

**JOINT INTERGOVERNMENTAL COOPERATION AGREEMENT
BETWEEN THE TOWNS OF ST. GERMAIN, CLOVERLAND AND
THE CITY OF EAGLE RIVER**

THIS AGREEMENT entered into this 11th day of July, 2018 by and between the Towns of St. Germain, Cloverland and the City of Eagle River; and

WHEREAS Section 66.0301 of the Wisconsin Statutes allows towns and cities to enter into intergovernmental cooperation agreements for the purpose of joint management of matters of common interest within their respective jurisdictions, and may provide for the administration of the function or project; and

WHEREAS there is a need to develop a community biking and walking trail, hereinafter referred to as the "River Trail", to connect Eagle River and the Three Eagle Trail to the Heart of Vilas Biking and Walking Trail System in St. Germain, and to be located within the boundaries of the municipalities described above and which are participating in this agreement; and

WHEREAS the "River Trail" will be a community trail, a linear park and will provide alternative transportation and will also be a destination level recreational amenity that will boost economic vitality of all the communities along the trail; and

WHEREAS development of the trail can be best managed, both environmentally and economically, by regarding the "River Trail" as a connecting route between Eagle River and St. Germain, and through the towns of Lincoln and Cloverland; and

WHEREAS Great Headwaters Trails Foundation, Inc., hereafter referred to as "GHT," a local 501(c)(3) all-volunteer organization, to help facilitate the construction and existence of the River Trail, has developed a conceptual design for the River Trail and prepared a project description delineating the responsibilities for building and operating the River Trail (attached as addenda 1 and 2 to this Agreement) which may be utilized to accelerate the planning, design development and construction of the River Trail pursuant to this Agreement;

NOW, THEREFORE it is agreed by the governing bodies of each of these municipalities and approved by each of the governing bodies of each of these municipalities that there is hereby created, pursuant to Section 66.0301 of the Wisconsin Statutes, the **River Trail Commission**, hereinafter referred to as the Commission, for the purpose of building, operating, managing and maintaining a biking and hiking trail for recreation and transportation. Said commission shall be charged in accordance with the following:

1. Composition of Commission:

- A. When the Commission is composed of an odd number of municipal governmental bodies, each one shall appoint one Town Board member or Council member as its primary voting member of the Commission. When the Commission is composed of an even number of municipal governmental bodies, each one shall appoint one Town Board member or Council member as its primary voting member of the Commission, except for Cloverland which will appoint Two Town Board officials. (Six miles of the 10-mile trail will be located in Cloverland.)

- B. Each municipality may designate one alternate elected representative of its governmental body to serve in the absence of its representative(s) described in paragraph 'A' above. Such alternate members shall be recognized by the Commission and shall have the same powers and duties of the primary members when primary members are absent from Commission meetings.
- C. The Commission members shall designate a Chairperson to preside at its meetings and a Vice Chairperson who shall preside in the absence of the Chairperson. The Commission members shall also designate a Clerk who shall be responsible for keeping minutes for all Commission meetings. The Commission members shall also designate a treasurer who shall keep track of all funds which are received by the Commission and all funds which are disbursed by the Commission and shall at each meeting present a report on the current status of all funds on hand, and all expenditures currently pending.
- D. Great Headwaters Trails Foundation, Inc., hereinafter referred to as "GHT," shall serve as a partner with the commission, and shall designate a representative or representatives to advise and coordinate with the Commission as to fundraising efforts, available grants, permitting requirements, necessary easements, trail design and construction, and other matters pertinent to the purpose of the commission. GHT shall not have voting rights with respect to the Commission.
- E. The Commission shall work with GHT to form a Friends of the River Trail (FORT) group including citizen volunteers from all four municipalities and beyond. FORT shall work with the Commission to create a trail maintenance and enhancement plan that addresses trail amenities, enhancements, maintenance and associated costs, and FORT members shall take an active role in carrying out that plan and recommending plan modifications and additions as needed.

2. Meetings of Commission:

- A. The Commission is a public body as defined in 19.81et. Seq. of the Wis. Stats., and therefore subject to Wisconsin Open Meeting laws. The Commission as such is also subject to the Open Records laws of the State of Wisconsin as constituted in Sec. 19.21 et. Seq. of the Wis. Stats. Further, members of the Commission, both primary members and alternates, are subject to the Code of Ethics for local governmental officials as set forth in Sec. 19.59 of the Wis. Stats.
- B. Meeting agendas and meeting minutes shall be posted as required by law, and shall be provided to elected officials of the participating municipalities in a timely manner as determined by both the participating municipalities and the Commission.
- C. The Commission meetings shall be called by the Chairperson of the Commission or in that individual's absence by the Vice Chairperson of the Commission as deemed necessary, and as permitted by law.

3. Duration:

- A. The Commission's duration shall continue unless terminated earlier by the mutual agreement of the participating municipal governments.

4. Authority of Commission:

- A. The Commission shall have independent authority to hire or contract for services to administer trail development, maintenance and all other operations.

- B. With the advice of FORT, and to the extent desirable and feasible, the Commission shall utilize the conceptual design and project description for the River Trail prepared by GHT and made a part of this Agreement as Addenda 1 and 2.
- C. With the advice of FORT, the Commission shall develop a long range plan to address trail amenities, enhancements, maintenance and associated costs.
- D. The Commission shall annually identify and develop a budget to determine the projected costs to fund the development and ongoing operation of the River Trail. GHT shall have the primary responsibility to raise the necessary funds to design and build the trail. The Commission shall seek sources of funding to support the goals and functions of the Commission. However, neither GHT nor the Commission have authority to commit any of the participating municipalities to any expenses, financial or otherwise, whether for trail development, maintenance, or any purpose including support of grants, without prior written approval from the affected municipality.
- E. The Commission shall seek authorization from the participating municipal governments to this agreement in order to apply for other grants, which may provide additional funding.

Agreed to this 20 day of June, 2018 by the St. Germain Town Board

By: [Signature], Tom Christensen, Chairman, Town of St. Germain

By: [Signature], Thomas Martens, Clerk, Town of St. Germain

Agreed to this 11 day of July, 2018 by the Cloverland Town Board

By: [Signature], Scott Maciosek, Chairman, Town of Cloverland

By: [Signature], Julie Priefer, Clerk, Town of Cloverland

Agreed to this 12th day of June, 2018 by the Eagle River City Council

By: [Signature], Jeffrey A. Hyslop, Mayor, City of Eagle River

By: [Signature], Debra A. Brown, Clerk, City of Eagle River

Proposed budget for 2019 - Municipalities portion

Town of St. Germain	Administrative expense	\$ 500.00
Town of Cloverland	Administrative expense	\$ 500.00
City of Eagle River	Administrative expense	\$ 500.00
TOTAL		\$1,500.00