

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

Somerset Library, April 10, 2024 – 3:00 p.m. – 4:30 p.m.

Items in Italics were added after distribution of the Agenda

CALL TO ORDER – Mark Gherty, designated Chairperson for the meeting, called the meeting to order at ~ 3:05 p.m.

ROLL CALL - Board members present were Mark Gherty (via Zoom), Susan Heuser, Pam Kaiser, Kyle Lindstrom (via Zoom), and Paul McGinnis. Mark Vanasse was absent. Ben Heuser, Janet Lindstrom (via Zoom) and Tim Witzmann were also present.

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

APPROVAL OF PRIOR MEETING MINUTES – March 13, 2024 – A **motion** (McGinnis, Kaiser) to approve the minutes. **Carried** with no opposition.

REPORTS - from subcommittees and/or individuals about information gathered for the Board of Directors
Financial Report – Susan Heuser reported there was no financial report.

County Eckert Blufflands Plan – Susan Heuser reported the County will spend several million dollars over the next two years beginning to develop some of the amenities contained in the *Eckert Bluffland Park Master Plan*. The first expenditure will be on a road leading into the park at the southern access in the Town of Hudson along with some parking facilities for users. Part of the plan is to make the entrances safer onto STH 35. McGinnis wondered whether access for bikers on the east side of STH 35 had been addressed. Heuser did not have that information. <https://www.sccwi.gov/DocumentCenter/View/7192/Eckert-Blufflands-Master-Plan>

Healthier Together – McGinnis reported nothing new regarding health issues at this time.

County Emphasis on Spending – Susan Heuser noted information received from the County that their spending initiatives for outdoor recreations activities would be largely driven by amenities in the *2022 – 2026 Outdoor Recreation Plan*. <https://www.sccwi.gov/DocumentCenter/View/538/St-Croix-County-Parks---Outdoor-Recreation-Plan-PDF?bidId=>

RTCA Committee – at grade crossing, WisDNR – Gherty and Susan Heuser reported a meeting with WisDNR staff regarding the project led to a conversation that indicated WisDNR is very open to the prospect of a facility on the scenic river in the Lake Mallalieu Basin.

In addition, they have had contact with the Union Pacific Railroad about at grade crossings of an active line and have details of and forms for the process necessary to have a particular location approved. That information will be shared with the RTCA Committee led by the National Park Service. They reported the process is likely to be difficult and lengthy.

Tourism – Susan Heuser and Gherty discussed the March 20th Tourism Roundtable details and reported the Coalition had cancelled the May 22nd Tourism Week Event.

Yearly Reports – Susan Heuser reported 4 of the 6 yearly reports have been filed. The remaining 2 reports have later due dates.

New Bank Account – Susan Heuser reported she and Vanasse had opened a bank account at First State Bank and Trust. Banking operations will be permanently moved to that account over the next several months.

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

ITEMS for discussion and/or action

1. Fund Raiser at Lift Bridge in New Richmond – Kaiser led the discussion about the facility being interested in having the Coalition for another *Wednesday Townie* event soon. The fund raiser at Oliphant that usually

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occurs in May was discussed but, without Vanasse present, couldn't be decided upon. General consensus on the Board was to schedule another event at Lift Bridge during the summer and again in the fall and then see how to proceed from there.

2. Hudson Expo Planning – The event on May 5th will focus on where bicyclists and walkers can find places to recreate in St. Croix County. It will highlight on-going and upcoming trail projects around the County.
3. Annual Meeting Details – The Board decided to hold the Annual Meeting after the May Board meeting. It was decided that the Board meeting would start at 4 p.m. followed by the Annual Meeting at 5 p.m.
4. Goals and Objectives – This item was not discussed due to time constraints.
5. Communication Plan – Witzmann didn't have anything to discuss at this time.
6. Membership – This issue is pending Vanasse's input.
7. Others – There were no other topics presented.
8. Set next meeting date – May 8, 2024 – Board meeting at 4 p.m., Annual Meeting at 5 p.m.

ITEMS FOR NEXT BOARD OF DIRECTORS AGENDA – Goals and Objectives, Communication Plan, Membership

ITEMS FOR NEXT COALITION AGENDA – Annual Report

ADJOURNMENT – A **motion** (McGinnis, Kaiser) to adjourn. **Carried** with no opposition at ~ 4:25 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,
Susan Heuser, Secretary