

**Meeting Minutes of the River Trail Commission**  
(Towns of Cloverland, St. Germain and the City of Eagle River)  
**July 27, 2022 1:30PM**  
**Eagle River City Hall 525 E Maple St, Eagle River, WI 54521**

1. Meeting called to order at 1:32 PM public present included:

**Jeff and Ann Currie** (JC)- Cloverland

**Robin Ginner**- (RG) Eagle River Administrator

**Todd Bierman**- Vilas Cty. Parks and Rec.

**Francine Gough** (FG) -Supv. Cloverland

**Holly Tomlanovitch** - Vilas Co. Board, (Washington)

**Alex Degutis** (Lincoln)

**Fritz Laweser** (Lincoln)

**Gary Meister** - (GHT Sugar Camp)

**Jim Meiers** - Lincoln

**Mike Robillard** (zoom)

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 5/12/22 meeting minutes. JJS seconded. Board vote approved the minutes.

7a. Supervisor Holly Tomlanovitch to be the representative to the RTC. Francine Gough will be joining as a second commission member for Cloverland. This will officially happen at the 8/3/22 Cloverland Board meeting. Eagle River will Meet on 8/9/22. Jack Alpert must examine it before it proceeds for approval to the Forest Lake and Land Committee. Spitz discussed the philosophy behind the lack of definition of exactly how financial matters will be handled by the Commission in the future which would be similar to how many joint municipality commissions operate, which evolves over time. Basically, annual budget development, followed by approval of the participating municipalities before any spending can occur. RK motioned to forward to municipalities for approval of the addendum to the Commission agreement. Tomlanovitch seconded.

7b. Presented the work he had done to map the other options that might investigate the use of the power corridor that goes from Hwy 17 all the way into Railroad Street. He also presented the the "by sea" option of a ferry service to go from the Honey Bear to My Boat Club or Riverview Park. This could add a unique feature associated with the River as well as providing the opportunity to work with local services for canoe and kayak services to explore Rice Creek, the Eagle River to Yellow Birch similar to current trips that start on Hwy. G.

7c. Meister presented a recommendation of a document "Achieving Agreement On Wisconsin River Bridge". It was to start a sub-group that would involve all the potential users so a consensus could be achieved on uses and design concept. Members were suggested. What entity would lead it was discussed. Eventually, Tomlanovitch agreed that it would be appropriate for the work group to be driven by FR&L to bring the group together. Bierman will invite the participants to a meeting for this working group.

Mike Robillard talked about easements and the draft professional services agreement that was sent by MSA. Having a pro reaching out might have a positive impact. Maybe we can't get over the easement holding issue at this time but we could work on getting the easement agreement from the land owners. Phase A get response for 4 land owners who have not responded. Phase B the people who have had contact but have not signed a LOI up to 5 attempts. It has a cost (\$21,000 mentioned). Using this approach to acquire the easement might prohibit certain federal and state grant money. Reconnecting Community's Grant was mentioned. The chicken and egg version is "Which came first, the agreement to grant an easement or agreement on who is going to hold it?" Jeff Currie mentioned working on getting letters of support from Lincoln residents to their board representatives to try and shift the thinking.

The current balance in the RTC bank account has risen with the 2022 contribution of Cloverland to \$4200.

8a. Gary reported that they have finally had a proposal submitted by MSA for developing and acquiring the easements for the proposed route through Lincoln. They will be going through it to give it consideration.

Jeff suggested it is worth getting a legal opinion on if it is possible to have the easements in Lincoln, say that they can assign it to an agent who assumes liability and maintenance of the trail easement. Based on the discussion with Garbowitz, Spitz mentioned that he wondered if another entity, like GHT could hold the easements or that perhaps elements of the easement like liability and maintenance obligation could be later re-assigned to another entity.

8d. Jeff Currie distributed a report "Funding Report for the RTC - July 27<sup>th</sup> Meeting" attached.

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

10. Public Comments - none

11. Next regular meeting was confirmed for August 31st at 4:00 PM at Eagle River City Hall.

12. Motion to adjourn was made and passed at 5:45 PM

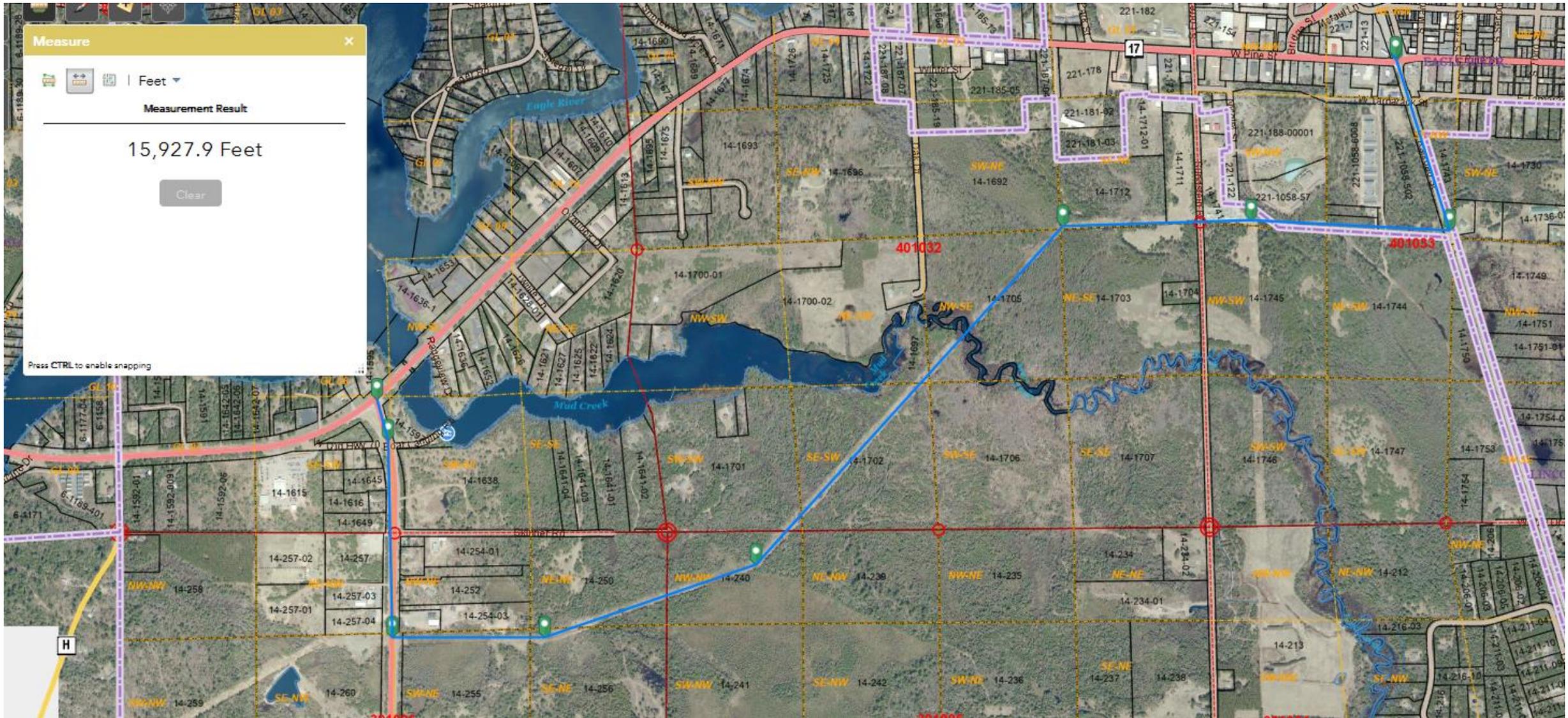
Meeting minutes submitted by Joe Spitz

# The Lincoln Trail

“**One** if by land, **Two** if by sea”



# Lincoln "Bypass" ~ 3 miles

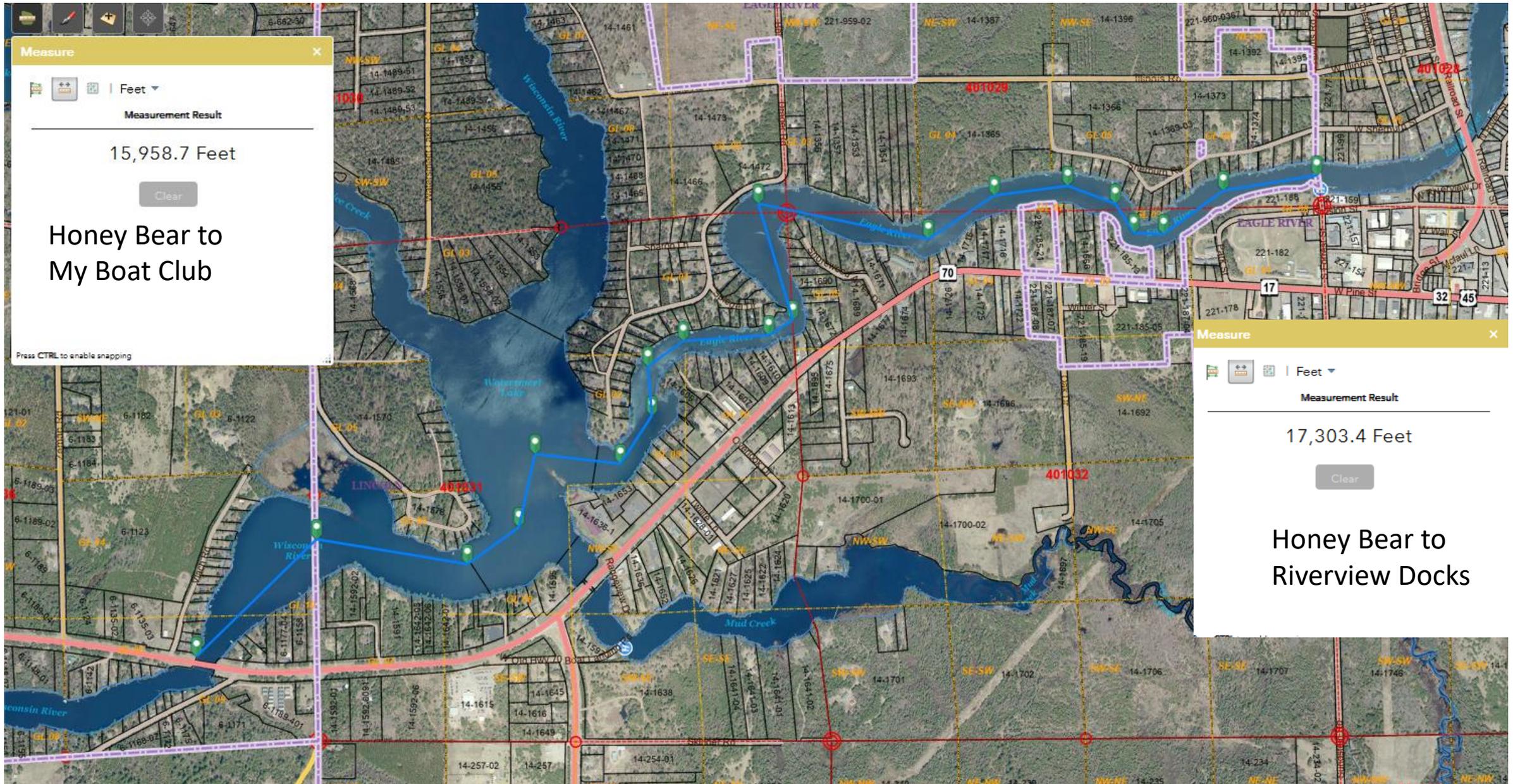


If entire length = 320,000 sq, ft, at 20' wide = 7.346 acres

# Power Transmission Line - Property Owners

- Passes through 2 parcels (40 acres) of Scharf Trust
- Passes through 2 parcels of Thomas & Patti Siren
- Passes through 1 parcel of Jeffery Lewis
- Passes through 3 parcels of Lois Gough
- Passes through 1 parcel of Ted Nielsen

# Eagle River Ferry Concept or Kayak rental with bike Transport



# We Could Create a Unique Pedal and Paddle Trail

- Could have private enterprises offer transportation to boat you and your bike, around Lincoln on the river. (fee/donation)
- Kayak use could allow exploration all the way to the Yellow Birch entrance via the scenic Eagle River as well as Rice Creek and the headwaters of the Wisconsin River all the way to Hwy G. This would truly be a “headwaters” exploration package!
- RTC could see if businesses could be asked to donate a small % of their RTC clients revenue back into trail maintenance fund.
- Could be an interim and/or permanent operation if it causes change in Lincoln’s interest.
- How about an annual **pedal and paddle** “race” event. St. G. to ER like Madison’s **Paddle and Portage** event? to raise funds for prizes and trail maintenance?

## Funding Report for the River Trail Commission

July 27, 2022

Sources of revenue for the River Trail project and particularly for Stage One include –

- GHT events and raffles – This summer we have two, Ride with Leinie (this Saturday) and its raffle and SepTimber Ride (9/10) and its raffle.

- Possible grant from the Green Bay Packers Foundation – applied for \$8,000 – see letter on next page

- TAP grant – possible to go after \$800,000 when application cycle opens – that may happen again this fall

- ARPA funds and other funding from the bi-partisan infrastructure bill – some of those funds are in the hands of the county and municipalities now

- Room Tax arrangement would be worth looking into for trail care funds. Cloverland is about to establish a room tax, St Germain has a room tax, Lincoln and Eagle River are part of a room tax commission that includes the Town of Washington.

- Private donors – outreach has started in a very mild way – been going on for several years as we engaged people with progress on the Conover-Phelps Trail and added donors to GHT – many donors are eager to support the River Trail project when all the needed parts of it start coming together. That is when more active outreach can begin.

- Long shot, but – the federal Reconnecting Communities program established by the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law – could apply to River Trail. River Trail will provide nonmotorized options for people to travel safely and conveniently in the area between St Germain and Eagle River – an area now served by the reconfigured STH 70 - and could also address the “dividing” effect of STH 45 in Eagle River. For construction projects qualified applicants can seek a minimum of \$5 million. Smaller planning grants can also be applied for. DEADLINE IS OCT. 13.

Applying for this is a heavy lift with many details to be attended to. Details are at <https://www.transportation.gov/grants/reconnecting-communities>. At that page you can register for a webinar to be held tomorrow, 7/28, from 1-2:30 our time. It's a repeat of the webinar that Ann and I attended a few weeks ago.