

**KENTUCKY RECREATIONAL TRAILS AUTHORITY  
MINUTES**

**October 27, 2010, 11:00 a.m.**

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

**Members Present:** Virginia L. Grulke, Chair; Ronald D. Cardwell, Vice Chair; Debra K. Balliet; J. Patrick Collins; Dennis E. Crowley; E. Lee Davis; Oran Little, Ph.D.; Preston McLain; Kim Nelson; 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 Lynn Soporowski, Kentucky Transportation Cabinet (designee)

**Members Absent:** David L. Campbell; D. Brian Patton III; Sandy Runyon; Jenny Sewell; Malcolm C. Winsper; Karen Wilson, Energy and Environmental Cabinet (designee); **Kristen Branscum, Department of Agriculture (designee)**; and J. Michael Brown, Secretary, Justice and Public Safety Cabinet or designee

**Guest and Staff Present:** **Susan Rieber, First Lady's Office (designee)**; Tim Cody, KMA; Charles Logsdon, **Wildlife Biologist, Otter Creek Wildlife Management Area**, DFWR; Robert Fraley, Kentucky Outdoors Sportsmen Alliance, Inc.; 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**

Ms. Grulke, Chair, welcomed everyone and recognizing a quorum present she called the meeting to order.

**OTTER CREEK PARK**

Mr. Cramer stated the Louisville Metro Government is in the process of transferring ownership of Otter Creek Park to DFWR. However, the park is currently closed DFWR is planning on opening the park in early 2011.

Mr. Logsdon reported at this time, DFWR is in the process of cleaning the park and some of its trails. They have been contacted by many people that want to volunteer in helping with the clean-up process. In the meantime, DFWR is requesting that anyone interested in the future of the park fill out an online opinion survey found <http://www.surveygizmo.com/s3/366294/Otter-Creek-Survey>

Mr. Cramer stated they are studying ways to manage the usage of the area. For example: for gun hunting (deer and turkey seasons) the area will be closed to other users. They have a first draft of the regulations for fees and usage of the park which will be presented to the Cabinet for approval.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Ms. Grulke asked for a motion to approve the Minutes of the Kentucky Recreational Trails Authority (KRTA) of June 24 meeting. Dr. Little made a motion to approve the Minutes of the June 24, 2010 meeting; seconded by Mr. Sawyers. Motion carried by a voice vote.

Ms. Grulke asked for a motion to approve the Minutes of the KRTA of August 25, 2010 meeting. Mr. Crowley made a motion to approve the Minutes of the August 25, 2010 meeting; seconded by Mr. Cramer. Motion carried by a voice vote.

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### CHAIR'S REPORT

Ms. Grulke presented these thoughts or ideas:

It is very important that these tasks are accomplished to protect our trails:

- *Trail Fee System* – we have the data now and it would be a good time to decide what type of fee system we want and how it should be implemented.
- *Amendment to the Recreational Use Statute* – calling it the “fee reversal amendment”; where if a user sues a private land owner, who has allowed a user to use his land free of charge, and loses the lawsuit; the user pays the landowner’s legal fees.

The committee approved the wording. The first step needs to be taken: decide if it is feasibly possible to get it sponsored, introduces, and passed in the next General Assembly.

- *Trail Master Plan* – We have done a Request for Information (RFI) Trail Master Plan, we need to determine if we can find / locate funding to do a Trail Master Plan. We need go after funding for the project.
- *Establish Trail Standards for Building and Maintaining Trails* – Our goal is to have basic standards for trails across the state. Mr. Cramer stated other organizations have done a lot of work that we could adopt / incorporate their standards as our own. Ms. Wilson indicated the state and national parks use the USDA standards and her office recommends them to trail builders now.

She stated she would like to encourage the committees to start working to work diligently on these areas for the next six +/- (6) months.

### EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

(See attachment)

In addition:

Ms. Wilson has been meeting, along with the Department of Agriculture’s Agri-tourism program representatives, with farmers talking about using their land for recreational purposes and entering into Land Use Agreements. The farmers are looking at other opportunities to increase their income and are looking at this as one opportunity. She is receiving good responses from all across the state. They are also looking at extend / link trails to those businesses / outfitters that do not have direct access onto public land trails

Zip Line Adventures: We continue to work with the communities to overcome the challenges to make it happen. There are many communities interested in the zip line adventure for their area.

Kentucky Adventure Activities List: We have compiled a list of businesses / outfitters and contact information for those who may have a need to find a particular type of business for their activity. It will be placed on the Adventure Tourism’s and KRTA’s websites.

Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources: Their website has started a new article and Global Positioning System (GPS) on the Blue Ways Trails. They have completed five (5) rivers on GPS and working on the sixth, we have made a link from our website.

We have been mapping the website, appearing on radio shows, and encouraging bloggers comments to promote Adventure Tourism. She recommended the members go to the site and read the bloggers comments. They are adventure experts that tell you what to do in their region. They have been very well received by the public.

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The question was raised about state press releases regarding events outside state government. Ms. Wilson told the members to send the event, date, and other information to her. She then will pass the information on to the communications staff.

**OLD BUSINESS**

*New Committees Sign-ups / Short Meeting / Assignments:* The committees met for a short period of time to choose a chair and determine and set priorities.

**Trail Development Committee**

Dennis Crowley, Chair  
Ron Cardwell  
Lynn Soporowski  
Tim Cody

**Finance Committee**

Preston McLain, Chair  
Mark Cramer  
Lee Davis  
Sandy Runyon  
Jenny Sewell

**Legislative Committee**

Pat Collins, Chair  
Kristen Branscum  
Bill Burger  
Ron Cardwell  
Oran Little  
Preston McLain  
Kim Nelson  
Jenny Sewell  
Tim Cody

**Trail Management Committee**

Dennis Crowley  
Preston McLain  
Jeff Spainhour

**Board Management Committee**

Ron Cardwell, Chair  
Dennis Crowley  
Matt Sawyers

**Trail Education Committee**

Debra Balliet, Chair  
Lee Davis  
Tim Cody

See KRTA Committee Membership list (attached) for bullet points of each committee's goals.

The committees reported:

- *Trail Development Committee:* Mr. Cardwell reported the second and third bullets points would be their priorities to accomplish.
- *Trail Management Committee:* Did not meet.
- *Trail Education Committee:* Ms. Balliet reported they had not set their priorities at this time however they would like to create a presentation / information on the economic impact of trails for campground / store, etc. owners.
- *Finance Committee:* Mr. McLain reported their priority would be to establish a statewide fee. They will be looking into a pilot project which will include all of the users groups represented on KRTA. They plan to have the pilot project in place by next year. Ms. Wilson will be attending the East Kentucky Regional Trails meeting.
- *Board Management Committee:* Mr. Cardwell reported they discussed their goals but have not established their priorities.
- *Legislative Committee:* Mr. Collins reported their priority is to move forward an amendment to Kentucky Revised Statue (KRS) 148 (the recreational use statute) to reverse legal fees when a plaintiff sues a landowner for liability and does not win the case.

Ms. Grulke asked all of the committees to present a formal written report at the next meeting.

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*Trail Master Plan Task Force Update:*

The Trail Master Plan Task Force members are:

Keith Damron	Bill Burger	Sandy Runyon
Lee Davis	Ron Cardwell	

Ms. Wilson reported the task force had not met however she and Mr. Wheat are working on getting all of the trails and baseline information that is needed to take advantage of the Plan. \$150,000 has been set aside for a Plan and to work on this project. When the task force meets she would like to discuss some alternatives to accomplishing the project that will save money and to use what is available to us. The Request for Information (RFI) is available on the website to the task force members. The cost from RFI respondents is estimated to be \$500,000 (+ / -). A lot of work has already been done; by having all of the information gathered, it will cut the cost of having a trail plan done and will give us the ability to hire people to do the specific “things” we do need done.

Ms. Wilson will contact the members prior to the next meeting for a conference call meeting.

**NEW BUSINESS**

*Letter of Support of the Young’s Bridge Project, Woodford County:* Ms. Grulke read a letter of support for the Young’s Bridge Project to the Woodford County Tourist Commission.

Mr. Cardwell made a motion to approve the letter of support for the Young’s Bridge Project from the Kentucky Recreations Trails Authority; seconded by Mr. Davis. Motion carried by voice vote.

*Approval for Trail Standards to be used by KRTA:* The standards were deferred to the Trails Development Committee.

*Approval for GPS work this winter of trails and trail heads:* Tabled to the next meeting.

**USER GROUP REPORTS**

ATV / OHV, Equine, Cycling, Hiking: Each group gave their user report.

**OTHER BUSINESS**

No OTHER BUSINESS was conducted.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The next meeting will be December 15, 2010.

**ADJOURNMENT**

With no other business to conduct Ms. Grulke adjourned the meeting.

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Virginia L. Grulke, Chair

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