

**OAKLAND COUNTY
TRAILS ADVISORY COUNCIL (OTAC)
December 20, 2006**

The meeting was called to order by Co-chairperson Dot Lalone at 10:05 a.m. in the commission room of the Oakland County Parks and Recreation Commission's administration building.

PRESENT:

Dot Lalone, Jeff Edwards, Jacy Garrison, John Crumm, David Burley, Sue Nyquist, Larry Falardeau, Sharon Green, Sue Julian, Jenny Frederick, Kristen Wiltfang, Susie Sulla, Caryn Robinson, Brittany Bird, Todd Scott, Melissa Prowse, Kristen Bennett, Amy Murray, Anita Twardesky, Chris Bennett.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Moved by Amy Murray, supported by Chris Bennett, to approve the minutes of the November 15, 2006 OTAC meeting.

TRAIL NETWORK UPDATE:

- Paint Creek Trail – having received an e-mail from Kristen Myers, OTAC Coordinator Melissa Prowse reported that the contract to do a boundary survey of the trail has been awarded to consultants Nowak and Fraus. The survey is scheduled to be done this winter.
- Amy Murray reported that the Polly Ann Trail's new bridge in Oxford has been well received and makes the trail safer. The Polly Ann Trailway Management Council is planning the Rural Pearl biking event for July 28th, 2007.
- Bruce Austin had no news to report on the West Bloomfield Trail. However, he did receive an e-mail regarding stop signs not being adequately posted on another trail at a road crossing, further demonstrating the need to always sign trails to keep users safe.
- Headwaters Trail representative Dot Lalone reported that they have received a grant for trail signage. As a fundraiser, Roz Savage will be giving a presentation on March 24, 2007 at 7:00 p.m. at the A.G.S. Middle School Cafetorium in Fenton. Ms. Savage is the first woman to row across the Atlantic Ocean and will share stories from her journey. Dot asks that this information please be added as a link on OTAC member's websites. More information can be found on Headwaters Trails' Web site at www.headwaterstrailsinc.org.

WATERFORD, WHITE LAKE, HIGHLAND PATHWAY – LARRY FALARDEAU

Principal Planner Larry Falardeau of Oakland County Planning and Economic Development gave a presentation on the development of a path connecting Waterford, White Lake and Highland townships. The study addressed funding, critical crossings and the participation of local entities involved. The first goal was to put the various plans together and formulate one master plan including connections to as many existing local trails and recreation opportunities as possible.

A demonstration of new technology offered by Google was part of the presentation. A flyover of a proposed trail route was shown. Google Earth is a low cost opportunity to use new GIS technology for making presentations and discussing the landscape. A copy of the 'fly over' was given to Melissa Prowse for sharing.

MACOMB COUNTY TRAILS UPDATE – JOHN CRUMM

TRAILS ADVISORY COUNCIL

Minutes

December 20, 2006

Mr. John Crumm with Macomb County Planning gave an update on the development of trails in Macomb County. The group working on trails in Macomb County consists of representatives from Macomb County Corporation Counsel, Risk Management, the Parks Director, the Finance Division, and consultants Carlisle and Wortman. The core of the project is in the planning department and focuses on the regional trails while still offering some assistance to local governments regarding more local trails.

The Macomb Orchard Trail project was originally divided into three phases. The first phase (Dequindre to 29 Mile Road) is complete. The Development Department is working to implement Phases II and III of the trail which includes the remainder (approximately 17 miles) of the corridor from 29 Mile Road east to the City of Richmond. The scope of work for Phases II and III includes trail design, the conversion of 7 former railroad bridges for non-motorized use as well as the design of 16 County Road crossings.

Shelters and covered bridges will be barn-like structures, reflecting Macomb County's agricultural heritage.

A maintenance plan is being worked on as well. It will include estimated costs per mile for the day-to-day and long term maintenance for each type of trail surface. Mr. Crumm will share this information with OTAC when the plan is completed.

Developments that touch the trail are charged an annual fee for storm water drainage that flows into the Macomb Orchard system. They are also charged an initial fee based on the specifics of each case. These fees are part of a license, not an easement. A license can be rescinded with a 90-day notification.

TRAIL COORDINATOR'S REPORT – MELISSA PROWSE

A schedule of the 2007 OTAC meetings was distributed. The new every other month schedule will facilitate subcommittee meetings and the possibility of field trips in the new year.

Melissa also suggested the possibility of creating a List Serve (Google Group) for OTAC. Todd Scott suggested that the option of a forum v/s e-mail be looked into.

OTHER BUSINESS

- The Michigan Department of Natural Resources Land Consolidation proposal was reviewed in brief.
- Sue Nyquist reported on the MICA Group, Connecting Michigan and Mott grants received.
- Todd Scott reported on attending the MRPA session given in February by Scott Linnenberger on minimizing user conflict on trails. The seminar was most useful and Mr. Linnenberger will be speaking again at the February 11, 2007 MMBA Expo at Springfield Oaks.
- Todd Scott reported that the senate bill allowing the DNR to sell state park passes has been approved and is awaiting the governor's signature.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:35 a.m.

NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be **at 9:00 a.m. on Wednesday February 28, 2007** in the commission room of the Oakland County Parks and Recreation administration building.