

KENTUCKY RECREATIONAL TRAILS AUTHORITY MINUTES

July 27, 2011, 11:00 a.m.

Salato Wildlife Education Center
One Sportsman Lane
Frankfort, Kentucky

Members Present: Virginia L. Grulke, Chair; Ronald D. Cardwell, Vice Chair Tim Cody; Dennis E. Crowley; E. Lee Davis; Oran Little, Ph.D.; Preston McLain; Kim Nelson; Greg Rankin; Jenny Sewell; Jeffrey D. Spainhour; Benjy Kinman, Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources (DFWR) (designee); Matt Sawyers, Deputy Secretary, Tourism, Arts and Heritage Cabinet (TAHC) (designee); Lynn Soporowski, Kentucky Transportation Cabinet (KYTC) (designee); and Boyce Wells, Justice and Public Safety Cabinet (designee) and Karen Wilson, Energy and Environmental Cabinet (designee)

Members Absent: Debra K. Balliet; Mark Barrow; Wanda D. Bedard; Patrick Collins; Don R. Gibson; Sandy Runyon; Kristen Branscum, Department of Agriculture (designee)

Guest and Staff Present: Tom Wornall, Division of Planning, KYTC; Robert Fraley; Jeff Sizemore, Big Sandy Area Development District (ADD); Cindy Griffith, Lieutenant Governor's Office; TAHC Staff: Seth Wheat, Adventure Tourism Assistant; and Mary Jean Atchison, Executive Secretary

Staff Absent: TAHC Staff: Elaine Wilson, Executive Director of Adventure Tourism

WELCOME AND CALL TO ORDER

Ms. Grulke, Chair, welcomed everyone and recognizing a quorum present she called the meeting to order. Ms. Grulke turned the meeting over to Mr. Cardwell, Vice Chair, to conduct the remainder of the meeting.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Ms. Grulke asked for a motion to approve the Minutes. Mr. McLean made a motion to approve the Minutes of the March 16, 2011 Kentucky Recreational Trails Authority (KRTA) meeting; seconded Dr. Little. Motion carried by a voice vote.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

In the absence of Ms. Wilson, Mr. Wheat gave the Executive Director's Report (see attached).

TOURISM, ARTS AND HERITAGE CABINET REPORT

Trail Retreat: Mr. Sawyers reported the Cabinet held a Trail Retreat in July at Natural Bridge State Resort Park. It invited user groups, land managers, and local and county officials to come and share their successes and challenges regarding trail and adventure related projects. Discussion included regional board authorities, legislative issues, liability, land use agreements / MOAs, funding sources, etc. Some challenges to these projects include acquiring land & dealing with landowners. Landowners are worried about liability, even with the protection they receive under KRS 411.190. Another challenge to increasing adventure opportunities is the fact that many locals don't realize the potential economic and social benefits associated with increased trail mileage. Coordination and

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cooperation is difficult among the different entities, rather it be with other public or private parties that may be involved in these processes. Everyone is experiencing the difficulty with finding funding sources.

There are also areas that have seen various levels of success with their trail projects. Many counties in eastern KY have hundreds of miles for trail users, a large portion of which are for ATV. User groups & volunteers have also shown in many areas that they can contribute to trail expansion and especially maintenance. Of course, they are not a guaranteed resource, but they can be beneficial. As a cabinet and in particular the office of Adventure Tourism, there are several ways that were discussed as to how better to assist with these projects. Assisting with land acquisition on projects such as the Pine Mountain Trail will help to give momentum back to that project. Helping to better explain KRS 411.190 and present the process in a positive light to landowners will hopefully make access easier. Facilitating communication among all parties involved with these projects is another area that the Cabinet and the Office of Adventure Tourism can better serve these projects. Developing a packet or "Tool Kit" of information for anyone interested in a trail project will also be a big help. This will let people that are interested have a better understanding of the process, where potential funding might be found, who needs to be involved based on landownership/management, etc. It was a positive conference and the Cabinet is now able to narrow its focus and continue forward with an improved vision for trails and the adventure initiative in Kentucky.

CHAIR'S REPORT

Ms. Grulke described her concept of an Affiliate Network of trail groups, regional or geographically connected, or even trail specific groups to be Affiliate members of KRTA. Whereby they could be invited to attend meetings and participate in discussions and made aware of policies this Authority approves for coordination between KRTA and those on the ground. Mr. Cardwell recommended assigning it to the Board Management Committee with inclusion to the Super Committee (chairs of all committees).

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Trail Development Committee: No written report provided.

Trail Management Committee: No written report provided.

Trail Education Committee: No written report provided.

Finance Committee: No written report provided. Mr. McLain stated that an unofficial survey with in-state and out-of-state counterparts regarding the way we are suggesting structuring our permit fee system. All those surveyed like how it was structured with the exception to motorized vehicles; it needs to come up another \$20. He stated that "customers" do not mind paying fees if they know it will be applied to trail expansion or maintenance.

Board Management Committee: No written report provided.

Legislative Committee: No written report provided.

OLD BUSINESS

Trail Permit Administrative Regulations Development: Mr. Cardwell stated the Affiliate program somewhat changes the task set up for the Legislative Committee Task Force. He suggested the members might want to make some changes to the tasks.

KRTA Tool Kit: Mr. Cardwell asked if the "Tool Kit" was completed. Mr. Wheat stated Ms. Wilson is still working on it, however it is near completion. Mr. Cardwell stated this is important to the affiliate concept because they would be able to give it to the Trail Affiliates. It needs to be finalized and reviewed and adopted by the various committees. Ms. Sewell asked to have Ms. Wilson to put something together for the next meeting.

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NEW BUSINESS

Trail Affiliate Program: Previously discussed in the Chair's Report. The Trail Affiliate System (Affiliate) is essentially whatever group that can become a KRTA Affiliate. The Affiliate will have access to all the resources that KRTA has developed in the last three years and with the help of the membership to guide them through the processes. As well as having feedback from the Affiliates.

In the discussion it was decided to assign the Trail Affiliate Program to the Board Management Committee and bring it in to the Super Committee. Mr. Cody was asked to be on the Trail Affiliate Committee

KACO and Liability Insurance Options: No report.

USER REPORTS

ATV, OHV, Equine, Cycling and Hiking or Backpacking

A representative from each user group gave their report.

OTHER BUSINESS

Actions to be taken at next meeting: Mr. Cardwell stated the following items needed action by or at the next meeting:

- the "Tool Kit" finalized and adopted by committee
- KRTA needed a promotional plan because KRTA obviously needs to be promoted. Hopefully a draft can be presented at the next meeting.
- move forward with the affiliate network
- Board Management Committee accommodating of the Affiliate network
- a group to look at funding and the Affiliate Program

ADJOURNMENT

With no other business to conduct Mr. Cardwell asked for a motion to adjourn. Mr. McLean made a motion to adjourn; seconded by Mr. Davis. Motion carried.

Virginia L. Grulke, Chair

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