

**KENTUCKY RECREATIONAL TRAILS AUTHORITY
MINUTES**

June 24, 2010, 11:30 a.m.

**Paul Sawyer Public Library
Community Room
319 Wapping Street
Frankfort, Kentucky**

Members Present: Virginia L. Grulke, Chair; Debra K. Balliet; Ronald D. Caldwell; J. Patrick Collins; E. Lee Davis; Charles Oran Little, Ph.D.; Kim Nelson; Sandy Runyon; Matt Sawyers, Deputy Secretary, Tourism, Arts and Heritage Cabinet (TAHC) (designee); and Mark Cramer, Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources (designee); Karen Wilson, Secretary, Energy and Environmental Cabinet (designee); and Lynn Soporowski, Kentucky Transportation Cabinet (designee)

Members Absent: Judge Executive Carolyn C. Belcher; David L. Campbell; Dennis E. Crowley; Preston McLain; D. Brian Patton III; Jenny Sewell; Jeffrey D. Spainhour; Malcolm C. Winsper; Kristen Branscum, Department of Agriculture (designee); and J. Michael Brown, Secretary, Justice and Public Safety Cabinet or designee

Guest and Staff Present: **First Lady Jane Beshear; Susan Rieber, First Lady's Office;** Roy Cornett, Kentucky Horse Council; Joel Little, Kentucky Appalachian Outdoors Adventures (Vanceburg); Becky Raff, Kentucky Resource Center; Darlene Gardner, CMW, Inc. (Lexington); Jodie McDonald, Department for Local Government (DLG); Felicia Harper, Kentucky Transportation Cabinet (KYTC); Kelly Dudley, Legislative Research Commission (LRC); Tourism, Arts and Heritage Cabinet: Elaine Wilson, Executive Director, Office of Adventure Tourism; Melany Crawford, Attorney; Seth Wheat, Intern, Shyam Vijayaraghvan, Intern, and 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), April 28, 2010 meeting. Mr. Collins made a motion to approve the Minutes of the April 28, 2010 KRTA meeting; seconded Ms. Runyon. Motion carried by a voice vote.

CHAIR'S REPORT

Ms. Grulke reported she had attended the American Horse Council Annual Issues Conference meeting in Washington, DC. Issues addressed were:

- Community activities where grants would be available
- Trails were emphasized
- Federal and states budgets were a main concern
- One key issue was the "health initiative" of the Obama administration
- The Rural Trails Project (RTP) grant program has been extended

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EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Ms. Wilson introduced the cabinet interns that are working with her in the Office of Adventure Tourism.

- Seth Wheat, a senior from the University of Kentucky.
- Shyam Vijayaraghvan is working on his MBA at Georgetown University. He is working with Deputy Secretary Sawyers and her on Adventure Races (orienteering, kayaking, hiking, etc.).

See attached report. Additional comments on the following items:

Assistance Request Form:

Eric Fox: Mr. Fox, an absentee landowner of 2,600 acres in Monroe County, is very interested in bringing people to the property by building equine trails. It is hopeful that a Land Use Agreement on the land can be obtained.

Status of Land Agreements throughout State to-date:

Mammoth Cave: Mr. Davis reported although there has not been much progress he felt that an agreement will be accomplished with all of the landowners. A new horse camp has been established at Houchins Ferry Road, Edmonson County, near Mammoth Cave National Park. The horse trail has two loops and the road is part of the trail. The National Park Service (NPS) decided the road was hazardous for horses and banned horses from the road. The existing trail is too long for a comfortable ride and needs a connector loop in place to return to the horse camp. Ms. Wilson suggested that he get her details regarding the camp and loop and she would consult the cabinet's legal staff.

Floyd County / Dewey Lake Multi-Use Trails: All signatures are on the Memorandum of Agreement (MOA).

New Adventure Tourism Businesses:

- The zipline that was to be in Red River Gorge has changed location and moved closer to Natural Bridge State Resort Park.
- The landowners of the original location of the zipline above are opening a zipline named the *Appalachian Zipline*. (Menifee County) It is scheduled to open July 1, 2010.
- *Mammoth Cave Adventures* is opening a zipline, located in the Mammoth Cave area. It is scheduled to open July 1, 2010.

Work to-date from April 28, 2010

Carter Caves State Resort Park meeting with Beanstalk Journey, LLC: Carter Caves State Resort Park is exploring other adventure activities (events) to attract visitors to the park.

Worked on KRTA Website: The website is "up and running" however it still is a "work in progress". The address is <http://krta.kytourismapps.com>

KRTA Trail Services Kit formerly (Tool Kit)

The kit is ready to go to the Trail Committee for review.

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COMMITTEE REPORTS

Board Management Committee: No report.

Community Development Model Committee: Mr. Cardwell reported the Committee had reviewed the Obstacles List. Ms. Wilson sent the list out and has had no feedback; she will circulate it again.

Financial Viability Development Plan Committee: No report.

Consideration of Establishing Foundation: No report.

Request for KRTA Funding Using Cost / Benefit Analysis: No report.

Statewide Stakeholders Network Committee: No report.

Landowner's Sub-Committee: No report.

Trail Management Committee: No report.

Landowner Liability Task Force: Mr. Collins reported the Task Force is presenting change to KRS 411.190 (see KRS attachment). KRS 411.190 (1) (b) "Owner" means the possessor of a fee, . . . premises, **or a person or organization having permission from any of the aforesaid to ready or maintain land for a recreational purpose;** and **(9) The court shall award any direct legal costs, including reasonable attorneys' fees, to an owner, as defined in subsection (1) (b), who is found not to be liable for injury to a person or property pursuant to this section.** This would allow the protection of user groups that would be working on a trail from a lawsuit and legal fees to be awarded to a landowner who is not liable.

Mr. Collins made the following motion: KRTA pursue changes to the existing KRS 411.190 as indicated in the attachment and as found in the Minutes; seconded Ms. Runyon. Motion carried by voice vote. (All state agency designees represented on the Authority abstained from voting.)

A discussion took place regarding speaking to Kentucky's large insurance companies to get their input and asking them to partner with KRTA in this endeavor, Dr. Little will facilitate.

OLD BUSINESS

Results from Request for Information (RFI) for the Trail Master Plan: Ms. Wilson reported the RFI was sent to several companies to do a cost estimate for a Trail Master Plan. The estimates came back between \$200,000 and \$500,000. No recommendations are being made because they are looking at alternative ways to do a plan. A lot of the work has been done by various organizations and agencies. The areas that need to be mapped out are: county trails, private / public partnership trails, etc. She suggested the Chair appoint a committee to review the submittals and make recommendations on how to proceed.

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Deputy Secretary Sawyers stated \$150,000 was budgeted for a plan. Other alternatives for the committee to consider:

- Partner with a firm with expertise in this area
- Look for the best opportunity; take the money the cabinet has budgeted and match that with a supportive grant for a more regional perspective as opposed to statewide

If the committee recommends the best way to go would be through a private contractor then we would have to look for additional resources. Due to the budget constraints in state government it will be difficult to find additional funds.

Ms. Grulke established a committee to assess the RFI; consider what other options are available; and how to accomplish those options for funding the Trail Master Plan. The following are on the committee:

Keith Damron / Lynn Soporowski

Ron Cardwell

Lee Davis

Sandy Runyon

Bill Burger

Research – Funding Sources from Other States: Ms. Runyon presented the members with a print out of funding sources that trails would be eligible. She is uncertain if KRTA would be eligible and may be a case-by-case basis. (See Funding Programs attached to Minutes.) Ms. Soporowski reported another funding source Transportation Investment Generating Economic Recovery (TIGER) Discretionary Grant could be added to the list.

Report on RTP Grant Recommendations: Ms. McDonald, DLG, reported the Recreational Trail Program Advisory Board had met and approved all of the applications for projects. However it does not mean that all approved projects will receive a grant from the \$1.4 million Kentucky is allotted. They did not receive any applications for motorized vehicle trail projects. The application process will be reopened for motorized vehicle trails only.

By Laws – Final / Third Reading: Ms. Grulke asked to entertain a motion to accept the Bylaws as written. Ms. Ballet made a motion to approve the KRTA Bylaws as written; seconded by Mr. Nelson. Motion carried by voice vote.

NEW BUSINESS

Election of Vice Chair: Ms. Grulke stated she would entertain nominations for the Vice Chair position. Mr. Collins nominated Mr. Cardwell; seconded by Ms. Runyon. Dr. Little made a motion for nomination to cease and elect Mr. Cardwell by acclamation; seconded by Mr. Lee. Mr. Collins rescinded his motion. Dr. Little's motion carried by voice vote.

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Review of Obstacles List: This was covered in the Committee Reports, Community Development Committee report by Mr. Cardwell.

Committee Restructuring: No report.

(Ms. Grulke recommended the members review the list – KRTA Proposed Committees – Ms. Wilson set up; with recommendations at the next meeting. List attached to Minutes)

Consideration of Legislative Committee: No report.

Structuring Committees to Match Obstacles: No report.

Recap of Assignments for Next Meeting: No report.

USER GROUP REPORTS

ATV: No report

OHV: Not report.

Equine: Ms. Grulke reported the following:

- Brush Mountain Project- The Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources (KDFWR) and Kentucky State Nature Preserve Commission (KSNPRC) will draft a MOA. They are hoping to have the environmental impact study done by the end of the summer and finalized for a late fall ride.
- National Trails Day had some work crews to clean the Glady Creek section of the Sheltoewe Trail.
- Greenbo Horsemen have a July trail ride. They are also working on liability issues.
- Ten representatives from Kentucky will be attending the Southeastern Equestrian Trails Conference. Kentucky will be hosting the conference in 2012.
- She has been in touch with the owners of Eagle's Nest in Harrodsburg. They are making plans to continue making the land available for equestrian trail riding upon their deaths. They received a grant from the American Quarter Horse Association for developing trails which some are done. She shared the Assistance Request Form with them.
- Northern Kentucky Horse Network has a trail and has received legal assistance from Ms. Crawford, TAHC's legal staff.

Cycling: Mr. Collins reported the current mountain biking team email was sent for information. The short track racing in Louisville is going well and well attended. He has been contacted by citizens that want to volunteer for the clean-up of Otter Creek Park.

Hiking: No report.

OTHER BUSINESS

2011 Fall Trails Promotion: Ms. Grulke suggested KRTA promote the "healthy initiative" by promoting all the types of trails in Kentucky; setting one day for everyone to "Get Out Kentucky." This would be a trails awareness campaign plus encouraging Kentuckians to get healthy by participating in their choice of trail.

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Mr. Burger stated the second Sunday in October is the “Get Outdoors” through the University of Kentucky Cooperative Extension Services and the “Governor’s Autumn Bicycle Ride Across Kentucky” (GABRAK) in October; these are some possibilities of linking / partnering with as a trail promotion.

After a discussion Ms. Grulke asked the members to consider this and bring their suggestions to the next meeting.

ADJOURN

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

Virginia L. Grulke, Chair

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