

## Recreational Trails Program Advisory Committee (RTPAC) Annual Meeting

Microsoft Teams Meeting

1:00pm – 5:00pm on Thursday, May 15, 2022

### PRESENT:

- Tony Hillig, NDPRD, Recreation Division Manager, Burleigh County
- AJ Torgerson, NDPRD, Special Projects Officer, Burleigh County (Moderator)

### Motorized:

- Dale Heglund (Snowmobile), Burleigh County, 2024
- Daniel Driessen, (At-Large), Ramsey County, 2024
- Annette Behm-Caldwell (Motorized Recreation Specialist), Morton County, 2025

### Non-motorized:

- Simon Pryor, (Mountain Biking), Cass County, 2023
- Glee Mayer, (Paddling), Ward County, 2023
- Chuck Neubauer, ND Recreation & Park Association (At Large), Bottineau County, 2024

### Ex-officio:

- Kraig McLeod, North Dakota FHWA Division, Burleigh
- Pam Wagner, North Dakota Dept. of Transportation, Burleigh

### NOT PRESENT:

- Char Langehaug, NDPRD, Grants Coordinator, Burleigh County (Maternity Leave)

### Motorized:

- Todd Storey (Off-Highway Vehicle), Walsh County

### Non-motorized:

- Selina LaFontaine, (Hiking), Rolette County, 2025

### The meeting was called to order at 12:40 PM.

- Welcome and Opening Remarks; AJ Torgerson, NDPRD Special Projects Officer (Moderator)
- FHWA Updates; Kraig McLeod, RTP Program Manager

### Applicant Presentations (15 Projects – 15 Minutes Each)

1. 1:05 pm: City of Casselton - Eastside Trail Connection, Presenters: Brandon Oye and Lee Anderson, Mayor of Casselton

1:10 pm: Questions for Eastside Trail Connection

- *Glee*: are all the trails 10ft. wide and surfaced with asphalt? Will the trail go past people's yards? Will this address the heaving sidewalks mentioned in the surveys?
  - Answer: All the trails will be asphalt and most of the trails will be 10 ft. Some trails may narrow to 8 ft. if the space is constricted.
  - Answer: The trail will pass homes as there is no other way to traverse town,

- Answer: It will fix a few of the heaving sidewalk, but most of the trail will be in areas without any sidewalks.
  - *Simon*: Will the trail connect existing features?
    - Answer: It will not immediately connect any features, but it does connect into the network planned to connect features across town.
  - *Glee*: What are the use numbers for current trail? Will bikers and walkers share path, including the narrowing portions?
    - Answer: There is no study for the current trails. Anecdotal evidence is that the trails are being used.
    - Answer: Yes, it will be a shared use path. Other trails we have are the same type and there are no issues. The 10 ft. width addresses user conflict. We anticipate no safety issues with an 8 ft. narrower path.
2. 1:19 pm: City of New Town - New Town Trail, Presenter: Patrick Samson  
1:25 pm: Questions for New Town Trail
- *Glee*: Did the path from the country club to the marina get completed? Would the proposed project connect into the possible path to the marina?
    - Answer: No, with low water levels the project did not seem to be best use of money. The project may be revived in the future.
    - Answer: Yes. There is a plan to link the country club/marine into the system.
3. 1:29 pm: Fargo Park District – Orchard Glen Park Trail Extension, Presenter: Sam DeMarais  
1:35 pm: Questions for Orchard Glen Park Trail
- *Glee*: How many miles of trail will be in the system at the end of the project?
    - Answer: The project will create/connect 3 miles of trail connecting loops at two parks.
4. 1:37 pm: ISP - Icelandic State Park Heritage Connection Trail, Presenter: Mike Duerre  
1:44 pm: Questions for Icelandic State Park Heritage Connection Trail
- *Glee*: With increased traffic will there be an off shoot to connect to current trails?
    - Answer: Yes, it will connect the parking lot to the Gunlogson Nature Reserve.
  - *Simon*: Will the trail material be gravel or asphalt?
    - Answer: The trail will be crushed rock with binder not black top.
  - *Glee*: Does this trail connect to the Cavlandic Trail?
    - Answer: Yes, but there are no bikes allowed in the Gunlogson Nature Reserve due to the sensitive nature of the area. The Cavlandic trail connects to the paved roads which will connect to the proposed trail.

- *Glee*: Have you seen an up-tick in use?
    - Answer: Yes, but smaller up-tick than other parks due to the lack of Canadian visitors since the border has been closed due to the pandemic.
  - *Glee*: Will the trail be open to Cross Country Skiing?
    - Answer: Yes, the trails will also incorporate kick-sledding.
5. 1:51 pm: MDHTA – Coal Creek Loop Trail 2023, Presenter: Curt Glasoe  
1:56 pm: Questions for Coal Creek Loop Trail
- *Glee*: How does the durability of the new surfacing compare to old surfacing? Are the campsites full?
    - Answer: MDHTA is installing surfacing with a 20-year life span. The old surfacing lasted 20 years and the new surfacing is even better. We have seen previous years projects hold up very well. Good trails design has really aided in surfacing durability.
    - Answer: Last year when Curt was in the area for construction projects, 6 out of 10 times there was substantial use of the trail. While the USDA National Forest Service does not keep numbers, North Dakota Parks and Recreation Department counted 7,800 users from Sully Creek State Park. We anticipate slightly smaller numbers around Coal Creek, but other less used areas are documented as having 3,500 users.
  - *Chuck*: With this addition what is loop length?
    - Answer: The loop around the camp will be about 2.1 miles.
  - *Glee*: Will the loop be accessible from highway? Is the loop open to mountain bikers?
    - Answer: Yes, all of the MDH south is accessible from county roads. The Coal Creek area is a good wildlife area with scenery.
    - Answer: Yes, the Coal Creek Loop will be open to all non-motorized users.
6. 2:04 pm: MDHTA - MDH Trail Restoration and Surfacing 2023, Presenter: Curt Glasoe  
2:07 pm: Questions for MDH Trail Restoration and Surfacing
- *Glee*: Is the braiding a result of current surfacing and users looking to avoid washout areas? Is this project a continuation of previously funded RTP project? Is there high usage around Coal Creek? Have the trails held up with this year's precipitation and flooding?
    - Answers: The issue is bikers eventually cut through sod allowing water, wind, and other users to rut the trail until the ruts are too deep, they interfere with bike pedals. It takes about 2 years to break the sod and then 2-4 years until the ruts are too deep for bike pedals. Past surfacing projects have eliminated

braiding issues.

- Answer: Yes, this project will directly connect to RTP grants from the last 2 years. Next year's project would connect to the Teddy Roosevelt library.
- Answer: Yes around 15,000 users at last count. Chuck crashed into one of the ruts around Coal Creek.
- Answer: Repairs are needed around Coal Creek, but very little surfaces need repairs. 99% of the trails in the MDH are fine.

7. 2:14 pm: LPD - 2022 Lincoln Park District RTP Application, Presenter: Matt Schaible

2:19 pm: Questions for LPD Shared Use Path

- *Simon*: What is the total length of the project?
  - Answer: The project will create .28 miles of trail that connects to an existing mile long path.

8. 2:24 pm: MDHTA - White Butte Trail Restoration and Surfacing, Presenter: Curt Glasoe

2:29 pm: Questions for White Butte Trail Restoration and Surfacing

- *Glee*: Did the county improved the road to the trail head? Did the county improve the road because of increased use? Previous visitors not have an established trail, would this establish a defined trail?
  - Answer: Yes, the county did improve the road and installed a 200 sq. ft. trail head.
  - Answer: Yes, the county had comments and complaints about the road. They had to pull stuck cars out. The county got permission for an easement for trail. This project is proof of concept for work on private land. The hope is to tie the city of Amidon into the MDH.
  - Answer: Yes, currently there are bits of worn tread, but the goal is to cut in new distinct trail, which is also more durable safe, all weather trail. This would be considered part of Great Plains Trail.

9. 2:35 pm: Minot Park District – Outdoor Recreation Area Trail Phase II, Presenter: Elly DesLauriers

2:40 pm: Questions for Outdoor Recreation Area Phase Trail

- *Glee*: Will this connect City of Minot trails with the city of Burlington? Is this pristine untouched property? When the project is complete, what is the total mileage?
- *Simon*: What surface material is considered "earthen"?
  - Answer: Yes, it will connect into the city trails network which connects in with Burlington.

- Answer: Yes, provides opportunity for people who are not able to get to Medora with different hikes and surfaces for every user type. This project plans to be a 4-season trail with use during the winter. The city of Minot sees a lot of use on previous RTP projects like Woodland Trail.
- Answer: Total mileage will be between 5.5 to 6 miles total when done.
- Answer: "Earthen" is a dirt trail. Minot has seen success with aggregate trail, and it has worked well on past projects. It will be a multi-use trail, but not motorized.

10. 2:46 pm: New Salem Park District - FY23 RTP Application, Presenter Zac Ranisate

2:52 pm: Questions for New Salem Park District FY23 Trail Application

- *Simon*: Are there any design changes to prevent future wear?
  - Answer: Yes, the plan is to regrade and compact subgrade material to code in the very bad areas to improve longevity.

11. 2:53 pm: NDPRD - State Trails Accessibility Assessment and Trail Inventory, Presenter: Tony Hillig

2:58 pm: Questions for NDPRD

- *Chuck*: Other states use trail forks, very extensively, but not in ND. Is this part of the scope? There is a need for trail identification. Individuals building maps are not visible to everyone.
  - Answer: Yes, we need to ID the trails we are going to include. We also need to work with partners to get GIS data to place into trail apps. Yes, we want to facilitate local partners to share trail data with national apps. This is a division level shift of focus.
- *Glee*: A big sporting goods store salesmen did not know where to hike in ND. We need this resource to create knowledge on the trails throughout the state.
  - Answer: We are trying to answer that request
- *Chuck*: My biking club sees that we are the only ones using the trails. We like the freedom of the trail but know we need to see more users.
- *Glee*: With some of the apps such as All Trails, there is an assumption that each department interacts with these apps and they do not. They are social media platforms, and we need this.
  - *Answer*: The goal is to get local partners the resources they need to get their trails onto national level apps.

12. 3:07 pm: NDPRD - Snowmobile Trail Grooming Equipment, Presenters: Tony Hillig and

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Todd Thronson

- No questions

13. 3:12 pm: City of Mandan - 19th Street Trail, Presenters: Scott Harmstead and Justin Froseth

- No questions

14. 3:19 pm: William County Parks - Lake Loop at Blacktail Dam, Presenter: Jeremy Ludlum

3:26 pm: Questions for William County Parks

- *Simon*: Do you have any cross-country ski grooming equipment?
  - Answer: Yes, we bought \$20K of equipment for grooming including a drum and tracks for a side-by-side OHV.

15. 3:28 pm: Williston Parks and Rec - Little Muddy Trail Improvements and Beautification, Presenter: Rhonda Floyd

- No questions

### **Final Remarks and Discussion**

#### *Administrative Reminders*

- Make sure that each board member will submit the final ranking of applications to the Special Projects Officer by Wednesday, May 31, 2022.
- The NDPRD Special Projects Officer will compile the ranked applications and notify the board of the ranking results by the beginning of June 2022.
- The recommendations will be submitted to the NDPRD Director for approval mid-June.
- Grant pre-award notifications will happen after Director approval in July/August. Please work on preparing/planning your project, obtaining environmental clearance recommendations, and permit approvals for submittal to FHWA. No construction or purchases are allowed on the project at this time. October through February are when the funds are allocated to the state and obtained through FHWA. The NDPRD Grants Coordinator will notify the applicants of award through a grant agreement by March or April 2023. Construction on the project can start after grant agreement is signed.

### **The meeting was Adjourned at 3:33 PM.**

*Thank you all for attending and being an important part of the Recreational Trails Program. You all contribute to providing outdoor recreational opportunities to the citizens of North Dakota.*