

June 25, 2009
Biwabik Community Center, Biwabik

Attendees:

William Whiteman	Bois Forte Reservation Tribal Government
Tom Peterson	DNR
Paul Bergman	Lake County
Bruce Martinson	Cook County
Les Ollila	MN DNR
Don Mohawk	Mn/DOT
Doug Grindall	Koochiching County
Denny Johnson	Mn/DOT
Jack Larson	Rural Transit/Arrowhead Transit
Mike Forsman	St. Louis County
Steve Kniefel	St. Louis County Townships
Walter Leu	Mn/DOT State Aid
Al Goodman	Area County Engineers
Catherine McLynn	Itasca County
Bryan Anderson	ARDC
Liz Sarabia	ARDC

1. Welcome and Introductions

The meeting was called to order by Mike Forsman, Chair and introductions were conducted.

2. Committee Business

Agenda was amended to add the election of vice chair. With no objections moved onto election of vice chair. Nomination was received for Steve Kniefel by Walt Leu. As no other nominations were received, motion to elect Steve Kniefel to be Vice Chair by Jack Larson/Walt Leu, passed unanimously.

Motion to accept minutes of the January 8, 2009 by Tom Peterson/Paul Bergman; passed unanimously.

3. Project Updates

Bryan Anderson provided a review and update of projects and activities for this year.

Aitkin Access Management Plan is nearly complete. A presentation will be made to the City of Aitkin shortly and all is expected to go well. A dialogue for alternate truck route through Aitkin has begun.

Bimose Trail Plan is complete and has been delivered to the City of Squaw Lake on June 24th. They applied for funding, but unfortunately didn't make the cut.

Ely Safe Routes to School presentation has been made to the School Board on June 7th. There has been some implementation and they are looking at the coordinator position. This is a very successful program in NE Minnesota which is demonstrated in the rankings.

NE Minnesota Trails high priority application for \$8 million was submitted to Congressman Oberstar; however, it was not recommended this round.

The North Shore Scenic Drive's Split Rock Wayside and the Rock Cairn projects are currently underway. The Beaver Bay Trailhead Project is still pending.

Bike Education was provided to 1,373 students. It is one of the most successful programs and a request was made for any additional schools that could be added for this fall or next spring.

4. Review of Annual Report

We had four quarterly meetings – October 22, 2008, January 3, 2009, April 2, 2009 and today's meeting. It was voted that one meeting would be eliminated for this next year and that would be the October meeting. It was felt that there was insufficient information available on the projects since they were just getting underway at that time.

The report includes plans that were completed this fiscal year, a list of RDC Transportation Planners meetings and a short statement about the Northern Minnesota Freight Study.

5. FY 2010 Work Plan

The RTAC Work Program budget is approximately \$59,000. Of that amount, \$18,000 is for administration; \$2,000 allocated for planning start-up; \$2,000 for base map update; \$7,000 for community trails implementation; nearly \$25,000 for in-kind local planning; and statewide planning in the amount of \$5,000. The actual budget amount is \$58,818.

6. In-kind Grant Program Application Review

Bryan Anderson explained that the review process will be based upon consensus. If there is no consensus then the scoring process will be used. He also offered the use of the scoring process as the first go around, but no one wished to use it.

Mountain Iron Non-Motorized Trail Plan

The City of Mountain Iron would like assistance in developing a trail plan for non-motorized uses and assistance on how to seek out options for funding. Currently the SRTS plan isn't able to cover all that is required though it has identified sidewalks areas, etc. They are requesting \$8,000: \$6,400 in RTAC funds and \$1600 in match.

Highway 169 Completion Coalition

Itasca County would like to move toward the completion of Highway 169 to a four lane highway. Their request of \$8,000 in RTAC funds would be for the facilitation of the coalition and different groups in an effort to put together action steps and have an entity that can coordinate and work with various agencies in order to complete this project. Discussion followed as to the need for this assistance and ARDC's expertise in this area. They are requesting \$10,000: \$8,000 in RTAC funds, \$2000 would be match.

Mille Lacs Reservation Transportation Plan

The Band is seeking to complete a 20-year long range transportation plan which would include vehicles, pedestrian and transit. This plan would be prepared jointly with East Central RDC since the majority of the reservation is within their regional limits; a small portion lies in Aitkin County. ARDC has been requested to be involved since they have previous experience working with the Reservations on transportation plans. This is seen as an 8-month to 1 year project. Project cost is \$24,000, requesting \$10,000 and Mille Lacs is prepared to provide \$14-15,000 in match. Discussion followed regarding the role of ECRDC, using the start funds and the possibility of delaying this project until next year.

Cook County State-Aid Non-Motorized Priority Projects

Cook County is asking for assistance to look at list of non-motorized enhancement projects, education outreach to residents, etc., provide assistance with prioritizing several project ideas and facilitation for funding sources. They need a plan to clarify how to proceed to accomplish their goals. This would be a

multiple project plan so it would probably be handled in two or more phases. Discussion followed regarding what would be required in the first phase of this request. Total cost is \$10,000 and they are requesting \$8,000 in RTAC while providing \$2,000 in match.

Further discussion and review of each project's costs, benefits, available future funding, etc. continued until there was a call for a motion. The first motion (Les Ollila) called for \$6,000 to each and if someone declines the funds, then the funds would be distributed to the remaining applications up to their requested amount. After the call for discussion another motion was put forth for \$6,000 to Mt. Iron and Hwy 169, \$8,000 to Cook and \$4000 to Mille Lacs. Again the discussion resulted in a new motion. The final motion (amended by Jack Larson) was \$6,400 to fully fund Mountain Iron, \$6,000 to Hwy 169, \$8,000 to Cook and the balance of \$4,418 to Mille Lacs. This was seconded by McLynn; passed unanimously.

7. Other Business

Next meeting is in January, possibly coordinated with the ATP meeting. Call for topics: none; call for tours: possible. Meeting was adjourned and members departed for Mesabi Trail and OHV Park Tour.

Amendment

An electronic vote was called on October 16, 2009 to transfer funds from the Mille Lacs Reservation Transportation Plan to the Big Falls Trails Plan. This vote was passed unanimously. Mille Lacs was unable to raise the local match needed for the project to move forward and plans to apply again in the spring of 2010.