

MINUTES Joint Meeting

St. Croix Bike & Ped Trails Coalition Board of Directors & Communications Committee

Via Zoom - February 14, 2024, 3:00 p.m.

Items in Italics Added After Publication of the Agenda

CALL TO ORDER - Mark Vanasse called the meeting to order at ~ 3:00 p.m.

ROLL CALL –Board members present were Mark Gherty, Susan Heuiser, Pam Kaiser, Kyle Lindstrom, Paul McGinnis (after 3:10 p.m. and until 4:20 p.m.) and Mark Vanasse.

Communication Committee members present were Mark Gherty, Susan Heuiser, Janet Lindstrom, and Mark Vanasse. Tim Witzmann was absent.

Ben Heuiser; Ryan Brathal (3:00 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.) St. Croix County Property Manager, and Scott Wagner (3:30 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.) were also present.

ADOPTION OF AGENDA – A **motion** (Gherty, Kaiser) 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.

Ryan Brathal joined the meeting to share information about a new trail that connects the Wildwood Trail in eastern St. Croix County to points in Pierce County. The Village of Spring Valley has been working to bring trail traffic from the southern end of the Wildwood Trail at the St. Croix/Pierce County Line into the Village to enjoy its attractions. He provided a map that the Coalition will put on its website to invite people to use that trail connection. He also provided an update about the County granting motorized vehicle access (including recreational vehicles) to the Wildwood Trail all year around for property owners that border the trail. This is a significant change to the motorized vehicle usage of the Trail.

APPROVAL OF PRIOR MEETING MINUTES – December 13, 2023 and January 10, 2024 – Approval of these minutes was postponed until the March meeting due to lack of time.

REPORTS - from subcommittees and/or individuals about information gathered for the Board of Directors
Financial Report – A review of the January bank deposits, withdrawals and balance generated no questions.

Healthier Together – Mc Ginnis reported there were no updates.

Lake Mallalieu Basin Trestle Park – Gherty reported the project is becoming more public with an article in the *Star Observer*, February 1, 2024, online edition, detailing a park and trail concept for the railroad trestle property in addition to several visits to City of Hudson and Village of North Hudson governmental committees/boards, as well as a presentation to the St. Croix Valley Economic Development Committee.

Tourism – Gherty reported St. Croix County, Hudson Area Chamber of Commerce and Visitors Bureau, St. Croix Economic Development Corporation and the Trails Coalition are working on details of a Roundtable discussion on March 20, 2024, among area businesses and governmental representatives about how to nurture collaborative efforts inviting both residents and visitors to St. Croix Valley attractions. Then on May 22, 2024, a second annual seminar about the same topic is being planned for Tourism Week 2024. Details for speakers at that event are still pending.

Others that may be available – There were no other items presented.

ITEMS for discussion and/or action

1. Approve 2023 Financial Report – Following discussion, a **motion** (Gherty, Kyle Lindstrom) to approve the 2023 Financial Report. **Carried** with no opposition.
2. 2024 Proposed Budget – Following review of the line-item expenditures for the past 5 years, several additions were made to the proposed budget that brought general consensus about which numbers to use to create the spreadsheet that reports expenditures for the 2024 year.
3. Standard Operating Policies - Following discussion, a **motion** (Vanasse, Kyle Lindstrom) to approve the *Standard Operating Policies 2024* with the changes as noted. **Carried** with no opposition.

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4. Goals & Objectives – This item was not discussed because of lack of time.
5. Whether to Put Structures in Place to Allow for Quick Turnaround Grant Filing Opportunities – The Coalition had consulted Wagner about an appropriate way to handle larger sums of money that might come into the Coalition coffers. He discussed the possibilities of a trust arrangement with a local bank that would designate the bank as the fiscal agent for funds granted to the Coalition. He provided contact information and some details about that type of account for a bank with strong local ties to the area. Susan Heuiser, Vanasse, and perhaps Wagner will make an appointment to gather further information about this type of arrangement.
6. Contact with Representative Tiffany’s Office about NPS Information Center – Wagner had been in contact with a member of Representative Tiffany’s staff about across the river cooperation for a project in the City of Stillwater to create a National Park Service Information Center on river front property on the north end of the City. The City of Stillwater is currently working on details of requirements for placing appropriate additions on the property located on a scenic river to create a frequently used visitors center. Representative Tiffany’s staff member indicated, once the details were known, the usual way this type of matter is handled is for Representative Tiffany’s office to write a Letter of Support for the project. Mike Polehna from Stillwater will follow up with Wagner when the plans are farther along.
7. Communication Outreach Plan – This item was not discussed because of lack of time.
8. Membership – This item was not discussed because of lack of time.
9. Others – Discussion about who would speak at a gathering of trails organizations and outdoor recreation organizations to have a conversation with St. Croix Community Development staff about what each group is doing and how the County might work together with these organizations. Conclusion was that Mark Vanasse would be the designated spokes person for the Coalition to this group moving forward. That designation is contained in the *Standard Operating Procedures* approved under Item #3. However, there was discussion about others who might speak at this March 4, 2024, meeting. Gherty and Vanasse will collaborate and share the speaking responsibilities for the Coalition’s portion of that meeting.
10. Set next meeting date – March 13, 2024, or Other – The next meeting was set for **March 13, 2024, at 3:00 p.m. at the Somerset Library.**

ITEMS FOR NEXT BOARD of DIRECTORS AGENDA – Minutes from December 13, 2023; January 10, 2024, and February 14, 2024; Banking Details, Goals and Objectives, Communications Plan, Membership, Annual Meeting

ITEMS FOR NEXT COALITION AGENDA – Nothing at this time.

ADJOURNMENT - A **motion** (Gherty, Vanasse) to adjourn **carried** at ~ 4:30 p.m. with no opposition.

Respectfully Submitted,
Susan Heuiser, Secretary