

**KENTUCKY RECREATIONAL TRAILS AUTHORITY
MINUTES**

February 24, 2010, 11:00 a.m.

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

Members Present: Virginia L. Grulke, Chair; Ronald D. Caldwell; Dennis E. Crowley; Charles Oran Little, Ph.D.; W. Preston McLain; Kim Nelson; Jenny Sewell; Jeffrey D. Spainhour; Matt Sawyers, Deputy Secretary, Tourism, Arts and Heritage Cabinet (designee); Mark Cramer, Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources (designee); Keith Damron, Kentucky Transportation Cabinet (designee); and Kristen Branscum, Department of Agriculture (designee)

Members Absent: Debra K. Balliet; Judge Executive Carolyn C. Belcher; David L. Campbell; J. Patrick Collins; Alvin J. Cox; E. Lee Davis; D. Brian Patton III; Sandy Runyon; Malcolm C. Winsper; and Robert Vance, Secretary, Energy and Environmental Cabinet (designee); J. Michael Brown, Secretary, Justice and Public Safety Cabinet (designee)

Guest and Staff Present: First Lady Jane Beshear; Susan Reiber, First Lady's Office; Rick Clewett, Sierra Club; Karen Armstrong-Cummings, Legislative Research Commission; Becky Raff, Kentucky Resources Council; Tourism, Arts and Heritage Cabinet: Elaine Wilson, Executive Director, Office of Adventure Tourism; Mary Jean Atchison, Executive Secretary

WELCOME AND CALL TO ORDER

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Ms. Grulke asked for a motion to approve the Minutes of the Kentucky Recreational Trails Authority (KRTA) January 28, 2010 meeting. Mr. Sawyers made a motion to approve the Minutes of the January 28, 2010 KRTA meeting. Ms. Branscum seconded the motion. Motion carried by a voice vote.

CHAIR REPORT

No report

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR REPORT

Ms. Wilson reported she is working with the Department of Parks to develop a training program to educate trail users and user groups about trail ethics. There will be a Tread Lightly! Ethics seminar at Lake Barkley March 5, 2010. Kentucky will be using the "Leave No Trace" program; the National Parks and Forest Service uses both programs.

Trail Development

Land Use Agreement

- Camp Springs Trail Project – to meet with Ann Zinkhon and Campbell County Fiscal Court in March.
- Knott County – waiting on signatures
- Mammoth Cave Horse Camps Trail – waiting on signatures
- Made contact with Harold Helm, Harrods Creek Trail Association, and landowner, Mrs. Nash, regarding extending trail across private property.
- Snyder Property (Henry County) – 4-wheel drive trails withdrew interest due to opening of a new site nearby

KRTA Trail Services Kit (formerly Tool Kit)

- Process of being revised – have been working with different members of the committee and will be submitted to the committee for review
 - KRTA Form: Assistance Request has been developed to assist us in assessing what a trail project may need
- To include step-by-step procedure for assisting trail developers / landowners
- Include KRTA approved trail standards, ethics, proper communication steps, land use agreement, sample KRS 411.190

Public Relations and Marketing

- Sheltolee Trace Proclamation, press release and video / audio
- Spring Break events – the purpose is to make people aware of what we have to offer in Kentucky for Spring Break. (See attached)
- Spoke at the Big Sandy Tourism and Energy Summit in Prestonsburg
- Met with Judge Executives regarding Mountain Trail Coalition
- Made a presentation on Adventure Tourism at the Kentucky Trail Summit at Blue Lick State Resort Park
- Attended the Coal Heritage Trail meeting in Harlan

Recreational Trails Program (RTP) Grant Applications for Trails

- RTP applicants list will be available mid-March
- A formal request to the Kentucky Transportation Cabinet (KYTC), Office of Local Programs, Transportation Enhancements (TE) and the Department for Local Government (DLG), RTP asking them to include a form in the application files and application packet that would come to KRTA if the project involves trails.

Work in Progress

- Continuing to gather data on trails – it is difficult to get the supplemental information and need assistance from all KRTA members. This is crucial and pertinent information for the website needed for visitors.
- Worked with KRTA committee for the Request for Information (RFI) – Trail Master Plan
- Worked with KRTA committee for Request for Proposal (RFP) guidelines
- Worked with Trail Management chair on a KRTA form for proposed trails and a guideline for trail projects

Users Groups

All Terrain Vehicles (ATV) – Mr. McClain reported Bell County has hired a public relations company ____

Harlan County Outdoor Recreation is working with the Harlan County Fiscal Court and a landowner about bond issues ____ strip mining location to add to a loop they have already

Pike County is working on an ordinance to make certain streets ATV friendly

Off Highway Vehicles (OHV) – no report

Equine – Ms. Grulke reported the Kentucky Horse Council (KHC) has been attempting to reopen Brush Mountain Trail, a very significant historic trail, in Harlan County. The old road goes into the Cumberland Gap National Historical Park and involves a Wildlife Management Area and a Wild River Corridor. It appears all parties are in agreement and the Council will vote on it February 29. ____

There are a significant number of historic trails (old roads) in Kentucky; KHC will start identifying them and try to give them some level of protection.

Equestrian Summit at Mammoth Cave had over 100 people in attendance. The most significant issue during the conference that was discussed was liability. They plan to establish a task force to explore liability and insurance. Mr. Spainhour volunteered to provide any assistance they should need. Ms. Grulke stated a group (1 – 3) members become “experts” regarding liability in order to assist whenever members talk to others about a potential trail.

White Sulphur Horse Camp improvement, which was a TE grant, will begin soon when the weather clears.

Cycling – no report.

Hiking – Mr. Crowley reported the Great Eastern Trail Association meeting has been cancelled / postponed in Pike County.

National Hiking Society announced the National Trails Day, June 5, 2010. The day is for anything, i.e. work or enjoy a trail.

It was suggested to encourage a statewide users trails events and a press release to announce the National Trails Day encourage everyone to get out and enjoy the out-of-doors activities.

National Public Land Day (NPLD) is September 25, 2010. NPLD keeps the promise of the Civilian Conservation Corps, the "tree army" that worked from 1933-42 to preserve and protect America's natural heritage. It is the nation's largest hands-on volunteer effort to improve and enhance the public lands Americans enjoy.