

MINUTES St. Croix Bike & Ped Trails Coalition Board of Directors

April 14, 2021, 6:30 p.m. – Via Zoom

Items in Italics Were Added After the Agenda Was Published

CALL TO ORDER – André Johnson, Chairperson, called the meeting to order at ~ 6:35 p.m.

STATEMENT OF PUBLIC NOTICE – The agenda was posted at the Town of Somerset and the Village of Somerset at their respective Halls and on the Trails Coalition web site.

ROLL CALL - Board members present were Mark Gherty, Susan Heuser, André Johnson, Pam Kaiser (after 7 p.m.), Kyle Lindstrom, Dave Mandel, Paul McGinnis and Mark Vanasse. Andrew Lamers, Alternate, was absent. Ben Heuser, Janet Lindstrom and Pat Conrad were also present.

ADOPTION OF AGENDA – A **motion** (Kyle Lindstrom, Gherty) to adopt the agenda. **Carried** with no opposition.

PUBLIC COMMENT – Opportunity for comments on subjects not on the agenda when recognized by the presiding officer Gherty provided information about the Wiki Mountain Bike Club (<https://wikimountainbike.com/>) a part of the Friends of Willow River and Kinnickinnic State Parks nonprofit friends group. The group (WKMBC) was formed to oversee the development and construction of 30 miles of mountain bike, natural surface trails in the two parks. They have had success with fund raising and are poised for construction in Willow River State Park during the summer of 2021. McGinnis suggested issuing an invitation for a speaker from the group to attend a Coalition meeting to learn more about the project and organization.

APPROVAL OF PRIOR MEETING MINUTES – March 10, 2021 – A **motion** (McGinnis, Vanasse) to approve the minutes as presented. **Carried** with no opposition.

REPORTS - from subcommittees and/or individuals about information gathered for the Board of Directors Communications Committee – Gherty detailed actions of the committee as follows: the 2021 committee White Paper was approved, the Lake Mallalieu Basin Subcommittee Charter was recommended for approval by the Board, discussion about how best to solicit communications to County staff and elected officials regarding winter snow plowing of the Loop Trail, discussion about the August bike ride planned by the Stillwater Rotary and the issues with Hwy 35 road construction through the City of Hudson, and details about completion of bike racks at Osceola HS.

Financial Report – Vanasse discussed the April financial report. There were no questions.

Healthier Together – McGinnis reported some of the libraries in Pierce and St. Croix County are purchasing extra County park passes for the *Library Pack Back* program because its so popular. There is also discussion about providing scholarships for families wanting to join the Stillwater Rotary Bike Ride in August.

Hwy 64 Trail Corridor Committee – Susan Heuser reported the group has not yet met in 2021 but did approve the 2021 committee White Paper via email. A meeting in the spring of 2021 is anticipated because there are several projects underway along the corridor.

Pathways – Susan Heuser relayed information about project updates (Doar Prairie/Nature Center trail connection paving and signage for same, Nature Center improvements in preparation for 50th anniversary celebration in June, Freedom Park trail work, disc golf course construction, two historical projects in conjunction with WITC and update of trail brochures).

Beyond the Loop – Susan Heuser indicated stickers will be ordered soon to update the BTL map/brochure regarding changes at the New Richmond Doar Prairie/Nature Center trail connection.

Lift and Loop – This celebration, co-sponsored by the City of Stillwater and MnDOT, is on hold pending Governors Walz’s regulations around pandemic issues in the late summer of 2021. Plans include a spaghetti dinner on the Historic Lift Bridge and a street dance on the promenade as the bridge connects to Stillwater.

Others that may be available – There were no other reports.

ITEMS for discussion and/or action

1. Approval of 2021 Annual Report - A **motion** (Vanasse, Gherty) to approve the Annual Report. **Carried** with no opposition.

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2. Annual Meeting Details – This April 24, 2021, meeting will be a Zoom meeting with links sent to individuals who indicate an interest in attending.
3. Charter Approval of Lake Mallalieu Basin Subcommittee – A **motion** (Gherty, McGinnis) to approve the subcommittee charter. **Carried** with no opposition.
4. Update on St. Croix County Bike Routes – McGinnis provided a map of the County’s signage for the blue dot route portion of the on-road trails maps designated by the County. It runs approximately 6 miles from River Crest Elementary through the Town of Troy to the northern edge of River Falls. There may be future plans for off road connections/access in the City of Hudson’s bike plan.
5. Bike Rack Initiative Specifics – Johnson is waiting for information about pick up of racks from Osceola HS before the end of the school year.
6. Loop Trail Winter Snowplowing Details – Discussion included feedback from messages sent to St. Croix County decision makers about winter snow plowing on the Loop Trail. McGinnis noted that this issue was part of a larger discussion about how the County is going to maintain County trails long term during what has become a year around exercise culture. He cited health and wellness issues for residents and also Wisconsin Statutes that contain language that trails deserve the same kind of care as roads. WisStat §340 in general and specifically §340.01(5) and §346.02 (4)(a) and others. One suggestion was whether the Town of St. Joseph would send a request for winter snow plowing to the County. Janet Lindstrom will check on that possibility. Another was to provide feedback gleaned from discussions at various trail organization meetings to the decision makers. Ultimately, a **motion** (McGinnis, Gherty) to send a letter to the County that the Loop Trail should be maintained all year around. **Carried** with no opposition.
7. Parnell Prairie – Johnson discussed his meeting with the Town of Somerset board regarding his proposals and costs for possible improvements at the site. The proposals discussed were a single-track trail around the 50 acre site, a dog park and a pump track. The Town of Somerset was going to discuss the options with the Village of Somerset to decide how to move forward.
8. Outreach Opportunity for Beyond the Loop at New Richmond’s Friday Library – Susan Heuser discussed an opportunity to make a Facebook video to be displayed on the New Richmond Friday Library site about the Beyond the Loop Trail. Johnson volunteered to participate in the discussion. Susan Heuser suggested a joint presentation with Pathways and will follow up with the Library and Pathways to get this video scheduled.
9. Future Projects List – McGinnis put his name on the Healthier Together project list. Vanasse put his and Tim Witzmann’s names on the Hwy 64 Landing Hill/St. Croix National Golf Course project list. Kaiser suggest two further options.
First, volunteering to assist with the Fat Tire Bike Event to be held on the New Richmond Golf Club Course in February 2022. Kaiser will check on details for the next meeting. Second, a bike demo expo possibility for the Spring of 2022 that would include local bike shops allowing participants to try out various kinds of bicycles for possible purchase. This project was placed on the long-term list.
10. Others – There were no other items presented.
11. Set next meeting date – May 12, 2021 – The next meeting was set for May 12, 2021, at 6:30 p.m. via Zoom

ITEMS FOR NEXT BOARD of DIRECTORS AGENDA – Election of Board Officers, Lake Mallalieu Basin Friends Group, Bike Rack Initiative, Loop Trail Winter Snow Plowing, Parnell Prairie, Friday Library Facebook VideoTaping, Future Projects List, Invitation to Wiki Mountain Bike Club to Attend a Meeting

ITEMS FOR NEXT COALITION AGENDA – Review of Annual Report, Election of Board Members

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

Respectfully Submitted, Susan Heuser, Secretary