

**KENTUCKY RECREATIONAL TRAILS AUTHORITY
BOARD MEETING
MINUTES
APRIL 16, 2008
Frankfort Convention Center
450 Mero Street
Frankfort, Kentucky 40601**

Members Present: John Patrick Collins, Kentucky Biking Organization; Ronald D. Cardwell; ATV Association in Western Kentucky Corporation; Jerry P. Hancock, Kentucky Equine Organization; W. Preston McLain, ATV Association in Eastern Kentucky Corporation; Ex-officios: Sec. Marcheta Sparrow, Commerce Cabinet; and Bill Burger, designee of Sec. Robert Vance, Environmental and Public Protection Cabinet; and Mark S. Cramer, Deputy Commissioner, designee, Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources

Members Absent: Kristen Branscum, Chair, Department of Tourism; L. M. Caudill, Kentucky League of Sportsmen; Alvin James Cox, Kentucky Motorcycle Association; Malcolm Winsper, Kentucky Motorcycle Association; Ex-officios: Sec. Joe Prather, Transportation Cabinet; and Commissioner Rodney Brewer, Kentucky State Police

Staff: Holly Hopkins, Field Representative, US Senator Jim Bunning's Office; Governor's Office of Local Development: Kellie Wilson, Jodi McDonald, Diane Neel; Commonwealth Office of Technology: Kim Anness; Bryan Bunch, Environmental and Public Protection Cabinet; Commerce Cabinet: William Dexter, General Counsel; Gil Lawson, Office of Communications; David Lovelace, Executive Director, and Matt Osborne, Office of Intergovernmental Affairs; and Melany Taylor, Office of Legal Affairs

Guest: Gene Clabes, Lexington, KEEP; Jesse Smith, Danville, KORHS; Edith H. Conyers and Roy M. Cornett KYBCH; Julia and Dennis Crowley, Louisville, KTA; Denton Pharris, Hartford and Marc Wood, Frankfort, HCRR; Mike Dulin, IMBA/KyMBA; Ginny Grulke, Lexington, Judierle Hall, Taylorsville, KY Horse Council; Mardy Smith, Fisherville, KY Quarter Horse Association; and Regina Hall, Prestonsburg, Big Sandy Area Development District

Call to Order: Mr. Lovelace called the Kentucky Recreational Trails Authority (KRTA) Board meeting to order in the absence of Ms. Branscum, Chair. He announced he and Bill Burger would be co-directing the meeting. Mr. Lovelace announced Ms. Branscum had accepted a position in the Department of Agriculture and would no longer be on the Board; however it is a desire to keep her involved in some capacity. Expressions of appreciation for all of her work and dedication to the board and helping get the legislation written and passed were made from the Commerce Cabinet staff, Board and members of the audience.

He announced the **signing of the Adventure Tourism Bill (SB 196) ceremony**, prior to the meeting, with Governor and Mrs. Beshear; Lt. Governor Mongiardo and others were there to help celebrate the "new day," an exciting day for Adventure Tourism.

Adoption of Minutes: Mr. Lovelace asked for a motion to adopt the Minutes of the January 30, 2008 meeting. A motion was made by Mr. Cramer and seconded by Mr. Cardwell. Motion carried.

Commerce Cabinet Secretary Marcheta Sparrow: Sec. Sparrow stated adventure tourism is the key to success for us in Kentucky. The 21st century tourist wants to be an adventure tourist; whether they participate actively or whether they are bird watching. They want to be outdoors.

Kentucky should not have to take a back seat to places such as Colorado, Montana, etc. Kentucky can be the Adventure Capital of the World.

**KENTUCKY RECREATIONAL TRAILS AUTHORITY
BOARD MEETING**

MINUTES

APRIL 16, 2008

PAGE TWO

Legislation Review - Senate Bill 196: Mr. Lovelace and Mr. Burger took each section of the Bill and made any necessary explanations (see attachment):

The law officially does not take affect until July 16, 2008. Mr. Burger stated the law as it is today is a framework upon which we will build off of in the future.

Questions:

- *What type of contract will be between state government agency and the private landowner?* It would be a contract that would be tailored to the government entity and to the landowner for recreational use. It will specify who will maintain the land. It can have a 30 day option out or a multi-year agreement. It can strengthen the liability protection of the land owner. The Finance Cabinet and the Commerce Cabinet are working on the contract.
- *Are any tax incentives for the property owner available?* Not at this time; there are a couple of provisions in the law that would allow fees to be charged; however it does not mean that in the future there will not be tax incentives.
- *Is there a timetable in which the contract may be ready and who do we as members of the board refer a landowner to if they want to participate in a contract?* Possibly in the next 30 days a contract will be ready. A landowner can contact any state government agency or county governments to participate. They are trying to come up with a "boiler plate" language for multi-use agencies.
- *Is the Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources going to be the statewide law enforcement entity?* Details have not been decided at this time. The language was written in the law because if there is an existing agency in state government this would be the best choice. However, any general law enforcement agency in the Commonwealth can enforce the law, at this time.
- Dep. Commissioner Cramer stated the Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources is funded through enforcement dollars; we currently do not receive general tax dollars. Our primary mandate is to enforce the fish and wildlife laws of the state and anything above that would have to be dealt with appropriately to be able to accomplish what is being discussed.
- *Are there any plans to offer any liability insurance?* Not at this time; possibly in the future.

Regulatory Regulations: The Commerce Cabinet will begin the process of writing, going through the review process and officially filing the Regulatory Regulations.

Presentation – Adventure Tourism Mapping Initiative: The Commonwealth Office of Technology (COT) made a presentation showing the *Cross Kentucky Trail Project's* website. Kentucky is the most and best mapped state in the nation. Mapping trails (any type) by using the Geographic Information System (GIS) can be displayed onto the website. Individuals can turn in trail information, using a Global Positioning System (GPS), to have it placed on the website for others to use.

Moving Forward: Mr. Burger stated there are many issues needing to be addressed and how to implement. Work groups will start to be formed in order to address these issues.

Funding Resources: Ms. Wilson stated they released five (5) small ARC grants funding to develop the trails and to do studies another round will be released soon. It was discovered that the Governor's Office for Local Development (GOLD) has a very large amount of money that has been there for a number of years that has

**KENTUCKY RECREATIONAL TRAILS AUTHORITY
BOARD MEETING**

MINUTES

APRIL 16, 2008

PAGE THREE

been there through an oil and gas loan system through federal government. The federal government says if you can prove this is economic development then you can keep the money. Federal government was contacted and agrees adventure tourism is economic development. The Board and GOLD now will have to determine what regulations are needed; if we are going to do matching grants; and how the money is to be used? This will not be used for land acquisition; this will be for the development for the land that is owned now, for security, etc. It could be eight to ten months before we receive the money.

Mr. Lovelace stated the Budget had \$500,000 a year for Adventure Tourism Marketing and Development. There is no direct appropriation of money for the KRTA. However, we are searching other avenues for funds for projects.

Comment: With federal funding through Transportation Enhancement funds or the Recreational Trail Program, the land must to be owned or must have a long-term lease in order to be eligible for any federal funds. Any money dealing with land and water has to say "outdoor recreation."

Member Reports: Mr. Hancock asked if there would be any possible funding at Taylorsville Lake State Park for moving the equine campground with water and electric because the park manager wants to use it as a camping area when it has an overflow from the regular campground. Mr. Lovelace stated he would have to talk the Department of Parks to see what flexibility would be available in their budget.

Spencer County will be working on their trails. There is a phone number through the Taylorsville Lake State Park you can call to see if you can use the trails after a rain. The use of these trails is for horses, bikes and hiking. They are not made for motorized vehicles.

Mr. Cardwell stated user complex issues of trails will be ongoing. The role of the organization needs to be given some great thought as to strategically what the Board's role will be. As it grows it becomes a policy organization as opposed to execution. Mr. Burger stated the Board stated that it needed to stay flexible as an Authority and as a group to take on the challenges. It is possible that the Mission Statement will change as the KRTA grows and moves along.

Mr. Burger stated one of the challenges and fun things will be to learn our identity and marketing our identity.

Other Business:

- *Do you have a bench mark for KRTA staffing, policy, or criteria or all three?* Mr. Burger stated that a master plan had to be first; then the bench marks will measure against. We have to have constructive criticism as to how everything is "measuring up."
- *Mr. McLain asked if it is correct in order for an off-road truck club to be included in the KTRA they would have to go through the legislative process.* Mr. Lovelace replied, yes. This is a very large group already. However, we do not want to exclude any outdoor recreational activity and that is where the work group will be very critical. This is how their group can become involved in the process. The Board members work group tasks will be overseeing, managing and producing a reasonable product. This can be immediate; other groups can be involved and have a voice. We believe the law is so written that it is inclusive and not exclusive.

**KENTUCKY RECREATIONAL TRAILS AUTHORITY
BOARD MEETING
MINUTES
APRIL 16, 2008
PAGE FOUR**

Mr. Burger suggested the Board meet on specific quarterly basis with work groups meeting in-between.

Mr. Burger is working on a proclamation for June as *Getting Outdoors Month*.

Comment: User groups of the trails need to be educated about law.

Announcements:

The KTRA's next meeting will be July, date and time to be announced.

The Bicycling Nationals will be held in Frankfort, May 15.

National Trails Day, June 7

National Get Outdoors Day, June 14

David Lovelace, Executive Director
Office of Intergovernmental Affairs
Commerce Cabinet

Mary Jean Atchison, Executive Secretary
Commerce Cabinet

Bill Burger, Governor's Office