

**MINUTES St. Croix Bike & Ped Trails Coalition Board of Directors  
City of New Richmond Civic Center, January 8, 2020, 6:30 p.m.**

**CALL TO ORDER** – André Johnson, Chairperson, called the meeting to order at ~ 6:30 p.m.

**STATEMENT OF PUBLIC NOTICE** – The agenda was posted at the Town of Somerset Town Hall and on the Coalition’s web site.

**ROLL CALL** – Board members present were Mark Gherty (after 6:50 p.m.), Susan Heuiser, André Johnson, Andrew Lamers, David Mandel and Mark Vanasse. Board members Pam Kaiser and Kyle Lindstrom were absent as was Alternate Brandi Popenhagen. Ben Heuiser were also present.

**ADOPTION OF AGENDA** – A **motion** (Vanasse, Lamers) to adopt the agenda as presented. **Carried** with no opposition.

**PUBLIC COMMENT** – Opportunity for comments on subjects not on the agenda when recognized by the presiding officer. Susan Heuiser had some information about a new recreation area in Bayport, MN, located between the Xcel Energy King Plant and Andersen Windows. The property contains 4 parcels, has a proposed conservation area, has proposed public walking trails but not bicycle trails, and has a proposed public access to a new boat launch and parking along the St. Croix River and other features that may be become part of the plan as the development of the property begins.

Mark Gherty had information about a St. Croix County road project along County A between County U in the Town of Hudson and Mackin Road in New Richmond. The project will involve milling and repaving the center line of County A to install a rumble strip and new signage as well as pavement markings to increase the safety of this road. The project is in the planning stages and will be constructed during the summer of 2021. Expected time for the construction is 3 weeks. There is a comment period through January 22<sup>nd</sup>. To comment or receive more details about the project, contact Kevin Meyer at Corre, Inc. at [kmeyer@correinc.com](mailto:kmeyer@correinc.com) or at 608-828-1011.

**APPROVAL OF PRIOR MEETING MINUTES** – November 13, 2019 – A **motion** (Vanasse, Johnson) to approve the November 13, 2019, minutes. **Carried** with no opposition.

**REPORTS** - from subcommittees and/or individuals about information gathered for the Board of Directors  
Communications Committee – Johnson reported discussion of the upcoming Summit in early April with suggestions and volunteers for the evenings the result of the discussion. The bike rack initiative has funds in place and locations for the racks so is ready to proceed. The meeting of the MN Lift and Loop celebration committee will follow this meeting. Plans for the WI Lift and Loop next meeting are pending after the MN meeting. The last item was that there has been no progress made on the UP RR bridge and property acquisition.

Financial Report – Vanasse discussed the January 2020 financial report (also the final report for 2019) in detail. There were no questions. Approval of the year end document for inclusion in the 2019 Annual report occurred under Item #2.

Healthier Together – Susan Heuiser showed the completed Library Backpacks that will be in St. Croix and Pierce County Libraries in early 2020. The purpose of the backpacks is to get children and their families into parks looking for a variety of outdoor material to experience the positive aspects of outside activities for all. Moving forward the Physical Activity team will be under the umbrella of the Mental Health goals for the next 3 years.

Hwy 64 Trail Corridor Committee – Susan Heuiser reported this committee agreed to meeting in early 2020 to discuss the activities along the corridor and the potential impacts that may occur because of the activity.

Pathways – Susan Heuiser reported the Pathways group continues to work on various projects in the New Richmond area with the most unusual trail being the water trail along the Willow River from the Nature Center

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in New Richmond along the river to County E. Lots of upkeep to this trail is required. A new parking lot and access stairs at 100<sup>th</sup> close to Boardman has been constructed in cooperation with the County Hwy Department.

Others that may be available – No other items were discussed.

**ITEMS** for discussion and/or action

1. Confirmation of Email Vote

SHOULD THE TRAILS COALITION REJOIN THE ST. CROIX EDC AT THE \$100 LEVEL FOR 2020?

Board members voting YES were Mark Gherty, Susan Heuser, André Johnson, Andrew Lamers, Kyle Lindstrom, David Mandel, and Mark Vanasse. Not voting were Pam Kaiser and Alternate Brandi Popenhagen. The question passed with a quorum of YES votes. A **motion** (Vanasse, Mandel) to confirm the vote to continue the association with St. Croix EDC for 2020. **Carried** with no opposition.

2. Approval of 2019 Financial Report – A **motion** (Vanasse, Mandel) to approve the 2019 Final Financial Report. **Carried** with no opposition.

3. Approval of 2020 Budget – A **motion** (Vanasse, Gherty) to approve the proposed 2020 Budget. **Carried** with no opposition.

4. Summit Collaboration Proposal for April 2019 – Gherty reported that the January 9<sup>th</sup> meeting of a committee to plan a summit was an attempt to bring various community organizations and individuals together to talk about the economic development and tourism potential of trails in the St. Croix Valley area. The event is being planned for the early spring. Details and volunteer assistance will come from the entities planning the event.

5. Bicycle Hitch Rack Initiative – Gherty reported the Hudson Daybreak Rotary grant money has been awarded and several locations have been identified within the Hudson School District boundaries for placement of the racks. Johnson reported contact with the welding instructor at WITC to determine the exact timing of the construction of the racks in the class and to begin the materials acquisition. Several people were identified as part of an installation crew for the racks. More information as the spring goes along.

6. MN and WI Lift and Loop -

- January 7<sup>th</sup> MN Update and WI next meeting plans – The WI Lift and Loop next meeting will be after the next Lift and Loop meeting in MN scheduled for February 4th. Details are being more clearly defined as the May event approached.
- Reservation of Houlton Elementary Park Lots – cost and liability insurance – A **motion** (Gherty, Lamers) to provisionally approve up to \$100 for clean up costs at the Houlton Elementary parking lots pending discussion with Ellen Denzer. **Carried** with no opposition.

7. Beyond the Loop

- County Signage Map – Lamers will check with Brett Budrow at the County to confirm that the County signage map is in agreement with the Beyond the Loop map that is under construction.
- Management of Joint Funding with Pathways – A **motion** (Gherty, Vanasse) to pay Pathways the \$300 previously approved for Beyond the Loop expenses with the understanding that Pathways would provide a status of how the money was spent for the Coalition records. **Carried** with no opposition.

8. MLS Grant Applications – A cooperative agreement between three communities (Towns of St. Joseph and Somerset and Village of Somerset) with an agreed upon trail along the Hwy 64 corridor between the Loop Trail in Houlton through the Town of Somerset and into the edge of the Village of Somerset lead to filings in the one-time MLS grant opportunity for the entire length of the agreed upon trail. Two applications,

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one for the Town of St. Joseph and one for the Town and Village of Somerset, were filed. Notification of awards for what was expected to be a very competitive process will be made in the early spring of 2020.

9. Fund Raiser(s) – Vanasse proposed several fund raisers for the 2020 season. Details will follow as plans are confirmed.
10. Grant Opportunity at First National Community Bank of New Richmond – Discussion of this topic led to the conclusion that there were currently no Coalition projects that would fit into this grant application’s parameters and likely there would not be since the board was unwilling to take funding from organizations tending to life’s basics (food, clothing, shelter, literacy).
11. Set next meeting date – February 12, 2020 – February 12, 2020, at the Town of Somerset Town Hall at 6:30 p.m. was the date set for the next board meeting.

**ITEMS FOR NEXT BOARD of DIRECTORS AGENDA** – Summit, Bike Rach Initiative, MN & WI Lift and Loop, Beyond the Loop, MLS Grant Applications, Fund Raisers

**ITEMS FOR NEXT COALITION AGENDA** – Nothing noted at this time.

**ADJOURNMENT** – A **motion** (Vanasse, Lamers) to adjourn. **Carried** with no opposition at ~7:50 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Susan Heuiser, Secretary