

Wilderness Pedalers Board Meeting - August 14, 2019

Present: Bob T., Bob H., Paul, Denny, Al, Sarah. Absent: Dick, Scott, Marjean.

The minutes from the June meeting were read aloud. Bob T made a motion to approve. Al seconded. All in favor.

Al reported on finances and recent expenses to Metz Accounting and MSA Engineering. Balance sits at \$50,829.35. Paul made a motion to approve the report. Sarah seconded. All in favor.

Denny reported on donor communications. There have been no developments since the last meeting.

Discussion on trail route. The Board previously was favoring School to Crab Lake Road and then along Hwy P to the Presque Isle Township. There were developments since the last meeting, as we continued to realize the setbacks and hindrances. The primary one being the unsafe section by the boat landing (about 1.5 miles). To avoid that section, an alt plan was to go off-road around Katinka Lake. However, this is not possible due to private ownership/resistance. Hwy P appears to be off the table due to these factors, in addition to the heavy price tag and difficult/wetland trail build.

Discussions then moved to a mixed paved off-road/back road trail from Town/Pipke to WinMan. Some favorable and unfavorable reasons for this trail were discussed.

Discussions then moved back to School to Crab Lake Road (which we have a recent feasibility study/cost estimate for ~\$800,000 from MSA). This is a desirable component but with Hwy P as an unlikely/impossible connection, the only alternative is Crab Lake Road to Hwy B to Town. Pros and cons were weighed and discussions about the types of riders the trail would attract as the Crab Lake Road section would have to be widened road and not off-road/paved. The beauty of the trail/road would be unparalleled, but would not be very attractive to young families due to its difficulty as well as it not being off-road. It would be desirable for road riders and recreational riders. The section from Crab Lake to the School (along Hwy P) would be paved/off-road and could be a unique section via utilization of State Land along Big Lake. A parking lot would sit at the junction of Crab Lake Road and Hwy P. Building on State land was run past WDNR and they are favorable to the plan.

Al Drum reported on the Parks/Rec survey recently sent to land owners. Although the survey did not ask about bike trails, it was commented on regularly (in favor of connecting to Vilas Trail System).

A motion was made by Bob T., seconded by Sarah, to contract out MSA to provide a feasibility study/map from the Community Center to the corner of Crab Lake Rd/Hwy P, with the

interest/desire for the expanded road to be all on one side of Crab Lake Rd (rather than on both sides). All in favor.

Paul will check with Marshall on what work is being planned for Crab Lake Road in the near future. Hwy B work is scheduled for 2021 and would be the time to get the section from Crab Lake Road to Town completed.

IF Crab Lake is feasible, we will pursue a detailed/engineered plan for School to Crab Lake Road. IF it is not, we will look at Hwy B to Hwy M. Bob H will proactively contact Dairyman's to see if they may allow trail build on their land.

Meeting was adjourned by Bob T, seconded by Paul at 4:05p.