
North Shore Management Board

Thursday, March 6th, 2014 6:30 PM

Conference Room A-ARDC Building

Duluth, MN

Meeting Minutes

Attendee	Representing	Absentees	Representing
Jan Sivertson	City of Grand Marais	Robin Glaser	City of Two Harbors
Mike Hoops	Silver Creek Township	Dave Updegraff	Lakewood Township
Joanne Johnson	City of Silver Bay		
Bruce Martinson	Cook County		
Rich Sve	Lake County		
Patrick Boyle	St. Louis County		
Stephen Nazian	City of Beaver Bay		
David Miller	Duluth Township		
Dan Schutte	Lake Co. SWCD		
Staff			
Andy Hubley	ARDC		
Justin Otsea	ARDC		

I. Welcome and Introductions

- a. The meeting was called to order at 6:34 PM by Chair Rich Sve.
- b. Motion for approval of the agenda by Joanne Johnson/Patrick Boyle; passed unanimously.

II. Committee Business

- a. Motion to approve September 25, 2013, minutes by Jan Sivertson/Mike Hoops; passed unanimously.
- b. Motion to approve ARDC staffing invoice from October 1, 2013 to December 31, 2013, by Bruce Martinson/Mike Hoops; passed unanimously.

III. Project Updates

- a. *North Shore Management Plan Update*-New ARDC Planner Justin Otsea was introduced to the board and provided an update on the North Shore Management Plan Update project. Otsea provided a brief background on the project and informed the board that the Coastal Program had approved the project and is in the process of drafting a grant agreement. While initially there was a possibility of the

update not requiring a local match, Coastal Program Manager Amber Westerbur had notified him that they ran into multiple road blocks with that pot of money, and regardless what fiscal year the project was initiated (2014/15) that a local match of \$5,000 would be required to match the \$15,000 grant from the program. Otsea also noted that the 'hard cash' needed for the match could be minimized by utilizing in-kind donations ranging from miles traveled to meetings, to hourly rates for professionals and citizens at meetings. Strong attendance to the required meetings during the update process is highly encouraged in order to minimize the match requirement.

Clarification as to what the board's role would be throughout the update process was requested. Andy Hubley, ARDC-Regional Planning Division Director, notified the board that they would primarily be in an oversight role, with most of the responsibility being promoting public attendance at meetings during the process. Chairman Sve also wanted to clarify that the board would have final approval prior to the completion of the plan which Hubley confirmed.

- i. Motion to enter into a grant agreement with the Minnesota Lake Superior Coastal Program to update the plan by Joanne Johnson/Jan Sivertson; passed unanimously.
- b. *Rain Garden Assessment*– Otsea Provided a provided a brief background of the Rain Garden Assessment STAR grant application, which was submitted to the Lake Superior Coastal program in December 2014, along with an update to the project's funding status. The assessment's focus is to identify educational opportunities the NSMB could capitalize on while promoting rain gardens to minimize erosion along the north shore. Other components of the assessment included identifying potential and existing site locations, along with other areas of concern which the board may provide assistance to in the area. Currently, the Coastal Program is finalizing a summary of the project to receive final approval from necessary boards prior to creating a grant agreement. Otsea provided the board members in attendance with a hard copy of the submitted application. Dan Schutte, Lake County Soil & Water District, asked for a brief summary of the project, provided feedback into existing rain garden projects in Lake and Cook counties, and also expressed great interest in being a resource of information as the assessment goes forward.
 - i. Motion to enter into a grant agreement with the Minnesota Lake Superior Coastal Program to complete the assessment by Dave Miller/Jan Sivertson; passed unanimously.

IV. Other Business

- a. *Gitchi Gami Trail Strategy Kick off*- Mr. Hubley provided the board with an update of ongoing activities in regards to the completion of the Gitchi Gami Trail. Currently, trail segments from Temperance River to Tofte Township and from Tofte Township

to Lutsen Township have been completed, outside of a 1.1 mile segment in the Tofte Township which has been designated as a top priority in order to connect the lengthy existing segments. Hubley explained that the project has been recommended for MnDOT Transportation Alternatives Program funds have been set aside to fund the construction of the trail in 2018, which would provide 75% of the eligible costs currently estimated at approximately \$750,000.

Hubley went on to explain some of the obstacles the Gitchi Gami Trail has been faced with during the project. One of the largest of which are drastically increased costs associated with trail construction compared to previous estimates. Existing estimates for the trail construction are approximately \$900,000 per mile due to terrain, although this estimate was taken from a segment near Lutsen which may be one of the higher costing segments. While Mr. Hubley believed these figures to be high, the project's scope may have to change in order to offset high costs. ARDC and the Gitchi Gami Trail Association are in the process of finding a firm to conduct a more detailed analysis using GIS data in order to uncover a more accurate cost estimate for the remaining segments of trail. While the GIS estimate may not be detailed to the point of construction, it should provide an accurate cost estimate when seeking to leverage grant dollars. The Trail may also have to include variations from the original scope like utilizing wide shoulders on highways as designated bike lanes where applicable in order to reduce new construction costs. Currently, the Gitchi Gami Trail Association is at the capital seeking bonding dollars to help offset costs and spur the completion of the project.

- b. *Next meeting*-Discussion was held on when the next meeting should take place, as this (rescheduled) one was so close to the upcoming quarter. It was decided that the Board would not meet until June and Rich Sve offered to host the meeting out at Two Harbors. A doodle poll will be sent out with a few options before finalizing a date for the upcoming meeting.

V. Adjourn

- a. There being no additional business, a motion to adjourn was made by Joanne Johnson/Bruce Martinson; passed unanimously and the meeting was adjourned.

ATTEST:

Rich Sve, Chair

Justin Otsea, Recording Secretary