

Next Generation Initiative
“Strengthening Our Niche” Work Group
Monday, July 12, 2010 Noon, Iron Cty Courthouse

Present: Tom Bergman, Annette Burchell, John Garske, Morgan Grasso, Melanie Fullman, Brad Kusz, Gemma Lamb, Jim & Sue Rouse, Terri Triggiano

Resolution Status Review for Regional Non-Motorized Trail System:

Annette Burchell distributed another checklist for receiving resolutions of support for the regional trail system. The following is an updated status of the communities and organizations along the proposed route (with person/people responsible for obtaining the resolutions if necessary):

Resolutions passed and received to date (as of July 27, 2010):

- Gogebic County Board of Commissioners
- Gogebic County Economic Development Corporation
- City of Ironwood
- Ironwood Charter Township
- City of Bessemer
- Bessemer Township
- City of Wakefield
- Wakefield Township
- Marenisco Township
- Town of Kimball
- Ironwood Area School District
- Bessemer School District
- Wakefield-Marenisco School District
- North Country Trail Association - Ni-Miikanaake Chapter
- Iron County Resource Development Authority
- Bessemer Downtown Development Authority
- Ironwood Parks & Recreation Committee
- Ironwood Chamber of Commerce (letter of support)
- Hurley Chamber of Commerce
- Bessemer Chamber of Commerce
- Wakefield Chamber of Commerce
- Western U.P. Convention and Visitors Bureau

Resolutions/Letters of support passed but have not yet received copies in hand:

- Erwin Township (Annette)
- Gogebic Community College Board of Trustees (Annette)
- Grand View Health Systems Board (John)

The following resolutions need to be obtained:

- City of Hurley (Will, Kelly and Tom)
- City of Montreal (Will, Kelly and Tom)
- Iron County Board of Commissioners (Will, Kelly and Tom)
- Hurley School District (Will, Kelly and Tom)
- Watersmeet Township (John)
- Gogebic Range Trail Authority (Melanie)
- UP Travel and Recreation Authority (UPTRA) (Dick)

Support has been received from the Iron County Forestry & Parks Committee, awaiting formal approval by the Iron County Board.

Michign DNR Trail Acquisition: Roger Storm, Trail Acquisitions for Michigan's DNR, along with Ron Yesney, Trail Specialist for the MDNR, had a conference call with John Garske, along with other Coleman Engineering staff, Ironwood city manager, Scott Erickson, Ironwood mayor, Bob Burchell, to discuss railroad grade acquisition in our area. The DNR gentlemen indicated that the State is interested in pursuing acquiring the two railroad grades. Storm encouraged the SON group to talk/meet with the Iron Ore Heritage Trail group out of Negaunee via Carol Fulsher.

Action Items:

Annette Burchell to follow-up and make contact with Carol Fulsher of the Iron Ore Heritage Trail System and arrange meeting time to travel to Negaunee area.

John Garske to communicate with Roger Storm/Ron Yesney to outline what we need to do to further the progress of these grade acquisitions. Garske to clarify with Storm impending August 1 DNR Trust Fund grant deadline for land acquisitions, and to confirm that local municipalities do not need to make such applications with respect to these railroad grades.

John Garske to investigate a local contact for the railroad depot park grades.

Next Meeting: Monday, September 13, 2010, Noon, Iron County Courthouse.