

Parks and Trails Legacy Funding Work Group Meeting #1
St. Cloud MNDot Facility
Friday, Jan. 10, 2020
11 a.m. – 2 p.m.

Attendees		
GMRPTC	Met Council	DNR
Rick Anderson	John Gunyou (via Skype)	Scott Kelling
Tm Engrav	Mary Jo McGuire (via Skype)	Phil Leversedge
Marcia Larson	Mary Merrill	Shannon Lotthammer
Mike Nigbur (alternate)	Boe Carlson (alternate)	Melody Webb (alternate)
Renee Mattson (Liaison)	Emmett Mullin (Liaison)	Erika Rivers (Liaison)
Guests		
Bob Bierscheid (via Skype); Marc Mattice; Tom Ryan		
Facilitators / Staff		
Aimee Gourlay; Gratia Joice; Jen Maleitzke; Laura Preus		

DRAFT Notes

11 a.m. Welcome, Agenda Review & Approval (Aimee)

Introductions (see above)

Updates (none)

Parks and Trails Vision, Work Group Charge (Aimee)

11:15 a.m. Connection to Parks & Trails Legacy Advisory Committee - Bob Bierscheid, PTLAC Chair

- Legacy Amendment most significant thing to connect MN citizens to outdoors
- Citizens don't care who funds parks and trails
- Inform new legislators about the benefits of the Legacy Amendment
- The PTLAC had a discussion about early considerations to share with the Funding Work Group
 - Statewide trail to attract visitors and to benefit citizens (ex: Iron Bail Trail)
 - Legislature keep operational funding and Legacy funding separate
 - GMRPTC could be funded through Legislature rather than through Legacy funding
 - Consider creation of an Opportunity Fund where all three groups could use Fund to acquire land if needed (now or never situation)
 - Consider creation of Critical Repair Fund – where all three groups could apply to maintain (in severe weather conditions)
 - Address environmental changes, climate change in budget recommendations
 - Consider “Take care of what we have” funding
 - Encourage ongoing outreach with citizens – (ex: DNR “I Can” program)

11:30 a.m. Insights from the 2012 Funding Work Group Members - Erika Rivers, John Gunyou, Tom Ryan, Bob Bierscheid

- We can do more together than we can ever do separately
- People care about connecting to natural world, does not matter if it is a state park, regional park, etc.
- 2012 Work Group able to reach consensus agreement because pre-conceived notions (part-art, part-science) were put aside; formulas don't necessarily work
- Data was desired in first process but unavailable; much more available data now
- Need to share best practices moving forward
- Thanks to Met Council and DNR for desire to form and fund GMRPTC – led to great collaboration
- Have now had 8 years of working together, collegially for the citizens of Minnesota
- Everyone needs to recognize the needs of other organizations (for a long time, greater Minnesota had a disadvantage)
- Each organization operates differently
- Keep goals in mind, good luck

11:45 a.m. Overview of Planning Team's Preparations for the Work Group & Desired Outcomes – Laura

- Take what we learned from first process to build onto for this process
- Met with liaisons to talk about process moving forward, need to meet legislation
- Desire to set up contract with independent facilitator
- Want to build on collaborative spirit moving forward
- Remember goal for all Minnesotans
- Opportunity to discuss all systems to talk about needs
- Facilitator role – design process, facilitate meeting, final report
- DNR role: staff have a unique role in working regularly with liaisons and can support

Foundational Information

- Parks and Trails Legacy plan offers framework for how the Legacy PAT funding should be spent
 - Connect people and the outdoors
 - Acquire land, develop opportunities
 - Take care of what we have
 - Coordinate among partners
- People don't care who funds parks, they just want good service
- Everyone should be able to broadly benefit from parks and trails
- People who came before us really cared about parks, developed system and we need to pass that heritage on to the next generation
- Marking the 10th anniversary of the Legacy Amendment impact on PAT
 - 9 regional events across the state in 2018, 2019 and will continue in 2020
 - Celebrate, educate and listen

- Take feedback from citizens for the next 15 years – heard we need to take care of our natural resources and what we’ve already built; followed by acquiring land
 - People appreciate having recreation close to them
 - People wished for more time to spend recreating
 - Heard from public that Minnesota is doing well with its PAT compared to other states
- Coordinating amongst partners – See Legislative Coordinating Committee website
- Data is different for each system
- Don’t want to fight over funding

12:30 p.m. Overview and Discussion of Work Group Charter

Purpose

- Add to Charter: ***Consideration of recommendations for longer than FY2022-23***

Guiding Principles

- Connection to the Legacy Advisory Committee – need to ensure there’s collaboration
- Working Group may ask LAC to weigh in on a specific topic, or find other open opportunities
- Add to Charter: In Guiding Principles section – ***Consult with and value the Legacy Advisory Committee***
 - Take feedback into account
 - Seek “statement of value” from the LAG

Communication Guidelines

- Add to Charter: ***Assume positive intentions***

2020 Schedule

St. Cloud, 11 a.m. – 2 p.m. (unless additional time is needed)

Friday, Feb. 21

Friday, Mar. 27

Friday, Apr. 24

Friday, May 15

Friday, May 29 (if necessary)

1:15 p.m. Group Discussion

- Hopeful to honor and build on partnerships that have been developed and looking to build on what’s been done for the future
- Eager to learn from others
- Appreciative of Legacy Amendment and what it has done for MN
- First ten years gone really fast; next 15 will go fast as well; concern Legacy Amendment will go away

- Serve the citizens, keep the heritage, culture strong
- Spirit of collaboration is real; history is helpful; opportunity to have a common understanding of system
- Big responsibility to undertake
- Fearful on sunset of Legacy, it's been a game changer; work together rather than have the Legislature intervene

1:50 p.m.

Next steps

- Share specific information about parks and trails system from each group
- Potential agenda topic: How has current split of funding been working? Perspective from each group, Legacy Advisory Committee
- Potential agenda topic: State Demographer–Shifts and trends data
 - Parks and Trails household survey; statewide comprehensive outdoor data plan (Erika, DNR)
- Review notes from today, send approval

2:00 p.m.

Adjourn