

Meeting Minutes of the River Trail Commission
(Towns of Cloverland, St. Germain and the City of Eagle River)
July 12, 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,

Alex Degutis (Lincoln)
Fritz Laweser (Lincoln)
Woody Albhorn - Washington
Jim Meiers - Lincoln

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 5/4/22 meeting minutes. JS seconded. Board vote approved the minutes.

7a&b . RK stated that the VC Chairman, Jerry Burkett has made the appointment on 6/24/22 of VC Supervisor Holly Tomlanovitch to be the representative to the RTC. By current RTC agreement and the creation of an even number of commissioners Cloverland will need to add a second representative. Francine Gough mentioned that she had addressed that and Cloverland Chairman Scott Ma-coisek will be appointing her as she has been in attendance to the past meetings of the RTC for that eventuality. This will officially happen at the 8/3/22 Cloverland Board meeting. Eagle River will Meet on 8/9/22.

7c. The need to redraft the commission agreement was discussed. In order to expedite that, JS asked for help to get that accomplished with Steve Garbowitz. JJS agreed to take the point on that. We would like to have it in time for the 7/27 scheduled meeting. JS stated that he would like to see the wording of the agreement be more clear as to how the commission will operate regarding the on-going funding of the maintenance and will discuss with Garbowitz as it should be up to the commission to develop the annual budget and then go to the towns for the approval of their portion of it when we get to the point the trail is in operation.

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

8e. Jeff had distributed a report showing the need for some public relations work that stresses the Stage 1 vision, and the determination behind it. This would include settling the seeming uncertainty about the other options for the trail path location, and improving the support for the current plan while giving some of the options a sincere look. This would include expanding routes in bike lanes and making the distinction between “road biking use” versus bike/pedestrian trails like the Heart of Vilas that focus more on a more social, family (kids) friendly biking experience without fear of being injured by motorized traffic. Ann Currie focused on the uniqueness of Heart of Vilas being both *Off Road & Paved* ! Jim Meiers stated that River Trail would be a showcase into Eagle River. The experience is going to be totally different than taking roads like County G in a bike lane even though he currently uses that at times (as mentioned the Curries).

Power line right of way option through Lincoln into Eagle River was discussed. Jeff Currie stressed the need to determine the route. JS asked the what will happen with the easements in Lincoln with the “current” route. Gary said he feels that they need to keep up the effort to develop the easements and then they have something in hand to take to Lincoln leadership and show them the electorate support.

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.

9. There were no public comments or letters and communications noted
10. Public Comments - none
11. Next regular meeting was confirmed for July 27th at 4:00 PM at Eagle River City Hall.
12. Motion to adjourn was made and passed at 2:52 PM