

**MINUTES St. Croix Bike & Ped Trails Coalition Board of Directors  
Town of Somerset Town Hall - October 9, 2019, 6:30 p.m.**

**CALL TO ORDER** - André Johnson, Chairperson called the meeting to order at ~ 6:35 p.m.

**STATEMENT OF PUBLIC NOTICE** – The agenda was posted at the Town of Somerset Town Hall.

**ROLL CALL** - Board members present were Mark Gherty, Susan Heuiser, André Johnson, Pam Kaiser (after 7:55 p.m.), Andrew Lamers, and Mark Vanasse. Board members Kyle Lindstrom and David Mandel were absent as was Alternate Brandi Popenhagen. Bob Gunther (until ~ 7:30 p.m.), Ben Heuiser, Janet Lindstrom (after 6:45 p.m.), Chuck Schwartz (until ~7:30 p.m.) and Tim Witzmann were also present.

**ADOPTION OF AGENDA** – A **motion** (Gherty, Lamers) to adopt the agenda with an amendment to move Item 1 under *Items for Discussion* to before *REPORTS* on the agenda. **Carried** with no opposition.

**PUBLIC COMMENT** – There was no public comment.

**APPROVAL OF PRIOR MEETING MINUTES** – September 11, 2019 – A **motion** (Vanasse, Lamers) to approve the September 11, 2019, minutes. **Carried** with no opposition.

**ITEMS** for discussion and/or action

1. Discussion of Multimodal Local Supplement (MLS Grant Program – Bob Gunther and Chuck Schwartz – Schwartz discussed several parameters of the MLS grant program. i.e., amounts available to each kind of municipality, increased economic value is stressed as a key accomplishment of the grant awards, it's deemed more attractive to have multiple sponsors, etc. Gunther discussed the Village of Somerset's park plan, a survey that puts trails at the top of the list for desirable amenities by residents, safety concern improvement and economic development potential when trails are a planned part of a community, etc. Then discussion ensued among all present about putting collective heads together to create a positive opportunity for the Town and Village of Somerset as well as the Town of St. Joseph to receive some grant moneys from the MLS program. Different routes in each community were discussed. There was also considerable discussion about the need for all three municipalities to support each other's applications and create a single connecting trail the municipalities could all support. As a means to move forward quickly, a **motion** (Johnson, Vanasse) to plan a meeting between officials of the Town of St. Joseph, the Town of Somerset and the Village of Somerset to discuss the Multimodal Local Supplement (MLS) grant application opportunity and to facilitate sharing information. **Carried** with no opposition. Susan Heuiser will work with a representative from each town to get an initial meeting set up.

**REPORTS** - from subcommittees and/or individuals about information gathered for the Board of Directors Communications Committee – Gherty reported a considerable amount of activity from this committee, most behind the scenes, regarding the Beyond the Loop mapping project, the Polk County Tourism Conference, and the Union Pacific railroad bridge project in Hudson and North Hudson.

Financial Report – Vanasse discussed the two bank items that occurred in September and the details of the financial report. There were no questions.

Healthier Together – Susan Heuiser reported that the Library Backpacks designed to get kids and adults outside with designed activities and exploration tools are ready to assemble. They will be distributed to Libraries in Pierce and St. Croix County in early November. There is also an effort underway to count the number of elementary students who participated in Walk to School Day 2019.

Hwy 64 Trail Corridor Committee – This committee will meet in late fall.

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Bench Project – Susan Heuser reported the *gathering space*, the Art Bench Trail facility sponsored by the Phipps Center for the Arts, was dedicated at the Trailhead of the Loop Trail on September 21, 2019. Good attendance by Houlton Elementary students, parents and interested community members.

Pathways – Susan Heuser reported on the several trail initiatives this New Richmond group is working on – noting the inclusion of the Willow River Water Trail, details discussed regarding the *Beyond the Loop* trail map initiative, and the items the City of New Richmond is working on.

Polk County Tourism Conference – Ghery reported details of the September 26<sup>th</sup> Tourism Conference at which the Secretary of Tourism designee, Sara Meaney, presented information about the direction her office will take tourism activities in Wisconsin over the next several years. The Secretary designee has an extensive background in marketing, which Gherty saw as a definite plus. In addition, she was very receptive to members of the team from St. Croix County that presented information about the Loop Trail. Gherty found the conference a good use of time and noted the positive connections for western Wisconsin that were made.

Union Pacific RR Properties – Gherty reported in depth details about historic material/information he will present to various organizations regarding the several century use of this property and its importance to the development of Hudson and North Hudson.

Others that may be available - Two further reports were added.

Baldwin Hospital Trail – Susan Heuser reported that the Baldwin Hospital had a successful fund raiser in late summer and now has a wide, grass mowed trail almost ready for general use when the grass has matured enough to support heavier use.

Hudson Rotary Grant Applications for Bike Racks – Susan Heuser and Gherty reported on the Hudson Rotary grant application that has been submitted for up to 10 bicycle rack installations in the Hudson area in late spring 2020. This is a partnership program with the New Richmond WITC and a local powder coater.

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

2. St. Croix County On Line Map – Lamers discussed Items 2 and 3 in conjunction with each other. The St. Croix County on line map is an ongoing project of the Trails Coalition that seeks to create a web based trails map of the entire St. Croix County trail network with much more detail than will be on the *Beyond the Loop* trail map.
3. Beyond the Loop On Line Map – The *Beyond the Loop* map is a special project seeking to get an online map and some flyers showing a portion of St. Croix County that connects to the Loop Trail that crosses both the St. Croix River Crossing Bridge and the Stillwater Historic Lift Bridge in time for the opening celebration (May 15<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> 2020) of the refurbished Lift Bridge which will complete the *Loop*. The purpose is to have paper documentation and a web presence available to show trail users what opportunities are available presently for experienced riders as they cross into Wisconsin.
4. EDC Grant Program – Gherty and Susan Heuser discussed Item 4 and 6 together. The St. Croix Economic Development Corporation has some grant money available for worthy projects that would create more opportunity in the county. There will be an application process to receive moneys and the Coalition is interested in applying. One of the suggestions is to apply for funding to hold a bike summit in conjunction with the Hudson Chamber of Commerce and Tourism Bureau. See Item 6 for continued discussion.
5. Lift and Loop Celebration – Tim Witzmann discussed details of the Minnesota plans for the May 15<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> opening celebration for the Loop Trail. Several large tasks are being undertaken by the Stillwater planning group that the Wisconsin committee will support. The Wisconsin committee will be working on coordinating some other activities on the Wisconsin side that will enhance the experience for all attendees.

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6. Bike Summit – A bike summit is part of the St. Croix Bike & Pedestrian Plan that would help provide information around the county about the plan itself but also about the positive impact a connected trail could have on the County in the future. The Coalition would propose to work with several organizations to put the details together for such a gathering. Consensus among those present was to move forward with the grant process when it is announced. Gherty will consult with the Hudson Chamber Tourism specialist to get some suggested parameters and get the issue on the Communication Committee’s next agenda to decide how best to proceed.
7. Grant Writing Process Effect on Coalition – This item was not discussed due to time constraints.
8. Set next meeting date – November 13, 2019 - The **next meeting** was set for **November 13, 2019**.

**ITEMS FOR NEXT BOARD of DIRECTORS AGENDA** - MLS Grant, St. Croix County On-Line Map, Beyond the Loop On-Line map and flyers, EDC Grant Program, Lift and Loop Celebration both MN and WI, Bike Summit, Grant Writing Effect on Coalition

**ITEMS FOR NEXT COALITION AGENDA** – None identified at the present.

**ADJOURNMENT** – A **motion** (Lamers, Vanasse) to adjourn **carried** with no opposition at ~ 8:15 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Susan Heuiser, Secretary