



## Record of Meeting

*SRF No.12681*

**Location:** County Courthouse

**Client:** Becker County

**Date:** October 30, 2019

**Subject:** Master Trail Plan Development Project Advisory Committee Meeting #3

|                               |   |
|-------------------------------|---|
| <b>Attendees:</b> Guy Fischer | Becker County Parks and Recreation        |
| Dan McLaughlin                | Becker County Natural Resource Management |
| Katie Kltonshi                | Minnesota GreenCorps                      |
| Del Bergseth                  | Becker County RAC                         |
| Hank Ludtke                   | Becker County EDA/RAC                     |
| Patrick Hollister             | Partnership 4 Health                      |
| Jim Olson                     | Becker County Highway                     |
| Jane Butzer                   | MnDOT                                     |
| Mary Safgren                  | MnDOT                                     |
| Ben Grimsley                  | Becker County                             |
| Tom Gulon                     | City of Detroit Lakes                     |
| Wayne Hurley                  | West Central Initiative                   |
| Jonathan Fillmore             | SRF Consulting Group                      |
| Joni Giese                    | SRF Consulting Group                      |

### Purpose of Meeting:

The purpose of this meeting was for the consulting team to review and receive comments on the draft Master Trail Plan document and to review comments received from the third round of online public input.

### Summary of Meeting

The meeting started with brief introductions. The consulting team then provided an overview of each of the five sections in the draft Master Trail Plan.

### **Review of Section 1: Project Introductions**

The content in Section 1 introduced the reader to the project. The Project Advisory Committee (PAC) did not have any recommendations for this section besides updating the project schedule to reflect the new schedule. The PAC also recommended adding an executive summary before the start of Section 1.

### **Review of Section 2: Existing Conditions and Analysis**

Section 2 describes the existing conditions and analysis to the reader. The PAC had three recommended revisions for Section 2.

1. The proposed paved trails shown in the Otter Tail County Trail Master Plan should be added to Figure 2: Regional Trail Context. Excluding the trails proposed in the Otter Tail County plan fails to show the reader that aligning the Heartland State Trail through Cormorant would provide trail connections to planned trails in Otter Tail County.
2. The Heartland State Trail alternative extending through Cormorant is drawn incorrectly on Figures 2, 3, and 28. Update these figures to match the route proposed in the preferred concept.
3. Add the three Bicycle and Pedestrian concept alternatives to the end of Section 2.

Revisions based on online comments received are as follows:

4. Create a new section that highlights walking paths in the County – move North Country trail to be a subsection under this new section – page 8 text.
5. Confirm that title and description of North Country National Scenic Trail is accurately reflected – page 8 text
6. Show existing mountain bike trails at Maplelag resort – Figure 3
7. Confirm that Detroit Mountain is a public entity (not private) – page 8 text

### **Section 3: Preferred Trail System Network and Implementation Approach**

Section 3 explains the preferred trail system network and implementation approach. The PAC had several recommended revisions for section 3.

1. There has been discussion to allow mountain bikers on the North Country Hiking Trail on segments where it receives little use from hikers. The PAC recommended contacting the North Country Trail Regional Trail Coordinator, Matt Davis, to discuss whether the Master Trail Plan should include additional language that explains where mountain bikers may use the North Country Trail.
2. A cross country ski club is forming in Becker County. The new club has volunteered to groom several trails in Becker County including Pine Lake, Tamarac Lake, and Dunton Locks. Additional language should be added to report explaining the new cross country ski club's initiative.

3. If we are showing Maplelag, which is a private resort, we should show other privately owned cross country ski trails in the existing conditions and preferred alternative sections. There are cross country ski trails at Rainbow Resort.
4. While online comments, suggested the inclusion of lighted cross country ski trails, lighted cross country ski trails are not something the county is interested in pursuing at this time.
5. Mountain biking is gaining popularity. Perhaps more funding should be allocated to mountain bike groups?
6. The DNR redesignation process will allow the county to advocate for new uses on State Forest land. This may allow for increased recreational uses within State Forests in the County. This process should be occurring in the next year or two.
7. The historic steamboat water trail from Detroit Lake to Pelican Lake has other potential partners that are interested in designating the route as a water trail. Add language to the report that the Pelican River Watershed may be a potential partner for developing the historic steam boat water trail. Extend the water trail down the Pelican River to the County Line. Show that Otter Tail County also has indicated that Pelican River is proposed water trail.
8. The Buck Mill Dam in the Pelican River is planned for removal. This will provide additional opportunities for the water trail on the historic steam boat trail.
9. Since the Straight River is a designated trout stream, there is a low chance that the DNR would approve a water trail on it. The PAC recommended removing the water trail proposed on the Straight River. The PAC thought proposing a water trail on the Shell River is a more feasible option.
10. All scenic byways should be shown on the Roadway Recreation Corridor map. There might be a scenic byway on 113.
11. Grant-in-aid funds will provide funding for ATV trail signage. Modify text to indicate this.
12. There is often a debate between installing rumble stripes vs rumble strips on roadway shoulders. A rumble stripe is located on the painted line. A rumble stripe design is better for cyclist because the shoulder space is wider. Truckers tend to prefer the rumble strips because they are less likely to accidently hit them. Language should be added to the report that discusses the difference between the two designs.

Revisions based on online comments received are as follows:

13. Add a new subsection below Preferred Pedestrian and Bicycle Trail System that references existing hiking trails in the County. Also make specific mention that Heartland State Trail and Roadway shoulder are intended for use by both pedestrians and bicyclists.
14. Modify language regarding equestrian, mountain bike, snowmobile, cross country ski and ATV trails to be consistent that County is supportive of club and/or DNR funded initiatives to implement new trails for these categories.

#### **Section 4: Design Guidance Resources**

Section 4 introduces the reader to several design guidance resources for the trail types proposed in the text. The PAC had additional bicycle and pedestrian design resources that will be shared with the consulting team and then added to the report.

#### **Section 5: Public Input**

Section 5 summarizes the public input received during the Master Trail Plan process. The PAC had no comments on this section. SRF to include the third round of online comments to Section 5.

### **Actions Needed**

| <b>Actions Needed</b>                       | <b>Responsibility</b> |
|---|-----------------------|
| Incorporate recommended revisions to report | SRF                   |

Attachment:

- None