

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

August 31, 2022, - 6:30 p.m. – Via Zoom

*Items in Italics Added to Agenda after its Distribution*

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

**ROLL CALL** – Board members present were Susan Heuser, Pam Kaiser, Kyle Lindstrom and Mark Vanasse. Board members Mark Gherty, Dave Mandel and Paul McGinnis were absent. Ben Heuser was also present.

**ADOPTION OF AGENDA** – A **motion** (Kaiser, Lindstrom) 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. There was no public comment.

**APPROVAL OF PRIOR MEETING MINUTES** – May 11, 2022 – A **motion** (Lindstrom, Kaiser) to approve the May 11, 2022, minutes as is. **Carried** with no opposition.

**REPORTS** - from subcommittees and/or individuals about information gathered for the Board of Directors Communications Committee – In Chairperson Tim Witzmann’s absence, Vanasse indicated the items for discussion from the August 27, 2022, Communications Committee are in the *ITEMS for discussion and/or action*.

Financial Report – Vanasse reviewed the August financial report. There were no questions.

Healthier Together – Paul McGinnis was not present so there was no report.

UP RR Trestle – Susan Heuser reported a productive meeting with the Committee working with the National Park Service’s *Rivers, Trails and Conservation Assistance* (RTCA) staff person. A visioning exercise produced some specific (then generalized by the RTCA staff person, Holly Larson) goals for the trestle site. At least another session will be needed to finish that process. All stakeholders participated in the discussion and contributed well considered suggestions.

In addition, contact will be made with Senator Tammy Baldwin’s regional representative about the possibility of *congressionally directed spending* for the trestle project.

Pathways – Susan Heuser reported on trail initiatives the New Richmond group is working on. **1)** A trail to complete a partially completed off road trail along the east side of CTH A from New Richmond Way to Sather Nature Center has all the requirements in place to build the trail. Construction will likely take place in 2023. **2)** On the east side of Town, a CTH K project is ready to go when the County is ready to complete their road project there. **3)** Construction toward completing a trail completely around the lake in Freedom Park was completed by Army Reserve units this summer. In other areas, **4)** a restroom will be placed in Sather Nature Center by fall. **5)** There is an initiative to get a TriShaw/RickShaw type bicycle powered vehicle for the City. These vehicles feature a trained *pilot* to bicycle passengers around an area. **6)** Fat Bike World Championships is returning to New Richmond in January 2023.

Beyond the Loop – Susan Heuser noted signage for this trail in the Town of Somerset area remains inaccurate. Suggestion was to contact the County to actually meet a representative at the locations that need attention.

Bridge the Valley Bike Rally – Susan Heuser reported news reports about the event indicated the number of participants was less than expected.

Bike Rack Placement – Kaiser and Susan Heuser reported planned location of racks at 45<sup>th</sup> Parallel in New Richmond and at Camp YMCA in Hudson. An early fall placement is expected for both sites.

TAP Grant Awards – Several Transportation Alternative Program (TAP) Grant applications were discussed since each contributes significantly to the connectivity of trails in St. Croix County. Maps were available for viewing.

### **TAP GRANTS AWARDED**

The **Town of St. Joseph** received an award to extend the trail from the Loop Trail in an easterly direction toward Somerset and New Richmond along an existing town road, connecting to 23<sup>rd</sup> Street, then on a different town road to the intersection with CTH V.

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

August 31, 2022, - 6:30 p.m. – Via Zoom

*Items in Italics Added to Agenda after its Distribution*

The **Village of Somerset** received an award to complete trails along STH 35 in the *Church Hill* area and east of there in an area that contains housing, retail, small businesses and light and heavy industrial businesses. The plan is to get trail traffic safely into the Village from that area. There was discussion about having a Village Representative attend the October 12<sup>th</sup> Coalition meeting to explain in depth what the trail plan is.

### **TAP GRANTS NOT AWARDED**

The **Town of Somerset** applied for a grant along the *Landing Hill* area of the Town as it borders STH 64. This area is key to moving trail traffic east from the Loop Trail.

**St. Croix County** applied for a grant to complete Section 2 of their three-stage plan to connect the Loop Trail moving south along STH 35 to the Village of North Hudson.

Others that may be available – No other reports were presented.

### **ITEMS** for discussion and/or action

1. Memorial to André Johnson – Vanasse had been in contact with representatives from the Somerset Schools, the Village of Somerset and the Somerset Library. There will be a meeting in early September to begin discussing details of a remembrance for Johnson, an avid trail enthusiast.
2. Possible Fund Raisers – Vanasse and Kaiser are considering fund raisers at 45<sup>th</sup> Parallel in New Richmond, Oliphant in Somerset (Spring of 2023) and Hop and Barrel in the City of Hudson. Further details to follow.
3. Communications Committee Item(s)
  - a) Economic Summit – The recommendation from the Communications Committee was to wait to see what might happen with the Union Pacific RR Trestle over the short run. Also sentiment that Fall of 2022 was to quick to get an event set up. Mark Gherty will contact Bill Rubin.
  - b) Outreach, Short and Long Term – One speaking engagement is already set in October with the River Falls Rotary Club. Again, the recommendation from the Communications Committee was to wait to see what might happen with the Unions Pacific RR Trestle project over the short run to decide whether an active outreach program needs to be in place.
  - c) River Valley Trails (RVT) – The discussion centered around the upcoming Autumn Trek ride on September 18<sup>th</sup>. General consensus was to wait for an invitation to help with that event if RVT needs assistance.  
Also, the Communications Committee suggested discussion about whether the Trails Coalition should reach out to RVT to work together on trail issues in the area. General consensus was to wait for RVT to contact the Trails Coalition.
4. Others – Kaiser discussed a Wisconsin Healthy Communities Summit at the end of September. She may attend and bring back information to the group.
5. Set next meeting date – October 12, 2022 – The **next meeting** was set for **October 12, 2022**, at 6:30 p.m. possibly at the Somerset Library.

**ITEMS FOR NEXT BOARD of DIRECTORS AGENDA** – Memorial to André Johnson, Bike Rack Initiative, Union Pacific Railroad Trestle, Fund Raisers, Outreach – long and short term, and Economic Summit

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

**ADJOURNMENT** – A **motion** (Lindstrom, Kaiser) to adjourn. **Carried** with no opposition at ~ 8:10 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Susan Heuiser, Secretary