

**OAKLAND COUNTY
TRAILS ADVISORY COUNCIL (OTAC)
October 26, 2005**

The meeting was called to order by Trails Advisory Council Chair Kristen Myers, at 9:03 a.m. in the commission room of the Oakland County Parks and Recreation Commission's administration building.

PRESENT:

Marge Gatliff, Lois Golden, Larry Falardeau, Brian Blaesing, Merle Richmond, Bruce Austin, Linda Bloch, Tom Newcombe, Amy Ploot, Jennifer Frederick, Sue Julian, Kristen Myers, Sue Nyquist, David Burley, Jim Keglovitz, Chris Doozan, Leah Groya, Dot Lalone, Rob Golda, Deanna Magee, Kristen Wiltfang, and Dan Stencil.

MINUTES:

Moved by Sue Nyquist, supported by Larry Falardeau, to approve the minutes of the August 24, 2005 meeting as amended. The motion passed on voice vote.

TRAIL NETWORK UPDATE:

- **Paint Creek Trail** - The Paint Creek 2005 Grant Project is approximately 95% complete. Also completed is the production of a video demonstrating prairie restoration.

Polly Ann Trail - The 2005 trail surfacing project is proceeding with the portion from Boardman to Drahner in Oxford. The project will be completed by the end of the year. A 2.2-mile portion of the trail is asphalt, creating a dispute regarding surfaces for the trail. Asphalt is not considered equestrian friendly and unfortunately, a portion near the equestrian staging area is asphalt.

The bridge is being prepared for installation so that the disruption of traffic will be approximately 1 day.

Stage 2 of the trail development is beginning. Applications for grants will be prepared for funding.

- **Clinton River Trail** - The lime stone surface of the Sylvan Lake portion of the trail and the connector to West Bloomfield is complete. The Auburn Hills/Opdyke crossing also has been completed.
- **West Bloomfield Trail** - Dave Burley reported the completion of the joining connector trail with the Clinton River Trail. A resident's encroachment has become a costly endeavor. To curtail costs, they have reached a lease agreement with the homeowner and are going to fence the area. However, this issue is one that trails should address.

Several options were voiced and the need for surveys etc noted. Larry Falardeau noted that there will be long term management/maintenance issues that trails will need to address (i.e. encroachments, maintenance, etc.) and suggested that perhaps pooling resources may be an option for consideration.

- **Lakes Community Trail** - The construction for the Wolverine Lake trail surfacing project begins in November and the project will be completed in spring 2006.
- **Huron Valley Trail** - The engineering for the road crossings and the portion of the trail going through Lyon Community Park are completed.

- **Headwaters Trail** - The equestrian group raised \$1,000 for trails at their recent fundraiser. At this time, the Headwaters Trail is processing proposals for funding the second portion of their trail.

OAKLAND COUNTY ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDSHIP PROGRAM

James Keglovitz of Oakland County Planning gave a power point presentation on Environmental Stewardship.

A Natural Area Advisory Group was established in part to facilitate the development of a joint county conservation (Green Infrastructure) plan, explore funding mechanisms and pursue establishments of partnerships in both the public and private sector.

The Green Infrastructure Network is a proposed concept to protect and link Oakland County's remaining ecologically valuable lands, based on ecology not recreation, bigger v/s smaller, and creates a framework for growth. Green Infrastructure networks consist of hubs of habitat for native wildlife, sites of smaller ecological landscape features, and links to hold the network together.

Additional information on this topic is available at the following web sites

http://www.co.oakland.mi.us/peds/program_service/ess.html and <http://www.greeninfrastructure.net/>.

Assistance is available to local communities developing their own stewardship program from Oakland County Planning. Mr. Keglovitz can be reached at keglovitzj@co.oakland.mi.us with requests.

SIGNAGE FOR TRAILS

Kristen Wiltfang gave a report on signage possibilities. Signage types, where to locate them, why have them, examples and suggestions were all addressed.

Three available guideline sources are: <http://mutcd.fhwa.dot.gov> , <http://transportation.org/aashto> and www.michigan.gov/mdot. Marge Gatliff also has guidelines offered at the Greenways 2005 meeting. Contact her if you wish to use the booklet.

Brian Blaesing reminded that all roadway signage must be approved by the Road Commission for Oakland County (RCOC).

Lois Golden has contact information for "Michigan State Industries", product manufacturers, and the specs for the Polly Ann Trail signage submitted to the RCOC. This information is available to OTAC members upon request.

TRAIL NETWORK COORDINATOR REPORT

Trail Network Coordinator Marge Gatliff gave a brief overview of the last two months activities and a list of the events was made available, including the following:

Marge is creating a file containing maintenance agreements available to OTAC members. Huron Clinton Metro Authority submitted theirs.

A countywide wellness meeting sponsored by the Troy Chamber of Commerce is Tuesday, November 1 at 8:30. Contact Marge for additional information.

Dave Burley and Dan Navarre of West Bloomfield Trail were thanked for sponsoring the 2005 Trails Summit.

THREATS/OPPORTUNITIES MAP

The final map showing trail road crossings and corridors to be provided to the Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT) was presented to members for approval.

Lois Golden moved that the map and related documents be approved for transmittal to MDOT. The motion was supported by Dan Stencil and passed on voice vote.

MARKETING UPDATE

The date for the next meeting is after OTAC on November 16.

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

TRAILS ADVISORY COUNCIL

Minutes

October 26, 2005

- A bill passed removing \$174,000 from the MDOT enhancement funding for staffing. Staff is hopeful that the funding will be restored.
- Sue Julian reported that a bill is being formulated to change the definition of ORVs to include 6-wheeled vehicles with weights over 6000 lbs and tracked vehicles.

OTHER BUSINESS/COMMENTS

- Rails to Trails has a new name, e-mail and address: Michigan Trails and Greenways Alliance, 410 S. Cedar, Suite A, Lansing , MI 48912, nancy@michigantrails.org, 517-485-6022.
- Kristen Wiltfang will replace Larry Falardeau as Oakland County Planning & Economic Development representative at OTAC.
- Brian Blaesing attends the Transportation research Board (TRB) meetings. The Michigan TRB is creating subcommittees and Brian is part of the non-motorized transportation subcommittee. The non-motorized meeting planned at MDOT in Lansing is scheduled for November 3 at 9:30 a.m.
The purpose of the committee is to develop research on non-motorized transportation. He will report and share information with OTAC. Any specific requests for research should be directed to Brian.
- Larry Falardeau reported on the meeting in Highland Township and updated the group regarding the DNR's management plan for Pontiac Lake Recreation Area.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:00 a.m.

NEXT MEETING:

The next meeting will be **9:00 a.m. on Wednesday, November 16, 2005** in the commission room of the Oakland County Parks and Recreation administration building, and the December meeting will be at 9:00 a.m. on Wednesday, December 21, 2005.

Marge Gatliff, Trail Network Coordinator