

Meeting Minutes of the River Trail Commission

(Towns of Cloverland, St. Germain and the City of Eagle River)

March 17, 2022 9:00 PM

Vilas County Courthouse, Conference Room B. Eagle River 54521

1. Meeting called to order at 1:30 PM public present included:

Gary Meister (GM) - Eagle River,	Holly Tomlanavich - Cty. Board (Wash.)	Carolyn Ritter – Cty. Board (St. G)
Carlton Schroeder (CS) Eagle River,	Todd Bierman - Vilas Cty. Parks and Rec.	Pat Weber -Cty. Board, (Washington)
Jeff and Ann Currie (JC)- Cloverland,	Marv Anderson -Vilas Cty. Board (St.G)	Chad Grundeman MSA by Zoom
Dan Kramer (Cty. Board -Lincoln),	Karen Anderson (St. G.),	
Robin Ginner - Eagle River Administrator	Francine Gough (FG) -Supv. Cloverland,	

2. Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

3. Meeting Posting was verified for all 3 participating municipalities.

4. Roll Call - **Ron Kressin** (RK), **Joe Spitz** (JJS), **Jim Swenson** (JS) - Chairman. Quorum Present.

5. No objections were made to taking the agenda in any order at the discretion of Chairman

6. RK moved to approve the 2/25/22 minutes. JS seconded. Board vote approved the minutes.

7a. The RTC budget was deferred until the April meeting until JS can meet with Steve Garbowitz to discuss the original Commission documents intent regarding budgeting and spending wording.

7b. River Trail “Honey Bear” bridge design work was completed. It included a proposed aerial view showing two separate bridge decks. The North deck would be for bike/ped and would be 12’ wide with concrete deck. The south deck would be also 12’ wide for Snowmobile/ATV traffic. The decks would both have 54” high side rails. The two decks would share common piers and abutments on shore but they would be 2’ apart. The bridge would be 15’ away from the highway bridge, and the clearance to the water would be essentially the same as the highway bridge for marine navigation. The plans show the approaches as well as possible routes to get from Zeman road to the bridge and from the bridge to a potential crossing east of the bridge just east of the Cloverland drive. into Cty. H into Onieda county.

The approaches are shared but there would be a 2’ high concrete barrier closer to the bridge and a sturdy wooden 4x4 rail system for the next 100’ until the trails become separated by 8’ between the motorized and bike/ped trails.

Possible narrowing to 10-11’ for the bike /ped side was discussed but DOT likes to see 12’ standard if they are involved in any funding. Chad mentioned that they did reduce the design load for the bike/ped side bridge to 10,000 lbs. so it could still allow pick up truck loads for maintenance work. The motorized side was designed for the 20,000 lb. load to accommodate groomers and ambulance etc. The estimate for the cost of the project was \$1,484,000 as designed for the bridge(s) and the 100’ on end. Cost is similar to one being done being done now in Lacrosse area for a single bridge which is coming in at \$900,000. Inflation will also figure into this in future.

Chad doesn’t feel that there will be any significant issues with permitting the bridge with either the DNR or DOT given the current bridge location and the ground work laid by GHT.

Todd Bierman doesn’t feel that they will be able to go for the grant processes by April 15 deadline and the complexity regarding the multiple use groups. JC said that he would like to consider the June 7, TAP funding for the bike/ped element of the bridge. There is always the possibility for achieving approval for the ATV on the bridge which may be part of the solution. JS agreed to discuss the ATV route with the President of the ATV club in St. Germain, so we can make a decision on the direction.

7c. The request for the County Board to add a member to the River Trail Commission was discussed. RK will send a formal letter request to the Forestry, Recreation and Land Committee for post-election consideration.

7d. LOI for Town of Lincoln was discussed at ER Council last week regarding absorbing the easements for the trail in Lincoln. The commission approved Robin Ginner to send such a letter assuring they have no objection. If that is accepted Robin would approach full city council again that they approve it with answers to the questions the council asked in the last meeting when this was discussed.

Snow removal would likely not be required in this area as long as they are not in DOT right of way or we are not using DOT federal grants based on Gary Meister’s previous work.

7e. JS will send letter mentioned under item 8.

8. CS based on County Highway meeting they favored having the bike/ped trail cross where the current Snowmobile trail crosses and that we should author a joint letter showing that the County and City favor this solution. The possibility of having a “on demand” stop light installed would be a good thing for all. JS will send a similar letter of support from RTC to the City for this crossing for the River Trail. JS mentioned again the on-demand pedestrian crossing light on Hwy 51 near Save More as a precedence for our crossing.

9. There were no public comments or letters and communications noted

10. none

11. Next regular meeting was scheduled for April 27th at 4:00 PM at Eagle River City Hall.

12. Motion to adjourn was made and passed at 2:38 PM

Meeting minutes submitted by Joe Spitz