



**COMMITTEE MEETING ~ NIRPC AUDITORIUM  
MARCH 28, 2013  
MINUTES**

**MEMBERS & GUESTS** –Jenny Orsburn, Brian Niksch, Shannon Eason, Eric Ehn, Bob Huffman, Bob Bronson, Ron Brown, Sherryl Doerr, John Seibert, Gina Darnell, Jake Dammarell, Paula Armour, James Mandon, John Novacich, Dennis Cobb, Walter Lenckos, Craig Zandstra, Matt Keiser, Julia Mandon, Chris Nesper, Bruce Spires, Ron Brown, Christopher Meyers, Susan Ostby

**STAFF** - Mitch Barloga, Meredith Stilwell, Gary Evers

Mitch Barloga called the meeting to order at 1:39 p.m. with self-introductions.

**PED**

**SOUTH SHORE TRAILS - UPDATE**

Bob Huffman reported SST is planning for Ride of Silence Day, May 15. At least two rides will occur with one each in Lake and Porter County. Planning continues for Bike to Work week, May 13-18. Bike to Work day is May 17 and all cities and towns are encouraged to hold a Bike to Work event. Planning is also continuing for the Region Ride which is June 1-2. Details will be available at Cornucopia '13. The SST Awards Banquet was held on the 20th. Mayor McDermott from Hammond accepted the connector of the year award and Alex Brown of Highland accepted the connection of the year award for the project connecting the trail under U.S. 41.

**TAP & STP FUNDING CYCLE - UPDATE**

The TAP and STP Group 1 funding cycles will be simultaneously released April 8. Applications for both are due May 17. Mitch noted that it is also time to begin talking with schools regarding the surveys that need to be completed for Safe Routes to School Projects. On May 21 the subcommittee will review and rank applications for both TAP and STP Group 1. Environmental projects will be reviewed and ranked separately. The recommendations of the subcommittee will be presented to the 3PC to be ranked and finalized at the May 23 meeting. The environmental based projects will be finalized at the EMPC meeting on June 6. Mitch reviewed the cycle schedule and funding should probably be available later this year or beginning of 2014.

**STP FUNDING TARGETS - DISCUSSION**

\$800k has been programmed for the next two years for trails from STP Group 1 funding. Targets and eligible projects need to be decided and 3PC has been given full reign to program the funds as well as project ranking and review. No PE is allowed, acquisition is limited to purchase price only, and all construction phases are allowed. Projects eligible for funding include: off-road multi-use trail and related activities (trailheads), sidewalks, landscaping, and planning. TAP only allows about \$250-\$260k maximum for construction. After discussion regarding prioritization for projects and the setting of funding targets, James Mandon made motion and Bruce Spires seconded to limit the \$800k in STP Group 1 funding to sidewalks related to bike trails; to on or off –road trail or related facilities only; and without any limitation on any specific dollar amount or cap on any project dependent upon ranking. Chairman Spires asked for a vote by show of hands. With no opposition, the motion passed.

**PEDAL**

**FEATURE PRESENTATION: BIG BOB BRONSON of the IDNR**

Mitch introduced Bob who spoke on funding avenues including the Bicentennial Nature Trust (BNT); the Heritage Trust Program and The Recreational Trails Program (RTP). BNT has \$20m remaining and is 50/50 match and funds have to be spent by 2016. The focus is natural area and includes only land acquisition. Trail corridor is part of the pot. The Heritage Trust Program is divided into five pots with outdoor rec/historic sites as one of the pots. IDNR is a liaison to get License plate monies to local park agencies and non-profits to buy natural areas. Heritage monies can be used as match for BNT monies and can be used for corridors. Both can also be used as match for other funding programs including land and water. Both BNT and Heritage Trust Program applications are due quarterly with the BNT cycle beginning May 1. Heritage Trust can be 100%, but usually isn't. The more partners the better on any of the acquisition programs. The RTP will fund water trails as well as equestrian, bike, ped, motorized, hiking, and mountain biking trails. It is an 80/20 matching program with roughly \$1.2m this year, which could roughly fund 3 to 4 bike/ped type projects. 30% of the monies have to go to motorized use and 30% to bike/ped. Due date for RTP is May 1<sup>st</sup>. Bob highly recommended talking to IDNR about projects when applying to ensure all points deserved will be awarded. Land and Water remains questionable at this point. Applications are being taken and are due June 1<sup>st</sup> and hopefully by that time it will be known if monies will be available. \$200k is the maximum amount. Discussion followed regarding the funding programs and BNT eligible projects which have a funding maximum of \$300k.

## **PROJECT SCOPE CHANGE REQUESTS – PORTAGE & MICHIGAN CITY & HOBART**

Sponsors for significantly altered projects are requested to return to present to 3PC. Scope change forms are required by INDOT. Two scope changes were brought before the 3PC: one by Portage and one by Michigan City, and an additional funds request was presented by Hobart. Portage requested a scope change for the Iron Horse Heritage Trail-Phase Two to be moved to align with the Marquette Greenway. Jenny Orsburn reviewed where the trail has been completed and although the goal was to connect to a park, issues have arisen with the rail corridor. A previous change was requested to take the trail through a subdivision, but it was recently discovered the subdivision filed bankruptcy and there are landowner issues. The scope change requested by Portage involves two options: One is to continue across 249 to Deer Trail Park which has the potential to continue on to connect with and has no land ownership issues. The other option is to make the North/South connection to the lakefront. Jenny discussed proposed future projects to support her scope change request. Both proposals are in line with the Marquette Greenway vision. Mitch noted NIRPC staff recommends approval. After discussion, Walter Lenckos motioned and John Seibert seconded to approve the revise the scope. With no opposition, the motion passed. Shannon Eason reviewed the Michigan City proposed scope change to the NIPSCO Greenway Trail-Phase I East. This project was to be funded with a TE grant awarded in 2006 but shortly afterward a problem arose with the NIPSCO right of way and caused a four year delay in the trail. Once the NIPSCO situation was resolved, NICTD decided to put in a high speed rail and this area is one of their chosen routes. The trail was placed on hold to await NICTD's decision, but since things still have not been fully decided, Michigan city does not want to waste any more time and engineering on this segment of a trail that connects to nothing and could potentially be removed. They would like to move their money to a high priority trail, Phase II of the Singing Sands Trail, which is part of the State Visionary Trail Marquette Greenway. The plan would be to complete Phase II and continue to work with Michigan for phase III in the next few years. Michigan City is also asking the \$1m grant from NIPSCO to be moved to Singing Sands. Mitch indicated NIRPC staff also endorses this scope change. Shannon also noted that cost per mile for this section of trails will be lower than the NIPSCO Greenway. Walter Lenckos motioned and Jenny Orsburn seconded to approve the scope change. With no opposition, the motion carried. A letter Mayor Snedecor from the City of Hobart requesting additional funding for the Oak Savannah Trail was provided to the Committee. Recent estimates indicate the need for \$260k more for engineering. 2000 was the last time estimates were obtained and prices have increased. Mitch explained that this is coming before 3PC not to decide a funding source, but to agree or disagree that extra money is needed. Gary Evers joined in to discuss the situation regarding the requested TIP amendment and how funds could be shifted to grant the request. Letting is scheduled for July 2013. Chairman Spires asked for a motion for endorsement for the Hobart request for \$260k in additional funds for the Oak Savannah Trail. On motion by Craig Zandstra, second by Christopher Meyers and no opposition, the motion to approve the request passed.

## **PADDLE –**

### **A. NWI PADDLING ASSOCIATION – UPDATE**

NWIPA is working with Hobart and Lake Station on Deep River to improve existing access points and signage. A paddling event will be held on June 22. A fun float is being held on June 9<sup>th</sup> on Trail Creek in Michigan City. Michigan City received a grant for the first ADA accessible launch at Hansen Park. Little Cal East Branch is working to maintain the Porter section and will work upstream through Porter and Chesterton. Porter already has design plans for two access sites. West branch Friends of the Little Cal has a paddle coming up in May. Kankakee River signs will be put up. Work is being done with La Porte County Parks to develop an overnight paddling only accessible campsite on the Kankakee. More campsites may be established. The Indiana section of the Lake Michigan water trail is done. Wisconsin DNR is in the application process. Many small grants are available for blueways projects and a template has been created to simplify how to determine what a grant will fund. 10 sources have been added to the template and more will be added. Eventually the template will be on the NWIPA website.

### **B. CAMPING ON THE KANK – UPDATE**

Covered in the NWIPA update.

## **GRAB BAG**

### **A. MISCELLANEOUS ISSUES, CONCERNS, GRIPES (NEW LA PORTE CO-CHAIR)**

Tim Morgan has resigned as co-chair for La Porte County and asked for Brian Niksch to be voted in. James Mandon made motion and John Seibert seconded to vote in Brian Niksch as the 3PC co-chair for La Porte County. Majority voted to elect Brian as the new La Porte Co-Chair.

### **B. GENERAL ANNOUNCEMENTS (UPCOMING RIDES, EVENTS, ETC.) –**

Shannon Eason announced Michigan City is hosting Coastal Awareness Month events on June 8 and 9 and includes a fun float. The ADA accessible launch at Hansen Park grant has been approved by first committee of DNR and is being looked at by NOAA. Hopefully the launch ramp and route will be constructed in fall 2013.

### **C. NEXT 3PC MEETING IS CORNUCOPIA '13 THURSDAY APRIL 25<sup>TH</sup> – PORTAGE!**

Meeting Adjourned at 3:23.