

June 27, 2019 2:00 PM CST

Old National Event Plaza

715 Locust Street

Evansville, IN 47708

Attendance

Board Members Present:

ATV Users- Jay Jackson (proxy)
Bicyclists- Greg Midgley
Equestrians- Yvette Rollins
Four Wheel Drive Users- Ryan Sweany
Hikers- Terry Fletcher
Mountain Bikers- Jeff Fetterer
Off-Road Motorcyclists- Rayce Guthrie
Parks & Recreation Agencies- Travis Tranbarger
Pedestrians- Pat Martin
Water Trail Users- Margaret Easton
Trails Support Groups- Angie Pool

Board Members Not Present:

Environmental Groups- Kevin Hardie
Health/Higher Education- Pete Fritz
Snowmobilers- Len Neisler
Users with Disabilities- David Meihls

DNR Staff:

Allen Hurst- Outdoor Recreation
Amy Marisavljevic- Outdoor Recreation
Carman Jackson- Outdoor Recreation
Jude Hays- Outdoor Recreation

Guests:

Alexis Bruggren- Old National Event Plaza
David Rollins
Jeremy Kunz- Evansville Trails Coalition
Joe Taylor- Evansville Convention & Visitors Bureau
Julee Guthrie
Lorie Van Hook - Evansville Trails Coalition

Meeting Minutes

Welcome & Introductions

Chair Pat Martin welcomed everyone and called the meeting to order at 2:08 PM CST. He thanked everyone in attendance for coming and initiated introductions. All Trails Advisory Board (TAB) members, Department of Natural Resources (DNR) staff, and guests introduced themselves. Tim Garrett gave his proxy to Jay Jackson. Jeremy Kuntz and Lori Van Hook from the Evansville Trails Coalition thanked the TAB for coming to Evansville and for visiting the trails in the community. Alexis Bruggren, general manager of the old national event plaza, welcomed the board to Evansville and to the Old National Event Plaza. Martin thanked everyone from Evansville for their hospitality. Lastly, Amy Marisavljevic thanked the Interlake State Recreation Area (SRA) crew and Indiana Four-Wheel Drive Association (IFWDA) volunteers who helped with a tour of the property the previous day.

Approval of the Agenda

Martin called for approval of the agenda. Margaret Easton motioned and Rayce Guthrie seconded. Motion passed.

Review and Approval of December 6, 2018 minutes

Marisavljevic noted that Greg Midgley's minor edits had already been corrected. Easton pointed out a typo in the water trails report. Yvette Rollins motioned to accept the minutes with the suggested edits and Midgley seconded. Motion passed.

DNR Report

Marisavljevic stated that due to the record rainfall, many DNR properties around the state experienced flooding and damage, resulting in many trail, beach, dock, and campground closures. She also noted that Brown County State Park was recently closed due to the rain impacting potable water at the property, but has since re-opened.

Grants Updates

Marisavljevic reported that the DNR received 82 applicants requesting a total of \$144 million dollars in grant funding during the first round of the Next Level Trails (NLT) program. Nearly \$20 million for regional and \$5 million for local projects were awarded to 17 projects on May 2 in Speedway. The NLT round one awardees will create over 42 miles of new trail over the next several years, including some that will open by 2020. Copies of the NLT news release with details about all the awardees were made available for those interested.

Despite the quick first round application deadline, NLT has proven to be both very popular and therefore, competitive. Marisavljevic expects more new applications in the next two rounds. The DNR anticipates the second round will be announced this summer with a application deadline in the fall. The only major change for the second round is limiting one application per applicant per round.

Marisavljevic stated that the DNR received 16 Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) applications for a request of \$3.2 million. This is a significant increase in interest from previous years and not all applicants will be able to be awarded. However, she reported that LWCF had been permanently reauthorized by Congress and there is a good chance funding amounts available per state will increase in the future.

Redbird State Recreation Area (SRA) Update

Carman Jackson reported that the road paving project at Redbird SRA, which utilizes funds dedicated for internal road projects, has started and is likely going to be finished in the next month or two. The road projects is the first phase of a larger project that will include the construction of a new property entrance with a gatehouse/office building, similar in design to that at Interlake. RTP funds are being consolidated to fund that upcoming building project. The new entrance will allow trails users to better access Redbird's trails and amenities. Once complete, the paving project will also open up the non-motorized northern portion of the property for more use. Due to record rain, both the road paving and planned trail projects have experienced some delays. In addition to

rehabbing several popular trails, Redbird staff are also in the process of adding three new miles of singletrack at Redbird.

International Trails Symposium

Marisavljevic attended both the International Trails Symposium (ITS) and State Trails Administrator Meeting (STAM) on behalf of the DNR in Syracuse, New York in May. She noted that there were several Hoosiers in attendance at ITS to learn more about best practices, successes and challenges from trail stakeholders from across the country. She reported Rory Robinson, former National Park Service's River Trails and Conservation Assistance staff assigned to Indiana, received a lifetime achievement award for his great works, and that Angie Pool received the Outstanding Trail Leader award for Indiana. Additionally at STAM, Marisavljevic stated Indiana was commended on both their TAB and their state ORV properties.

Old Business

Trails Outreach Events

Marisavljevic also attended the DNR's R3 Conference in March. R3 stands for recruitment, retention, and reactivation and is being implemented as a strategy across the country to improve declining hunting and fishing numbers. R3 can be used for all recreations. In concerns to the recruitment process, Marisavljevic notes that the Hoosier Outdoor Experience's (HOE) failed to really offer participants a follow-up opportunity after their initial recreational trial. The next step of "continuing with support" and later without support is crucial to creating new recreational users.

Rollins notes the idea was to have a smaller, more targeted event for specific recreations. Marisavljevic agreed that smaller and more targeted would be good, but it's important to follow up with support and the ability to join a larger community. She believes ABATE's Dirt Bike School (DBS) would be a good example of this.

Jay Jackson inquired how far the drop in hunting and fishing is. Ryan Sweany replied it dropped about 20% in the last ten years, from 560k to 420k in revenue sales. Easton brought up the Becoming an Outdoor Women program as a way to implement R3 using an existing educational event for fishing and hunting as well as other recreation types. Fetterer asked about grant monies going towards education. Marisavljevic replied that RTP can go towards education for trail safety and recruitment events, such as ABATE who have used funds to train their DBS teachers in the past.

New Business

Evansville Trails Presentation: Lorie A. Van Hook, Executive Director of Evansville Trails Coalition

Van Hook stated the Evansville Trails Coalition (ETC) started in 2009 in response to grassroots movements with a goal to connect trails and to promote an active lifestyle. They work towards this goal through facilitation, promotion, and education. She reported that to date, Evansville has around 15 miles of multi-use trail, many of them constructed in the past few years. Nearby Burdette Park has around 32 miles of trail. Lastly,

Evansville's bike share program currently has 8 stations and has grown to around 4,000 members. It provides a wonderful opportunity to get more people on the city's trails.

2019 Recreational Trails Program Grants

Marisavljevic, substituting for Bob Bronson, handed out reports with the recommended designation of the 2019 Recreational Trails Program monies (see Appendix A.) She explained that only two RTP applications were submitted this year, a decrease from previous years. This is most likely due to the introduction of the NLT grant program, which offers larger grants, more funds, and fewer requirements. The two applications were from Brazil and Santa Claus. Both were smaller projects, which made them more ideal for RTP. In addition, \$60,000 was requested for ongoing maintenance to the Knobstone Trail. Marisavljevic then explained with the exception of administration and education funds, 30% of RTP funds go to motorized trail projects, while 30% go for non-motorized and 40% is discretionary. While the discretionary generally gets assigned to non-motorized, this year, due to the lower applications, most of the discretionary monies would be designated to the off-roading properties.

Jay Jackson inquired why the handout did not expand more on how the off-roading monies would be spent. Carman Jackson replied that it is difficult to break down exactly how future monies will be spent. In some cases, multiple years of RTP are combined to design and build property buildings, as was the case with Interlake's office building. Other years, it will go towards smaller facilities, amenities, or equipment. For example, the shelters and vault toilets on the properties were purchased using RTP funds. Being somewhat broad in the grant allows the properties to put the money where it is needed most. Carman Jackson further describes that there are several steps and processes to ensure fiscal responsibility. She explains it is easier to show how the RTP money was spent after the fact rather than before due to cost estimates and other factors. Jay Jackson stated it's important to communicate to leaders that RTP is vital to the off-road properties' development. Just knowing what facilities it helped fund in the past is valuable for this conversation.

Martin entertained a motion for approval of the 2019 RTP award recommendations. Midgley so moved and Jeff Fetterer seconded. The designation passed unanimously.

User Group Reports

ATVs— Jay Jackson stated he was anxious to see Redbird reopen. He noted of being conscience of the increased ATV crashes. He posed that this may just be due to better reporting, but they are certainly rising in number. He suggested there was more of an opportunity to educate the public in ORV accident news releases and would be interested in getting in touch with the right person as DNR. Marisavljevic stated that she could try to make that contact. Easton suggested inviting someone from DNR Communications to attend a TAB meeting.

Bicyclists— Midgley reported several key paved bike trail connections are currently under construction and are due to be completed soon in central Indiana. This includes Plainfield, who is building a section of Vandalia Trail and trailhead at the Indianapolis

border, as well as Avon, who is constructing the last 1-mile section in the middle of the 9-mile Ronald Reagan Parkway trail that connects Plainfield, Avon, and Brownsburg. This last section leads up to and uses the large bridge over the expansive Avon railroad yard. Additionally, Indianapolis is building a 1.5-mile trail parallel to 56th Street to connect the Eagle Creek Park area to Brownsburg and Hendricks County. Lastly, Westfield is working on a large trail bridge for the Monon Trail over SR 32, replacing the at-grade crossing and making it much safer for trail users.

The Riverside Trail, a .6 mile RTP-funded trail in Richmond, is in the final planning stages and will serve as a very important connection. In late May, Rails-to-Trails Conservancy (RTC) coordinated and Richmond Parks hosted a meeting about connecting Ohio and Indiana as part of the larger Great American Rail Trail (GART). Those attending included Preble County (Ohio), Five Rivers Metro Parks (Ohio), Ohio Department of Transportation, and National Road Heritage Trail, Inc. The group discussed how to connect the Cardinal Greenway through the Riverside Trail to the Wolf Creek Trail near Dayton as part of the GART. The trail will also serve as part of the cross-Indiana National Road Heritage Trail.

Environmental Groups – No report.

Equestrians– Rollins noted the weather has led to a lot of closures, both of trails and volunteer work days. She will be doing reconnaissance in due time to see the damage and begin working with volunteers to get the trails re-opened.

Rollins held a meeting with the Knobstone Trail volunteers about collaborating on work to Trail 18 in Hoosier National Forest (HNF). Hoosier Backcountry Horsemen are interested in doing trail work in the northern Hickory Ridge area, but have been met with resistance from US Forest Service (USFS) staff.

Rollins reported that the National Trails Day workday in Greene-Sullivan State Forest was great for volunteers. However, the rain restricted a portion of the work they could accomplish. She announced the USFS will host a public meeting about HNF in Bloomington on August 7 for those interested in attending.

Four Wheel Drive Users – Sweany reported that Wheelin’ for a cause’ was rained out in June and Evansville Area Jeepers are looking into re-scheduling it. A “Back the Blue” event will be held at Interlake SRA in July. IFWDA plans to host its Summer Bash at Interlake SRA in August. Lastly, Sweany inquired whether or not Redbird will have a grand reopening event at the close of its construction. Carman Jackson replied they will be doing a ‘soft’ re-opening, and intend to do a larger grand re-opening event once the gatehouse is built. She was happy to announce the Night Ride in October is still a go.

Health/Higher Education – No Report.

Hikers– Terry Fletcher stated that the Run with the Foxes event, hosted by Hoosier Hikers Council (HHC), in Morgan-Monroe Sate Forest was a success. HHC continues to

work on trails at Cagles Mill Lake. Fletcher also noted a re-route on the Knobstone Trail between mile markers 44 and 46 due to timber harvesting. He reported a large trail run was hosted at Chain O'Lakes State Park in April, which benefitted the park. Lastly, he mentioned Indiana Trail Running hosted an 8 hour benefit run in Brown County State Park (BCSP) in June.

Mountain Biker – Fetterer explained that more rainfall meant more maintenance for mountain bike volunteers. He stated that Hoosier Mountain Bike Association (HMBA) continues to work on the Weed Patch Trail in BCSP and is getting closer to completion. Fetterer announced HMBA received a \$200,000 NLT grant to finish out the mountain bike trail system, which includes 7.5 new miles, at BCSP. He encouraged more natural surface trail groups to apply for NLT grants. Lastly, Fetterer noted a conflict between land managers and the volunteers who maintain the trails concerning trail closures. Land managers are more inclined to keep trails open despite recent heavy rainfalls that can lead to damage, like ruts, and that volunteers fix. Marisavljevic suggested working together to better educate the public about not using wet or muddy trails.

Off-Road Motorcyclists– Guthrie thanked those who helped with the tour at Interlake SRA. He wished more TAB members could have attended as it was excellent. He noted some concern about Interlake SRA's singletrack trails being overgrown. Carman Jackson responded noting Interlake has around 45 miles of trail and limited staff. Guthrie and Carman Jackson then discussed volunteer opportunities. Following up, Carman Jackson announced that all of the singletrack trails at Interlake SRA have now been GPS-ed and she hopes to have a map for them soon. The trails will also be on Polaris Ride Command.

Guthrie reported that the Adventure Ride in Lawrence County Recreational Park was a success and will continue in the future. ABATE Dirt Bike Schools are seeing increased attendance and have expanded to two locations. He stated ABATE is in need of more coaches due to increased popularity, with participants from Illinois, Michigan, Missouri, and Ohio. The large amount of rain this season has led to some increased damage from races, which will need to be restored, as well as some race cancellations.

Parks & Recreation Agencies – Travis Tranbarger acknowledged Hendricks County Park Foundation for their Summer Run Series, which had 500-700 runners. The series hosted runs at various trails around the county, introducing many potential trail users to the trails. Brownsburg hosted several events that included trail safety. He reports being fortunate in receiving grants from various sources aiding them with the safety outreach and education.

Pedestrians – Martin reported that the bikeshare program, a collaborative partnership between Indiana University and Bloomington, will come to an end. Ultimately, bikeshare was not able to compete against scooters.

Snowmobiles – No Report

Trails Support Groups – Pool proudly reported that Cardinal Greenway is Indiana’s Gateway Trail on the GART. They held an announcement in May with the Muncie Mayor and RTC. She added that Bike Fest will again be happening in July. It will include the Great Greenway Tour as well as other tours, BMX show, and Criterium. She hopes everyone can come to the greenway in Muncie for the September TAB meeting to see it and the new bridge.

Pool announced that the Greenways Foundation (GF) is helping to provide matching funds, through their license plate grant program, for those who want to apply for NLT grants. So far they have helped three trails with their match. Currently, GF is focusing on creating active, working committees and on securing maintenance funds for trails. Pool reported the GF luncheon in April was a success. Based on her observation, trails statewide continue to grow in terms of interest and momentum.

Users with Disabilities – No Report.

Water Trail Users – Easton reported that Elkhart County acquired some low lands for a trout fishery, partnering with Trout Unlimited. Two other bodies of water were identified to be developed into possible water trails. One stretch goes through a golf course which is going out of business. The other stretch is still in the water testing phase to determine safety. Of these three projects, the fishery is about two years out. The second project depends on how the golf course property changes hands, and the last is a long term project with no date in mind yet.

Announcements

Marisavljevic announced a new law, which requires cyclists to give bicyclists at least three feet and acknowledges e-bikes, will go into effect July 1, 2019. Under the law, class one and two e-bikes will be allowed on multi-use trail by default and class three will not. According to the law, all classes of e-mtbs are not allowed on non-motorized natural surface trails unless specified. Land or trail managers are allowed to adopt their own policies if they would like to differ from those outlined in the law. Marisavljevic also noted the trail liability law has been amended to include both entering and exiting a trail.

Marisavljevic noted that it is the first year of the National Interscholastic Cycling Association (NICA) league for junior high and high school kids here in Indiana. The NICA league may help with recruitment of new mountain bikers. Fetterer added that quite a few adults attended certification sessions to become a coach. He hopes more clubs become established with this training opportunity and as the NICA league starts.

2019 Meeting Dates

September 5, 2019 – Cardinal Greenway (Muncie)

December 5, 2019 – Pokagon State Park (Angola)

Adjournment

Martin thanked everyone for attending. He then called for a motion to adjourn. Fetterer made a motion and Pool seconded. Motion passed and meeting adjourned at 4:48 PM CST.

2019 Recreational Trails Program Awards

<i>Project Name</i>	<i>Sponsor</i>	<i>Miles Award</i>	<i>Total Cost</i>
2019 RTP Admin Grant	DNR Division of Outdoor Recreation, 402 W. Washington St. Rm. W271, Indianapolis, IN	\$84,120.00	\$105,150.00
7% Administrative Cost			
2019 RTP Education Grant	DNR Division of Outdoor Recreation, 402 W. Washington St. Rm. W271, Indianapolis, IN	\$10,000.00	\$12,500.00
.83% Education			
2019 RTP Motorized Use Projects	DNR Division of Outdoor Recreation, 402 W. Washington St. Rm. W271, Indianapolis, IN	\$716,845.00	\$896,056.00
This project will fund state motorized use projects:			
Knobstone Trail	Department of Natural Resources Division of Forestry, 402 W. Washington Street, Rm. 296, Indianapolis, IN	\$60,000.00	\$75,000.00
Maintenance of the Knobstone Trail in Jackson, Washington, Scott and Clark Counties			
Craig Park Trail Extension	Brazil, City of, 203 E. National Ave., Brazil, IN	\$200,000.00	\$250,000.00
Develop 0.5 mile of hard surface trail with drinking fountain and signage.			
Jim Veilig Park Trails	Santa Claus, Town of, P.O. Box 92, Santa Claus, IN	\$151,000.00	\$188,750.00
Upgrade .53 mile of stone trail to asphalt with trailhead parking and signage			
Totals:		1.03	\$1,527,456.00

Recommended by: _____, Chairman, Trails Advisory Board Date: _____

Monday, August 19, 2019

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