

**MINUTES St. Croix Bike & Ped Trails Coalition Board of Directors  
City of New Richmond Civic Center, April 3, 2019, 6:30 p.m.**

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

**STATEMENT OF PUBLIC NOTICE** – The agenda was posted at the Somerset Town Hall and on the Coalition web site.

**ROLL CALL** - Members present were Susan Heuser, André Johnson, Andrew Lamers, Kyle Lindstrom and Mark Vanasse. Board members Mark Gherty, Pam Kaiser, David Mandel and Marian Webber were absent as was alternate board member Susan Stepka. Brett Budrow, Ben Heuser, Janet Lindstrom, Gary and Patti Wilson (until ~ 7:45 p.m.), and Tim Witzmann (until ~7:30 p.m.) were also present.

**ADOPTION OF AGENDA** – There was discussion before the motion regarding considering *Item #1* after *Approval of Prior Meeting Minutes*. A **motion** (Kyle Lindstrom, Vanasse) to adopt the agenda with the proposed change in order. **Carried** with no opposition.

**PUBLIC COMMENT** – Opportunity for comments on subjects not on the agenda when recognized by the presiding officer. Kyle Lindstrom reported on park plan updates. See *Item #1 (Updates) ii* for details.

**APPROVAL OF PRIOR MEETING MINUTES** – March 13, 2019 – A **motion** (Vanasse, Lamers) to approve the March 13, 2019, minutes as presented. **Carried** with no opposition.

**ITEMS** for discussion and/or action

1. Discussion with Brett Budrow from St. Croix County
  - Updates
    - i. Union Pacific RR Bridge – St. Croix County has secured and recorded the right of first refusal to purchase the UP RR bridge and adjoining property between the City of Hudson and the Village of North Hudson. The County has contracted for an appraisal of the two parcels and is working with several entities to pursue this acquisition. The next deadline is late summer at which time the purchase details must be complete. Funding possibilities are being sought.
    - ii. Updated Park Ordinance – Kyle Lindstrom discussed changes to the Willow River State Park Master Plan to include trails in the park. There is a plan to get trail traffic into the park from River Road and mountain biking trails constructed in a separate part of the park. Aaron Mason, WisDNR and St Croix County, indicated there will be open houses soon to provide details and allow input. St. Croix County is working on final details to update their park ordinance as well.
    - iii. Trail Expenditures – The \$100,000 Capital Improvement Plan funds have additional municipalities signed up for free trail signs. There is now a specific amount request from the City of New Richmond for their proposed projects. More time for municipalities to work their sign requests through their procedural process was requested by County staff in March. Proposals for costs for each of the items being considered will be available for consideration by the County’s Community Development Committee in the near future.
    - iv. Others as available – No further updates were presented.
  - Online Trail Map – Budrow led the discussion by using an online application, [www.ridewithgps.com](http://www.ridewithgps.com), that allows trail users to create their own routes, log their miles and watch their progress. There is a for fee based yearly tourism option available for the program, there was discussion of the LaCrosse use of the program for trail tourism, etc. If the program is utilized, it would be located on the County web site with County personnel providing input for the system that Budrow indicated was easy to use. Other trail and municipal web sites could link to the County home site to broaden use of the software.

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Another site, [www/gravelmaps.com](http://www/gravelmaps.com), that shows gravel trails that can be ridden was also discussed. Further Budrow discussed a County map where signs were being considered perhaps on gravel roads, there followed some discussion about preferences among road riders present for gravel or on road trails along fast traffic highways for a designated route. There was consensus that these types of road riders would likely prefer the on road highway routes. These routes are not suitable for family or recreational riders.

Whether signs are even necessary in today's environment was also discussed and general consensus was that signs and paper maps should remain an option certainly for casual riders but even for serious on road trail riders. Trail signs being used as cautionary signs for ATV and UTV users was also discussed as those motorized vehicle routes proliferate around the County and are shared with non-motorized trail users.

Lamers thought these types of programs were entirely different from the web site he is developing to allow users to see what trails are available in St. Croix County and that there was room for both types of programs.

- E-Cycles on Off Road Trails – The two types of E-Cycles were discussed – pedal assist and those that are used more like a motorized scooter. The scooter type most likely would be used as a vehicle on the road surface. The pedal assist on recreational trails could present some problems but there is nothing yet defined regarding how to deal with possible excess speeds or other yet to be determined issues that may arise.
- Others as available – There were no other discussion items presented.

**REPORTS** - from subcommittees and/or individuals about information gathered for the Board of Directors  
Communications Committee – This committee had not met since the last meeting so there was no further report.

Financial Report – Vanasse discussed income, expenditures and bank balances of the report. There were no questions.

Bench Project – Susan Heuser reported that a contractor has been hired to finish the designed plans with the students at Houlton Elementary. The installation date depends on weather and other Trailhead completion projects still unknown at this date.

Hwy 64 Trail Corridor Committee – This committee will not meet again until the Fall of 2019.

River Valley Trails – There was no report from this group.

Pathways – New Richmond Pathways will meet following this meeting so nothing new to report.

Bike Racks – Johnson reported the racks, being created by WITC students, will be ready for pick up the second week in April. The powder coating process will then begin. Ready to install bike racks will likely be complete by the end of April.

Loop Trail Opening Celebration – The committee planning this celebration will be gathering after this meeting. It is anticipated that flooding issues will create a delay for the celebration into September 2019.

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

**ITEMS** for discussion and/or action (*continued*)

2. Healthier Together Awards for Bike to School Day – Allina Hospital has funded 3 helmets for each middle school in Pierce and St. Croix Counties that participate in the May 8<sup>th</sup> Bike to School Day.
3. giveBIGscv – Vanasse led the discussion about the Trails Coalition's participation in the April 30<sup>th</sup> United Way one day of giving program. An aggressive advertising campaign is being prepared for the participating

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nonprofit organizations based in Somerset. Vanasse expects this program to grow each year as it has in Osceola over the past decade.

4. Oliphant Fund Raiser – May 7<sup>th</sup> from 5 to 8 p.m. is the date and time set for the fund raiser and raffle at Oliphant Brewing in Somerset. Coalition Board members have tickets for sale or tickets may be purchased at the door.
5. Somerset Trail Coordination Planning – Vanasse reported plans to discuss school and Village of Somerset trail plans as the school referendum passed and the Village updates its recreation plans. The Town of Somerset will be included in the discussions as well so that a comprehensive plan for the entire Somerset area can be created.
6. Loop Trail/Gathering Space T-Shirts – Two possible T-Shirt creations are under discussion, one for the Loop Trail Celebration and one for the Trailhead *gathering space* led by the Phipps Center for the Arts. No action was taken at this time regarding funding or participation in either endeavor.
7. Annual Meeting Planning – The Trail Coalition Annual Meeting will be held Saturday, April 27<sup>th</sup> starting at 10 a.m. with a brunch, followed by the meeting at ~10:30 a.m. and then a bike ride for those who are interested.
8. Others – No other items were presented.
9. Set next meeting date – May 1<sup>st</sup> or May 8<sup>th</sup> – The **next Board of Directors meeting** was scheduled for **May 8, 2019.**

**ITEMS FOR NEXT BOARD of DIRECTORS AGENDA** – Seat Newly Elected Board Members, Elect Officers, Appoint Board Alternates, County Updates as Available, On-Line Trail Map, Bike to School Day, giveBIGscv, Oliphant Fund Raiser, Somerset Trail Coordination, T-Shirts, Loop Trail Opening Celebration, Ad Hoc Committees for Summer Activities

**ITEMS FOR NEXT COALITION AGENDA** –Review Annual Report Review, Election of Board Members

**ADJOURNMENT** – A **motion** (Lamers, Vanasse) to adjourn. **Carried** at ~ 8:25 p.m. with no opposition.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Susan Heuser, Secretary