

**MINUTES St. Croix Bike & Ped Trails Coalition Board of Directors
May 12, 2021, 6:30 p.m. – Via Zoom**

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

STATEMENT OF PUBLIC NOTICE – Johnson reported 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, Kyle Lindstrom, Paul McGinnis and Mark Vanasse. Board members Pam Kaiser and Dave Mandel as well as alternate Andrew Lamers were absent. Ben Heuser, Janet Lindstrom and Tom Gujer were also present.

ADOPTION OF AGENDA - A **motion** (Kyle Lindstrom, McGinnis) to adopt the agenda as presented. Discussion produced an amendment to the motion. A **motion** (Gherty, Kyle Lindstrom) to move Item 1 before the *REPORTS* on the agenda. The amendment and motion **carried** with no opposition.

PUBLIC COMMENT – Opportunity for comments on subjects not on the agenda when recognized by the presiding officer. There was no public comment.

APPROVAL OF PRIOR MEETING MINUTES – April 14, 2021 – A **motion** (Vanasse, Kyle Lindstrom) to approve the April 14, 2021, minutes. **Carried** with no opposition.

ITEMS for discussion and/or action

1. Wiki Mountain Bike Club Presentation – Tom Gujer from the Wiki Mountain Bike Club discussed the organization and the work of the group. <https://wikimountainbike.com/> Some highlights follow.
 - The organization is a subsidiary of the Friends of the Willow River and Kinnickinnic State Parks. The Wiki Mountain Bike Club is entirely focused on mountain bike trails in the two parks. Specifically, their work focuses on raising funds and recruiting volunteers.
 - It has taken 8 years to work through all the required documentation to permit trails in the parks.
 - Mountain biking trails for both parks have been designed by professionals.
 - Trail construction is completed by the Wiki Mountain Bike Club with more than 3000 volunteer hours needed.
 - 3 miles of mountain biking trails will open in Kinnickinnic on May 15, 2021 and 3 miles of mountain biking trails will open in Willow River by July 4, 2021.
 - The Club's 5 year plan is for 25 miles of mountain biking trails in Willow River and 12 mile of mountain biking trails in Kinnickinnic.
 - When completed, it is expected that these facilities will rival national mountain biking facilities, i.e., Cuyuna in Crosby, MN, and draw tourists to the state parks and the entire region.

REPORTS - from subcommittees and/or individuals about information gathered for the Board of Directors
Communications Committee – Gherty reported the Committee is working on several projects especially as they relate to effective communication with St. Croix County and other stakeholders as well as interested members of the general public. He indicated that those initiatives are a work in progress.

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

Healthier Together – McGinnis reported the library backpack program is well under way.

Hwy 64 Trail Corridor Committee – Susan Heuser reported this committee has a meeting date set for the end of May to update all members on corridor activities.

Pathway – Susan Heuser reported the Pathway organization did not meet in May so nothing new to report.

Beyond the Loop – Susan Heuser indicated stickers had been purchased to correct the directions around the New Richmond Nature Center/Doar Prairie changes and the corrected brochures will be distributed as soon as the paving is complete on the Nature Center/Doar Prairie project.

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Lift and Loop – No communication as yet from the Minnesota groups who permit this celebration of the opening of the Historic Stillwater Lift Bridge.

Others that may be available

Susan Heuser reported that both raffle licenses had been renewed and that the insurance payment had been made.

McGinnis reported the Troy cycling club is meeting to discuss more trail options in Troy. The group will be working with St. Croix County to determine signing options for any further designated trails.

ITEMS for discussion and/or action (continued)

2. Election of Board of Directors Officers – Coalition officers were elected as follows.

- Kyle Lindstrom opened nominations for Chairperson. A **motion** (Vanasse, Gherty) to nominate André Johnson. Lindstrom called for other nominations. There were none. Motion **carried** with no opposition.
- Johnson opened nominations for Vice Chairperson. A **motion** (Vanasse, Susan Heuser) to nominate Kyle Lindstrom. Johnson called for other nominations. There were none. Motion **carried** with no opposition.
- Johnson opened nominations for Secretary. A **motion** (Kyle Lindstrom, McGinnis) to nominate Susan Heuser. Johnson called for other nominations. There were none. Motion **carried** with no opposition.
- Johnson opened nominations for Treasurer. A **motion** (McGinnis, Gherty) to nominate Mark Vanasse. Johnson called for other nominations. There were none. Motion **carried** with no opposition.
- Johnson opened nominations for Grants Coordinator. A **motion** (Vanasse, Kyle Lindstrom) to nominate Susan Heuser. Johnson called for other nominations. There were none. Motion **carried** with no opposition.

3. Hudson Chamber of Commerce Membership Renewal – Discussion included the strong advantage to retaining this membership in order to assist facilitation of economic and bicycle summits in cooperation with the Chamber and other organizations. A **motion** (Vanasse, Gherty) to renew the Hudson Chamber of Commerce membership for 2021. **Carried** with no opposition.

4. Friday Library Facebook Taping – Johnson is coordinating with a Pathway representative and the New Richmond Librarian to film a video about the Beyond the Loop Trail. It will be available on Facebook on May 18th.

5. Loop Trail Winter Plowing – Funding for Loop Trail winter (2021-2022) plowing is under consideration along with many other worthy issues at the County. A new option *could* be American Rescue Plan funds from the pandemic funding package. Many issues about how to access those funds and what initiatives can be funded with the money remain to be clarified by the governmental entities disbursing the funds.

- Reason for Sales Tax Increase – Information from Dan Hansen, County Board member, indicated St. Croix County had increased sales tax revenue in 2020, a pandemic year. Hansen provided a report that analyzed the reason for that increase for discussion.
- Outreach – Several methods of getting information about this issue to the appropriate officials at the County are under consideration.

6. County On-Road Trail Signage – McGinnis discussed how best to work in a cooperative manner with St. Croix County about trail issues, i.e., trail locations, trail signage, improved website information about trails (surface, grade, type of riders to use which trails, County Bike and Ped Plan, etc.), trail trends (fat tire bikes, e-bikes,) etc. He indicated the likely necessity for coordination at the Coalition regarding which board member is discussing which topic with the County.

Signage for the County's on road trail system continues to be put in place and the public is noticing.

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7. Friends of Lake Mallalieu Basin (LMB) Organization – Gherty discussed the people who were invited to join the founding committee for the LMB organization. Consensus on the Board was that the group seemed well qualified to move the project forward.
 - Approval of the initial recommended committee members - A **motion** (Gherty, Vanasse) to approve Mark Gherty, Susan Heuser, Don Jordan, Sharon Keiser, Paul McGinnis, Kerri Reis, Dag Selander and Dan Timmermann as organizing committee members of the Lake Mallalieu Basin Committee. **Carried** with no opposition.
8. Bike Rack Initiative – Johnson reported the end of school year pick up from Osecola High School’s Tech Ed class was on target. The location of rack placement and installation crew members to assist with installation is in place. Weather proof stickers don’t have an estimate yet but, if the cost is more than \$100, an email authorization vote will be taken.
9. Parnell Prairie – Johnson reported this matter is in the hands of the Town and Village of Somerset about how to proceed.
10. Future Projects – The Projects List was reviewed with an addition made, namely coordination with St. Croix County about county wide trail issues.
11. Planning for Summer Initiatives – Susan Heuser made a list of names of project Board members were interested in being involved with over the summer when Board meetings are not held.
 - Zoom Contract – After discussion, general consensus was to keep the monthly Zoom contract through the summer.
12. Others – After discussion of Beyond the Loop map/brochure inventory, a **motion** (Vanasse, Kyle Lindstrom) to spend up to \$300 for Beyond the Loop trail map/brochures with the hope the expense would be less than \$300.
13. Set next meeting date – End of August, First of September? – The next meeting was set for **September 8, 2021.**

ITEMS FOR NEXT BOARD of DIRECTORS AGENDA – Loop Trail Winter Plowing, Lake Mallalieu Basin Committee, County On-Road Signage, Bike Rack Initiative, Parnell Prairie

ITEMS FOR NEXT COALITION AGENDA – None presented at this time.

ADJOURNMENT – A **motion** (Gherty, Vanasse) to adjourn. **Carried** with no opposition at ~ 8:00 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,
Susan Heuser, Secretary