

**KENTUCKY RECREATIONAL TRAILS AUTHORITY
MINUTES**

August 25, 2010, 11:00 a.m.

**Salato Wildlife Education Center
One Sportsman Drive
Frankfort, Kentucky**

Members Present: Ronald D. Cardwell, Vice Chair; Dennis E. Crowley; E. Lee Davis; Preston McLain; Kim Nelson; Sandy Runyon; Jenny Sewell; Jeffrey D. Spainhour; Matt Sawyers, Deputy Secretary, Tourism, Arts and Heritage Cabinet (TAHC) (designee); Mark Cramer, Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources (DFWR) (designee); and Kristen Branscum, Department of Agriculture (designee)

Members Absent: Virginia L. Grulke, Chair; Debra K. Balliet; David L. Campbell; J. Patrick Collins; Charles Oran Little, Ph.D.; D. Brian Patton III; Malcolm C. Winsper; Karen Wilson, Secretary, Energy and Environmental Cabinet (designee); Keith Damron, Kentucky Transportation Cabinet (designee); and J. Michael Brown, Secretary, Justice and Public Safety Cabinet or designee

Guest and Staff Present: Leslie Parrish, Lt. Governor's Office; Brian Clark and Brian Blank, DFWR; Pat Banks, Kentucky River Keepers; Tami Vater, Woodford Tourist Commission; Kay Berggren, Kentucky Tourism Council; Tourism, Arts and Heritage Cabinet Staff: Elaine Wilson, Executive Director of Adventure Tourism; Seth Wheat, Intern; and Mary Jean Atchison, Executive Secretary

WELCOME AND CALL TO ORDER

Mr. Cardwell, Vice Chair, welcomed everyone and recognizing a quorum was not present he called the meeting to order.

PRESENTATION

Young's Bridge Project, Woodford / Anderson Counties, Tami Vater, Woodford Tourist Commission
Ms. Vater presented the members with information about the Young Bridge project and the "concept" they have for the bridge. The tourism concept is to transform the historic railroad bridge into a pedestrian walkway over the Kentucky River. A Visitor's Center would be built on the Anderson County side, access would be available to the Wild Turkey Distillery (now closed) a trail into downtown Lawrenceburg; rail could be provided by the Bluegrass Railroad Museum into Versailles. The project would be partnered by Woodford and Anderson Counties Fiscal Courts, Versailles and Lawrenceburg City Councils, Versailles and Lawrenceburg Chamber of Commerces, the Bluegrass Railroad Museum and the property owner.

Ms. Vater stated they are seeking a letter of support for the project.

Mr. Cardwell thanked Ms. Vater for the presentation and explained the KRTA could not vote on a letter of support however it would be brought up at the next meeting.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mr. Cardwell stated due the to the lack of a quorum the approval of the June 24, 2010 Minutes of the Kentucky Recreational Trails Authority (KRTA) would be presented at the next meeting for approval.

KENTUCKY RECREATIONAL TRAILS AUTHORITY

MINUTES, August 25, 2010

Page Two

CHAIR'S REPORT

Mr. Cardwell read the report Ms. Grulke submitted. The full report is attached.

Work continues on private landowner's concerns about landowner liability regarding recreational use on their land. With the Recreational Use Statute, our support of passing a "Fee Reversal" amendment will move us forward to successfully work with private landowners. However more work needs to be done with this proposed bill to get it sponsored and introduced.

The most important next step KRTA needs to take is to establish a fee structure for trails; so KRTA can receive ongoing revenue to support future programs and studies.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

See full report attached.

Status of Land agreements throughout state to date:

- Mammoth Cave – No progress reported.
- Floyd County / Dewey Lake Multi-Use Trails – The MOA has been signed. An announcement on by the First Lady will be on September 10.
- Knott County ATV Trails – Waiting for signatures.
- Monroe County 2600 acres – A Back Country horseman's group has been formed as part of the owner's requirement. Mr. Fox should have the Land Use Agreement the first of September.

New Adventure Tourism Businesses:

- Dewey Lake Horse Trail – Grand Opening Event September 10-12. KDFWR and Floyd County have entered into an agreement for a multi purpose non motorized trail.

Work to date from June 24, 2010:

- Site visits to Bell, Harlan, Hart, and Graves Counties.
- Attended the Grand Opening for the Canopy Zip Line Tours near Mammoth Cave
- Spoke at Morgan County Agri-Tourism Day on land use agreements and Adventure Tourism.
- Attended an ATV photo shoot in Bell County at the Wilderness Road ATV Park.
- Spoke to the Graves County Chamber of Commerce on Developing Adventure Tourism Plans, attracting adventure businesses, and tourism.
- Investigated federal funding for AmeriCorps to work on trails, etc. at the state parks. The Department of Parks is planning to submit a grant for the three regions.
- Seth Wheat attended the Southeast Equestrian Trails Conference in Atlanta, GA. He has been applying the course information learned to our objectives.
- MOA between DFWR / Kentucky State Nature Preserve Commission (KSNPC) and Harlan County a few items in the agreement have yet to be resolved.
- DFWR and Adventure Tourism had a display, brochures and info on adventure activities in Kentucky at the Grant County Rural Electric Cooperative Corporation's (RECC) Annual Picnic and the National Quality Deer Management Conference in Louisville.
- We have a booth at the Kentucky State Fair, set up in a triangle, with the Department of Tourism and Travel and the Department of State Parks.

KENTUCKY RECREATIONAL TRAILS AUTHORITY

MINUTES, August 25, 2010

Page Three

- Spoke with USDA officials concerning the Public Access grants. There can be one application from a state and DFWR is working to submit one. We met with DFWR and requested they include a provision for other non-motorized activities. The grant gives priority to states that are Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP) participants. The CREP program pays farmers not to grow crops by planting with wildlife friendly and native vegetation to increase the wildlife populations. The payment scale in this grant is determined by how much access the farmers choose to get reimbursed.
- Met with David Sikes of the Boy Scouts of America, Lincoln Heritage Council. Arrangements have been made to include Adventure Tourism, Department of Parks, and DFWR in their Centennial Celebration to be held at EP Tom Sawyer State Park, Louisville. They are expecting 10,000 plus scouts and cubs; parents and troop leaders. The event will represent all but five (5) counties in Kentucky. They want exhibits that will help scouts achieve a portion of any of their merit badges. They have asked for expert hikers, bikers, kayakers, hunter safety, fishing / casting, horsemanship, to be provided through our agencies.

Leave No Trace – trail ethics program continues to gain momentum.

- The Leave No Trace program offerings in state parks has produced a total of 886 trained visitors in proper outdoor ethics, 188 adults and 698 children through the end of the second quarter.
- Several federal agencies are participating, 124 participants trained to-date.

Otter Creek Park: Ms. Wilson asked Mr. Cramer to speak about Otter Creek Park. He stated the transfer of ownership to DFWR would be completed soon and the opening of the park is targeted for May 2011. Brian Blank and Brian Clark, DFWR Public Information Officers, stated they would like to get in touch with previous users of the park; identify how they previously used the park and how they would like to see the park used in the future. They asked members if they know of someone that was a previous user to have them contact them. Mr. Cramer stated DFWR has also purchased additional acreage to add to the park. This is the “first” for KDFWR; they have always managed Wildlife Management Areas which are lands managed for hunting and fishing. However the park will have facilities, a YMCA camp, trails, etc. and will also include hunting and fishing.

State Recreational Trail Systems Survey: Ms. Wilson stated she had 42 of the 50 states to participate in the State Recreational Trail Systems Survey (SRTSS). We will continue to pursue 100% participation. Mr. Cramer stated he thought it was interesting that there were 42 ways of managing recreational trails.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Financial Viability Development Committee: No report

Task Force on Landowner Liability: No report

OLD BUSINESS

New Committee Recommendations / Assignments: Ms. Wilson stated Ms. Grulke had a list of KRTA Proposed Committees:

Trail Development Committee
Trail Management Committee
Trail Education Committee
Finance Committee
Board Management Committee
Legislative Committee

KENTUCKY RECREATIONAL TRAILS AUTHORITY
MINUTES, August 25, 2010
Page Four

She asked for members to sign up for one (1) or more committees and if there were non members they knew that would like to participate on to please contact her and she would then contact the non member. Mr. Davis suggested a “retreat” in order to work on the committees because of their restructure. Ms. Wilson stated she would schedule the retreat.

Trail Master Plan Committee Report: Ms. Wilson will make the submitting bids available on KRTA’s website for the committee to review.

NEW BUSINESS

Recommendation for a Fall Trails Event: No report

USERS GROUP REPORTS

ATV: Mr. McClain presented the attached report.

Equine: Mr. Davis reported the First Lady participated in the Breast Cancer Cure Ride in July at Mammoth Cave. He is working with Carlisle County to establish an equine organization and trails.

Hiking: Mr. Crowley reported the Sheltoewe Trace Trail meeting will be September 10-12 at the Sheltoewe Trace Outfitters. National Public Lands Day is September 25 (the state parks are participating). Louisville Mayor's Healthy Hometown Hike at Jefferson Memorial Forest on October 16. It is a one day event with a typical turnout of hundreds of people. The Appalachian Long Distance Hikers Association (ALDHA) Gathering will be October 15 -17 in Athens, WV.

Cycling: No report

ADJOURNMENT

With no other business to conduct Mr. Cardwell adjourned the meeting.

Ron Cardwell, Vice Chair

Mary Jean Atchison, Executive Secretary
Tourism, Arts and Heritage Council