

**OAKLAND COUNTY  
TRAILS ADVISORY COUNCIL  
MEETING**

**June 22, 2005**

The meeting was called to order by Co-chairperson Lois Golden at 9:05 a.m. in the commission room of the Oakland County Parks and Recreation Commission's administration building.

**PRESENT:**

Marge Gatliff, Kristen Wiltfang, Dave Burley, Karen Tauriainen, Dot LaLone, Robert Golda, Lois Golden, Joe Figa, Todd Scott, Larry Falardeau, Sue Nyquist, Brian Blaesing, Amy Ploof, Amy Mangus, Merle Richmond, Juanita LeGris, and Dan Stencil

**MINUTES:**

Moved by Dan Stencil, supported by Dot LaLone, to approve the minutes of the June 22, 2005 meeting. The motion passed on voice vote.

**ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA**

Consideration of two letters of support from OTAC after #9, Legislative Update, and an Equestrian Update by Merle Richmond as part of #10, Other Business.

Moved for approval by Larry Falardeau and seconded by Dan Stencil to approve the agenda as amended. The motion passed on voice vote.

**TRAIL NETWORK UPDATE:**

- **Paint Creek Trail** - Kristen Myers sent an e-mail report to Marge Gatliff, indicating that the trail had attendance of 300+ for their National Trail Day event and festival.  
  
Kristen also gave kudos to Rob Golda for the excellent representation by the Hiking Michigan group.
- **Polly Ann Trail** - Lois Golden reported that the bridge project bid package has been let and is due on July 12.  
  
The Polly Ann Trails National Trail Day event was a success. Thanks to photos taken and delivered to the media by Robert Golda, the event received excellent coverage.  
  
The Polly Ann equestrian event had a lite turnout due to the weather. However, it was a fund raising success.  
  
On Saturday, June 24, the Oxford Hot Blues and BBQ will be held from 10:00 to 10:00 in downtown Oxford.
- The **Lakes Community Trail** National Trails Day event went well. The Oakland County Parks and Recreation event at the Dog Park helped increase the draw to their event.
- The **Huron Valley Trail** has awarded a contract for their 2005 trail improvements.  
  
The Village of Milford and Milford Township are installing a trail, each funding their own section, starting at the YMCA and ending at the Dairy Queen on Milford Road.  
  
*Comments were received regarding maintenance agreements between communities, volunteers, and a trail. Sue Nyquist has one with the Macomb Orchard Trail that she will bring to the next OTAC meeting. Todd Scott has an agreement between the MMBA and the City of Novi - Scott will forward a copy to Marge.*
- Dot Lalone reported that the **Headwaters Trail** event on National Trails Day was a success with 89 persons entering the canoe event alone.  
  
The trails Kodak Grant application through the National Parks Services has been approved.  
  
Dot is waiting to receive passes so they can walk the Consumers Energy, high power line right-of-ways to determine their potential for trails.
- **Woodward Corridor Trail** representative, Todd Scott, reported that the City of Ferndale is installing two bike lanes on roads. On-road signage system is also in progress.

**OAKLAND COUNTY PHASE II STORM WATER CONVENIENCE SYSTEMS**

Karen Tauriainen of Oakland County Drain and Amy Mangus of SEMCOG presented a program on Oakland County's Storm Water Convenience System - Phase II.

The Storm Water Convenience System is a Federal Mandate. Phase I was placed in 1990 and regulates large industrial sites and large municipalities. Phase II, implemented in 2003, regulates small construction and public entities with storm convenience systems in urban areas. Non-compliance can result in a fine of \$32,500 per day.

Nineteen watershed/subwatershed agencies in Southeast Michigan have formed the Southeast Michigan Partners for Clean Water. A list of the watershed groups with contact information and maps showing the location of trails in relationship to the various watersheds were distributed.

Your local stewardship group will assist your trail by sharing information, including trail development/events information in their news letter and on their website, and will distribute flyers at their group events. They also have signage promoting clean watersheds available. Contact Karen Tauriainen to order.

Cards and posters are available from SEMCOG promoting clean watersheds and will partner with Oakland County Drain and local communities for Grant applications.

Larry Falardeau requested a copy of the presentation to be used as an educational tool to promote the Southeast Michigan Partners for Clean Water goals.

June 4 through June 11, 2006, will be national water-week.

Report your Phase II participation to your local watershed agency and report any illicit discharge into stormwater to your local subwatershed group.

### **MARKETING UPDATE**

Larry Falardeau reported on proposed marketing plan components. The top three for 2005/6 are 1) developing a map directory; 2) creating a graphic presentation; and 3) producing a poster/map with visual listing events. Other proposed components are developing a speakers list, web site, promotional giveaways, signage/wayfinding, business partnerships and a potential celebrity spokesperson.

The next meeting will be at noon on July 6, 2005 @1:p.m.at Linda Black's new office on Northwestern Highway. Nancy Thompson of the Michigan Tourism Office will be giving a presentation.

### **TRAIL NETWORK COORDINATOR REPORT**

Trail Network Coordinator Marge Gatliff gave a brief overview of the last months activities and materials available, including the following:

- ◆ National Trails Day events updates. Members recommended the following to improve attendance and success of the events next year.
  1. Move the event to a highly visible location
  2. Incorporate Banners v/s or as well as flyers
  3. Improve signage
- ◆ OTAC trail maps are available with the new order coming soon and the July 6 meeting of the subcommittee will address securing funding for the next printing.
- ◆ The Michigander is still scheduled to go through Pontiac, however, a free lunch is not offered. A City of Rochester Hills ribbon cutting is coordinated with the event.
- ◆ In the month of July, Oakland County Employees will meet at 12:00 and 1:00 at Waterford Oaks to walk the Waterford Oaks trails. OTAC members are invited to take part.
- ◆ Numerous events are planned to celebrate the Go Get Outside event on July 23. A brief overview of these events was given.

**OTAC ACCOMPLISHMENTS - MAY 2003-2005**

A list, prepared by Marge Gatliff, of the OTAC accomplishments was distributed to OTAC members. It was requested that the list be reviewed and any additions and/or deletions be e-mailed to Marge or brought to the next meeting. Note that this is a list of accomplishments of OTAC, not just Marge.

**LEGISLATIVE UPDATE**

Todd Scott reported that congressional efforts to open state parklands to anyone 60-years old and older, with a disability, enabling them to ride their ATVs in the parks has been abandoned

Two bills are currently in committee, one regarding sidewalks being included as a "non-motorized facility" and the other, the deletion off gravel roads being paved to accommodate bikers as a "non-motorized facility".

Several OTAC members attended National Trail and Greenways Day in Lansing. They had the opportunity to talk to 4 legislative representatives from Oakland County regarding OTAC concerns.

**OTHER BUSINESS/COMMENTS**

- Merle Richmond noted that the equestrian group is planning a fundraising ride beginning at Rose Oaks County Park ending at Springfield Oaks County Park on August 28. When the final approvals are received, she will up-date the committee.
- Larry Falardeau reminded members to turn in their maps and accompanying sheets for the OTAC Master Plan Map. Cost estimates for the projects will be accepted. This data will be used for presentations to the business community and will be a valuable tool when seeking funding.
- MDOT needs to know of all non-motorized trails envisioned in right-of ways in conjunction with or crossing statewide roads/routes so they can be addressed at the time of road repairs or construction.
- Marge Gatliff announced that the next Lakes Community Trail meeting has been cancelled. The date will be announced.
- Please give Marge suggestions for OTAC speakers for upcoming meetings for the 2006 calendar of speakers.
- The OTAC September meeting has been cancelled.
- The meeting was adjourned at 11:12 a.m.

**NEXT MEETING:**

The next meeting will be **9:00 a.m. on Wednesday, July 27, 2005** in the commission room of the Oakland County Parks and Recreation administration building.

*Marge Gatliff, Oakland County Parks and Recreation*