put up on Friday. Three will go up at MI Iron Industry Museum and two at Welcome Center. Signage committee working on stories for Marquette Township kiosk and then will move to Republic kiosk. Installation project scheduled for Friday, 1pm. (Fulsher will call John at Welcome Center to plow to kiosk).

F. Office Location – Fulsher noted that she has looked at a few places but none have worked out thus far. Probably will stay where we are at for the winter. She noted that she works at different places with the computer so call first as she is not in the office often.

VI. NEW BUSINESS

A. ATV Sponsor for Greenwood Grade and LS&I grade to bridge – North Country ATV does not want to be the ATV sponsor. Katona asked if IOHRA would be interested in being ATV sponsor along Greenwood Grade and LS&I grade from Humboldt to Y north of Bruce Creek Bridge.

Katona had another group interested in Republic to Champion and that’s why we don’t need to go all the way down LS&I grade. **Britton motioned that the IOHRA become the ATV sponsor along this section. Reynolds seconded motion. Vote and motion carried unanimously.**

B. Municipal Year in Review – Fulsher wants to mail to each municipal partner our “year in review” which was in meeting packet. She will also add the maintenance log that Thomas is working on. **Johnson (Gary) motioned to approve and send it out. Britton seconded motion. Vote and motion carried unanimously.**

C. Snowmobile Trail connection Marquette Township - Britton notified that Hiawatha’s Snowmobile connection from Heritage Trail to north of U.S. 41 to Big Bay needs to be rerouted due to Lindberg’s not providing an easement this year. Currently trail connection exits Heritage Trail at power line and crossed at Best Buy. They are looking at rerouting connector off Heritage Trail at Menards (Townships owns a 100-foot strip between Heritage Trail and Menards), going down Northwoods Road and crossing into Smith’s Property north of U.S. 41. Township is looking at getting a recreational easement by Menards, but only put in for non-motorized. Britton would like support from Heritage Trail that the easement includes snowmobiles so they have access to Big Bay and new KBIC station. The KBIC would pay for trail. Thomas asked if Township is supportive of snowmobile easement. We do not want to go against wishes of one of our municipal partners. We should schedule a meeting with Marquette Township so that we are not going against their wishes. **Johnson (Gary) motion to give Executive Committee permission to send a letter of support contingent upon Marquette Township supporting that trail. Reynolds seconded motion. Vote and motion carries unanimously.**

VII. ADMINISTRATOR REPORT - Fulsher met Jason Rolling who is on Michigan Trails Advisory Committee. They are looking to meet to discuss Marquette County’s goals on trails and how State

can be a partner.

VIII. BOARD COMMENT

Thomas noted that ski grooming has begun on trail between Ishpeming and Negaunee.

IX. PUBLIC COMMENT

X. ADJOURNMENT - Britton motioned to adjourn meeting at 5:30. Bussone seconded motion. Vote and motion carried unanimously.

NEXT MEETING DATE: DECEMBER 17, 2014, COUNTRY INN AND SUITES