

**Minutes of the  
Nonmotorized Recreation and Transportation Trails Council (NRTTC)  
September 20, 2017, 11:30 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.  
Via teleconference**

1. Meeting was called to order by Joel Patenaude. Members in attendance: Rod Bartlow, William Hauda, Anne Murphy, Dana Johnson, Joel Patenaude, Debbie Peterson, David Phillips, Ben Popp, Geoff Snudden. Staff: Brian Hefty, Missy VanLanduyt, and Brigit Brown (Department of Natural Resources), Jill Mrotek-Glenzinski (Department of Transportation).
2. Approval of meeting minutes from June 6, 2017 moved by Peterson, seconded by Hauda; passed.
3. **Committee Chair Reports**
  - a. **Funding. (Bartlow, Hauda, Peterson, Phillips)** Bartlow has started looking at ideas for nonmotorized trail funding. Brown will provide a link to the 2008 legislative study committee report (from which this council was created), which contains a listing of trail funding by state in the appendix.
  - b. **Outreach. (Patenaude, Murphy, Johnson, Snudden)** Patenaude noted that there has been an uptick in traffic on the NRTTC Facebook page. Posts seem to be an effective way to reach out to constituents on action issues and news items, but traffic is still low.
  - c. **Education. (Theisen, Snudden)** At the last meeting it was suggested that Hauda may be a good chair for the education committee given his interest and willingness in emerging topics to share with the council. Hauda declined the post. Council members discussed the mission and purpose of the committee. Johnson provided a recap of the history of the committee as having a goal to gather information relevant to nonmotorized users (studies, e.g.) and provide that information to constituents.
4. **DNR Report.** Brigit Brown provided an update on the Recreational Opportunities Analysis, reviewed the information provided to the council since the last NRTTC meeting, provided information about turn out at the most recent open house meetings for the Upper Lake Michigan Coastal (Brown, Door, Kewaunee, Manitowoc, Marinette, and Oconto counties) and Great Northwest (Ashland, Barron, Bayfield, Burnett, Douglas, Polk, Rusk, Sawyer, Washburn counties) regions, and announced that the next regions holding public meetings will be the Mississippi River Corridor (Buffalo, Crawford, Dunn, Grant, LaCrosse, Pepin, Pierce, St. Croix, Trempealeau, Vernon counties), Western Sands (Adams, Chippewa, Clark, Eau Claire, Jackson, Juneau, Marathon, Portage, Monroe, Wood counties) and the Lake Winnebago Waters (Calumet, Fond du Lac, Green Lake, Marquette, Menominee, Outagamie, Shawano, Waupaca, Waushara, Winnebago counties). Meetings for the Mississippi River Corridor and

Western Sands regions will be held the week of October 22-25 from 4-7 p.m. in Eau Claire, LaCrosse, and Stevens Point. For the Lake Winnebago Waters region, a meeting will be held on November 1 or 2 from 4-7 p.m. in Appleton. These open houses are designed to gather public comments, ideas, concerns, and perspectives on the existing recreation opportunities available in these regions and future needs. Council members are encouraged to attend and to spread the word to constituents who may be interested as well. An online survey will again be available for each region. More information can be found on the ROA web page (<http://dnr.wi.gov/topic/Lands/RecAnalysis/>), which also has a link to sign-up for an email list for the project and links to the online survey for each region.

- Brown provided an overview of the DNR's administrative code changes that went into effect August 1. Changes include updates to definitions (such as making the definition of bicycle consistent with statute and the definition of physically disabled person consistent with federal code); defining new terms (such as special event); clarifying rules regarding property closures, firewood, and mobility device permits; designation of ATV routes on DNR roads, rules regarding shooting ranges and hunting and weapons discharge; changes camping rules to prevent reservations from being moved forward over time, preventing other campers from being able to reserve certain campsites; allows the use of electric bicycles (with a 15 mph speed limit) on linear state trails that allow bikes; eliminates the list of uses of state trails to be consistent with statute, clarifies that water trails may become state trails and updates the list of state trails to include the Lake Michigan State Water Trail; updates some fees and expands fee areas (four new); and creates or updates a handful of property specific rules.
  - Hefty, VanLanduyt and Brown provided an update on DNR's Alignment process. The department continues to shift resources to best meet the needs of the public and the DNR mission, and is moving towards a higher level of specialization among various DNR programs. Hefty provided information about property maintenance changes under Alignment and how the program is restructuring to better meet maintenance needs of properties. VanLanduyt was introduced as the section chief for the program's new partnerships and external relations section. Brown also has a new position that will focus on recreation management and polices. During the transition to new staff for the council, Brown and VanLanduyt will work together to keep the council informed of relevant changes.
  - Mrotek-Glenzinski shared that the statewide application materials for the [Transportation Alternatives Program](#) (TAP) are expected to be available in October.
5. **Discussion Item: Requiring front and rear lights on bikes on some DNR lands.** Current law is unclear on lighting requirements on bicycles operated on DNR lands (other than public roads). The council discussed the idea of requiring front and rear lights on bicycles on linear (e.g. rail trail) DNR bike trails. Council members were highly supportive of the idea. Discussion resulted in council agreement that lights should not be required to be affixed to the bicycle (e.g. could be mounted on helmet) and that

the rule should not be proposed to be extended to other kinds of trails on DNR lands (such as singletrack).

6. **Discussion Item: State budget amendment eliminating eminent domain power for bike/ped paths and sidewalks.** The specific language of the motion regarding elimination of condemnation authority for trails and similar facilities was provided to the council. A proposal to hold a special council meeting for consideration of a resolution regarding the condemnation of land for trails provision in the budget proposal was moved by Popp, seconded by Hauda. **Council will hold a special meeting via teleconference on Friday, September 22 at 7:45 a.m. to consider a resolution on this topic. [Note: this meeting was cancelled due to definitive legislative action prior to September 22.]**
7. **Discussion Item: Northern Highland-American Legion State Forest master plan amendment.** Public review and comment period ended Sept. 17 for proposed changes to the amendment. Patenaude will work harder to get the council involved in issues such as this. The final proposed (draft) amendment will likely go before the Natural Resources Board at their December meeting. There will be an opportunity to comment on the updated draft amendment when it is released as part of the NRB meeting materials.
8. **Discussion Item: State Trails Council representation.** Mike McFadzen has stepped down from the State Trails Council, on which he represented the interests of cross-country skiers for many years. He has put out a call for interested individuals to apply for appointment. There are also open positions on the State Trails Council for nonmotorized water trails and road/tour cycling. Council members are encouraged to solicit potential candidates. Mike McFadzen can be contacted with questions. The State Trails Council website contains more information and a [membership list](#) with contact information for McFadzen and other council members: <http://dnr.wi.gov/topic/parks/stc/>.
9. **New business and recap of agenda items and goals for next meeting.**
  - a. Murphy asked if there is any movement or discussion regarding implementation of consistent speed limits on all trails for motor bicycles. Hauda responded that DNR has implemented a 15 mph speed limit on DNR trails, but that motor bicycles are still prohibited elsewhere.
  - b. Future agenda/action items:
    - i. Send Bartlow and funding ideas or examples from other states.
    - ii. Patenaude will promote the recreational opportunities analysis on the NRTTC Facebook page.
    - iii. **There will be a special meeting of the NRTTC on Friday, September 22, 2017 at 7:45 a.m. to consider a resolution (Patenaude will draft) regarding the budget proposal to**

**eliminate condemnation authority for trails and sidewalks. [*Note: this meeting was cancelled due to definitive legislative action prior to September 22.*]**

10. Next meeting will be Wednesday, January 17, 11:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m. via conference call.

11. Peterson moved to adjourn, seconded by Murphy. Motion passed.