

## **Regional Trail Meeting Minutes** **August 27, 2008**

Present: Gardiner - Tom Reeves (Conservation Commission); Bowdoinham - Lynn Sanford (Biking, Walking Paddling Committee), Steve Balboni (Bath Recreation Director), and Nicole Briand (Town Planner); Topsham – Carla Rensenbrink (Conservation Commission & Brunswick/Topsham Land Trust); and Katrina Van Dusen, Regional Planner for MCBDD&P

We should add the trail benefits to the work plan.

Mid-Coast Council for Business Development and Planning is a 501(c)3 so they can apply for grants for the group.

### Memorandum of Agreement for Municipalities

- The agreement should be one page and include the trail vision.
- We should create separate document that lists of the benefits of having a regional trail to accompany the agreement.
- Tom Reeves & Nicole Briand will put a draft agreement together for everyone to start looking at.
- We agreed that we should start approaching municipal officials (managers, mayors, etc) now and let them know about our trail vision and discuss approaching the selectboard/city council. How best to approach boards and what would and wouldn't they agree to?
- We would like to go to each of the municipality's boards/council by the end of the year with a draft agreement or just to discuss the project.
- Gardiner – Tom will talk with the Conservation Commission. Jason and/or Tom will talk with City Officials.
- Richmond – Nicole will talk to Richmond's newly formed Conservation Commission
- Bowdoinham – Nicole will discuss the project with Town Manager, Kathy Durgin-Leighton.
- Topsham – Carla will discuss with Conservation Commission and Rod on how best to approach officials.

### Stakeholders/Interested Parties/Resources

- We discussed that we should have a signed agreement before we approach groups.
- We should wait until after November to approach State Legislatures.
- We should consider two groups of stakeholders: locals & power positions.
- Cathance River Education Alliance (CREA)
- Highlands – John Wasileski
- East Coast Greenway
- LL Bean
- Bike Organizations
- Colleges – Bowdoin, Bates, UM – Augusta & Portland
- Rotary Club
- Maine Recreation & Parks Association (MRPA) - Doug Beck, Executive Director
- Bath Cycle & Ski - Davis Carver
- Healthy Maine Partnerships - Amanda Hopkins
- Thinking of contacts will be added to the To Do List for next time. In the future, we'll have people start making contacts.

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Discussed snowmobiles –

- Local groups are organized. But are memberships declining
- They have a history of creating trails.
- Could help with trail maintenance.
- Richmond & Bowdoinham are rural, snowmobiling is popular and skiers already use snowmobile trails in this area.
- Will the trail be maintained in the winter for other users.
- Funding – Snowmobiles could bring in more funding from the state, but could hurt opportunities for federal funding.
- Could be an opportunity for locals (Topsham/Gardiner) to get on a trail and connect to other local trails (Richmond/Bowdoinham) without having to transport their sleds north.

Could we obtain funding for this regional trail economic development project through the base closure??? We need to talk to our communities' Economic Development Directors.

We should start a photo archive now, so we don't have issues looking for pictures later.

Can we get mapping for all four municipalities that shows existing trails, planned trails and aerial photography???

- Tom has the data and mapping for all but Topsham.
- Rod has the data and mapping for Topsham.
- Could we get Bowdoin College or another College to do a GIS project?
- Do we know anyone who could/would put all the data together for us?

**To-Do for the next meeting:**

- **Work on the Memorandum of Agreement**
  - **Tom & Nicole to start working draft**
- **Trail Benefits**
  - **Everyone, please send me your thoughts.**
- **Talk with Municipal Officials.**
  - **As noted above, please keep me updated.**
- **Who are possible stakeholders/interested parties?**
  - **Everyone, please send me your thoughts.**
- **What/who are possible resources?**
  - **Everyone, please send me your thoughts.**
- **Funding through the base closure – could this be a possibility?**
  - **Nicole will talk with Tony and see how we could look into this.**
- **Mapping???**
  - **Any volunteers? Do you know someone who may volunteer?**

8/27/08 nb