

Northeast Regional ATV Joint Powers Board Meeting Minutes
SLC Virginia Public Works Facility
7823 Hwy 135, Virginia, MN
June 20 2022

Board Members Present: Paul McDonald (Chair, St. Louis County Commissioner), Mike Jugovich (Vice Chair, St. Louis County Commissioner), Wade Pavleck (Koochiching County Commissioner),

Others Present: St. Louis County Public Works Director Jim Foldesi, St. Louis County Attorney Kim Maki, Ron Potter (ATVMN & NRAJPB Advisory Committee Chair), Jeff Anderson (Costin Group, Inc.), Aaron Kania (USFS), Jason DiPiazza (Lake County Highway Engineer, Nathan Heibel (Koochiching County Land Commissioner), Jason Chopp (SEH), Bruce Bestie (Voyageur ATV), Julie Marinucci (St. Louis County), Tim Engrave (USFS), Tim Engrave (USFS), John Burnett (UMN Extension), Brigid Tuck (UMN Extension), Bud Van Deusen, Jackie Junek, Greg Junek, Carol Pavleck, Tim Rund

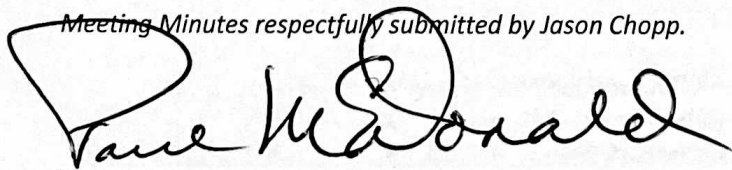
- I. **Call To Order/Establishment of Quorum:**
 - *Meeting called to order by Chair McDonald at 2:04 p.m*
- II. **Agenda Approval:**
 - *Commissioner's Pavleck/Jugovich motioned to approve the meeting agenda*
 - *Motion carried unanimously (3-0)*
- III. **Approval of Minutes from May 16, 2022**
 - *Commissioner's Jugovich/Pavleck motioned to approve the meeting minutes*
 - *The motion carried unanimously (3-0)*
- IV. **Public Comments:**
 - *Jackie Junek presented FAQ from the Eagles Nest Trails Advocacy Group. FAQ is attached to the meeting minutes.*
- V. **Consent Agenda:**
 - *None*
 - *Commissioner McDonald requested meeting minutes move to Consent Agenda for future meetings.*
- VI. **Regular Agenda:**
 1. Bonding Bill/Funding Updates from Jeff Anderson
 - No bonding bills passed by legislation
 - LCCMR passed, Prospector ATV request was not included
 - There may be a special session later in the year
 - IRRRB funding passed, \$3.5 million in trails funding starting July 1, 2022
 2. USFS Road Connections for ATV Access
 - Tim and Aaron provided news that there were not significant updates. The USFS has reached out for regional support for internal safety analysis.
 3. USFS RAC Proposal
 - General update regarding projects included in the RAC proposal.
 4. Economic Impact Study

- Presentation by Brigid and John from UMN with general discussion on preferred scope of work. General discussion, no action taken.
- 5. Statewide Master Plan Update
 - Ron provided an update that the Master Plan is underway, public survey is posted on the website.
- 6. NE Regional Masterplan Update
 - Jim Foldesi presented Board Letter 22-03 executing a contract with SEH to prepare master plan for NE Regional Master Plan.
 - **Commissioner's Pavleck/Jugovich motioned to approve BL 22-03**
 - **The motion carried unanimously (3-0)**
- 7. MNDOT LUP Application Discussion
 - Jim Foldesi updated the package of locations for ATV trail in MNDOT ROW and bridge storage location. Limited Use Permit (LUP) Submitted to MNDOT on June 20, 2022.
- 8. GIA/Blue Ox Discussion
 - No Updates.
- 9. Kawishiwi River Bridge Discussion
 - A new bridge will be needed at some point due to increased groomer weight. Ron wants to start discussions with Lake County on potential funding. Jason DiPiazza will investigate and report back next month.
- 10. Fire Tower Ownership Discussion
 - There are several fire towers the clubs would like to find a fiscal owner for. General discussion.
- 11. Other
 - Jason informed the board that today is now a federal and state holiday and the JPB should adjust accordingly for the 2023 meeting schedule.
 - USFS, Sunny Lucas is transferring to the La Croix District. Adam Cochran will be starting as the Laurentian District Ranger next month.

VII. **Adjournment:**

- Commissioner's Pavleck/Jugovich motioned to adjourn at 3:04 pm. Motion carried unanimously 3-0)
- Next meeting will be held on July 18, 2022, at 2:00 pm at the Virginia Public Works Vermilion Room.

Meeting Minutes respectfully submitted by Jason Chopp.



Commissioner Paul McDonald, Chair

NE Regional ATV Joint Powers Board

6/20/22
JPB MEETING
PROVIDED BY
JACKIE JUNEK

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

ATV Primary Corridor Trail Proposal in Eagles Nest

EAGLES NEST TRAILS ADVOCACY GROUP

Preserving the Tranquility

What is the issue?

The Prospector ATV Trail Club has proposed a permanent primary corridor ATV trail through Eagles Nest Township, promoting 100s of tourist/recreational ATV riders through our community regularly, with 1000s over a season. Their current proposed trail would be just north of Eagles Nest Lake Four which negatively impacts over 100 homes and cabins on or near Armstrong Lake, Eagles Nest Lakes, and Six Mile Lake, with the noise affecting many more.

For now, a temporary primary corridor ATV trail runs through Eagles Nest on Bear Head State Park Road to Trygg Road using a cutover trail built last September to connect these two roads. The Prospector Club contacted the St. Louis County Land Department to permit the trail and were granted temporary access to this strip of land.

The added volume of ATV clubs and riders will swell the traffic on Bear Head State Park Road already heavily traveled by park visitors, bikers, and walkers. The township roads have been used by people in our community to ride their ATVs without complaints. Now these roads and many homes, cabins, and lakes are impacted by the Club's actions so outsiders can stream through our community on their day's adventure.

Who are we?

The Eagles Nest Trails Advocacy Group is made up of local residents. As our mission states, we oppose *"any trail that funnels a higher volume of ATVs from outside our community through our peaceful residential neighborhood areas. Our utmost concerns include increased traffic, noise, speed, safety and environmental degradation that diminish the quality of life we all cherish."*

Why do we oppose the proposed Primary Corridor ATV Club Trail?

Developing a primary corridor trail (also referred to as an "ATV Highway") near our homes, cabins, and lakes of Eagles Nest is not compatible with the peace, quiet enjoyment and quality of life we deeply value.

But . . . "I Live in Eagle's Nest and I like to ride my ATV."

We support the use of ATVs by Eagles Nest residents on our local roads and trails! However, the expected influx of 1000s of tourist and rental ATVs riding for sport from May - October each year will produce significant noise, environmental, and safety concerns. These highly funded and well advertised trail systems are not built primarily for area residents, but are designed for the economic gain of commercial enterprises. We aren't against ATVs - we are opposed to the magnitude of traffic this primary corridor will bring through our community.

Won't this help us economically?

County, State and Federal governmental entities are making substantial investments in developing ATV trail systems because of the potential for economic growth from tourism. Eagles Nest Township is a residential community – without business activity – and will not directly benefit from the proposed trail.

Will there really be 100s of visitors regularly through the area, with 1000s in a season?

The new ATV trail will result in a substantial number of tourists visiting the area. In fact, many stakeholders are currently making investments to benefit financially from the magnitude of ATV tourism.

- New ATV campgrounds are being developed in Babbitt and in Soudan.
- The Prospector Club trail proposal creates a shorter route from Ely to the new ATV Soudan Campground funneling riders directly through Eagles Nest.
- ATV rental hubs have been established in Tower and Ely, in anticipation of significant ATV rentals. Rental fleets are strongly promoted by the powerful ATV industries.
- State taxes and the IRRRB have allocated approximately **8-10 million dollars** toward the local trail system, the Ely Trailhead/visitors center, and the two campgrounds.
- Local, state and national ATV Clubs advertise heavily to a large following for week-long and weekend adventure. Rallies and club rides will follow in the area. The ATV industry and other promoters are sponsoring cross-country and touring experiences for tourism.

Are there other route options?

Yes - a viable primary corridor trail currently exists. However, the ATV Club feels they *need* a shorter route with a "convenient loop." If a new route is actually needed, there are other viable routes that must be considered. With all of the acres of state and county land surrounding Eagles Nest Township there is no justifiable reason to intrude into our residential areas. Our group is encouraging alternative routes outside of our area.

What can I do?

Show your support for quiet enjoyment of life in Eagles Nest Township! The quiet enjoyment and environmental integrity of our neighborhood is at stake.

- Sign the Eagles Nest Trails Advocacy **petition** - in person or on our website at <https://www.eaglesnesttrails.org/>
- Talk to the Board of Supervisors of Eagles Nest individually and **attend monthly meetings** on the 3rd Tuesday of the month at 5:00pm. We anticipate the June 21st meeting will focus on the new trail location. Join meetings in person or via ZOOM. A ZOOM link can be found on this website:

<https://www.eaglesnestmn.com/>
- Check out our **website**: <https://www.eaglesnesttrails.org/> to view maps of the proposed trail and other options for a trail. Sign our petition and sign up to receive updates.
- **Write to the editors** of the *Timberjay* (timberjaynews@gmail.com) and the *Ely Echo* (<https://www.elyecho.com/content/letter-editor>) to voice your opposition to a primary corridor through Eagles Nest.
- Write or call the following stakeholders to express your opposition:

**Paul McDonald, County
Commissioner**

St. Louis County Service Center
320 Miners Drive E
Ely, MN 55731 Ph: 218-365-8200
E-mail: mcdonaldp@stlouiscountymn.gov

Senator Tom Bakk

75 Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.
Blvd. Capitol, Room 328
St. Paul, MN 55155 Ph: 651-296-8881
E-mail:
<https://www.senate.mn/members/email-form/1003>

**Ann Pierce, MN DNR Director of State Parks
and Trails**

Ph: 651-259-5591
E-mail: ann.pierce@state.mn.us

**Kevin Gray, St. Louis County
Administrator**

100 North 5th Ave West Room 202
Duluth, MN 55802 Ph: 218-726-2448
Email: grayk@stlouiscountymn.gov

**Julie Marinucci, St. Louis County Land
and Minerals Director**

Government Services Center
201 South 3rd Ave West
Virginia, MN 55792 Ph: 218-742-7885
E-mail:
marinuccij@stlouiscountymn.gov

Representative Rob Ecklund

409 State Office Building
St. Paul, MN 55155 Ph: 651-296-2190
E-mail: rep.rob.ecklund@house.mn

Sarah Strommen, DNR Commissioner

Minnesota Department of Natural
Resources 500 Lafayette Road
St. Paul, MN 55155 Ph: 651-296-6157
E-mail:
commissioner.dnr@state.mn.us

Ron Potter, President ATV Assoc. of MN


4004 Swanson Shore Road
Ely, MN 55731 Ph: 218-235-0049
Email: ron.potter@gmail.com

UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA EXTENSION
Division of Discovery


ATV Trails in Northeast Minnesota
Economic impact and visitor profile proposal

MAJOR DIFFERENCE IN MINNESOTA: ENVIRONMENT • FOOD & AGRICULTURE • COMMUNITIES • FAMILIES • YOUTH


Extension team



Mrs. Clara
Director of the Tourism Center
Tourism specialist



Bridget Tuck
Senior economic impact analyst



John Bennett
Extension educator
Northeast Minnesota

UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA EXTENSION

Project goals

- How much do ATV riders spend in our communities?
- Which businesses directly benefit from ATV riders?
- Which businesses indirectly benefit from ATV riders?
- What opportunities exist to increase the economic benefits of trail riding?

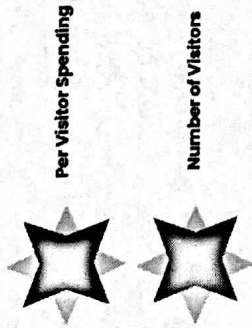
UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA EXTENSION

Goals for today

- Outline the proposal and steps
- Gather feedback from you, so we can be successful

UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA EXTENSION

Basic components of economic impact



UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA EXTENSION
2022 REPORT OF THE UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA TO THE REGENTS

Visitors: Email surveys

Overview

- Clubs to distribute surveys via email lists
- Extension will provide an anonymous link

Feedback

- Clubs – are you willing to participate?
- Any thoughts on how to make this successful?



UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA EXTENSION
2022 REPORT OF THE UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA TO THE REGENTS

Visitor spending

- Email surveys to club members
- Posters at key locations
- Intercept surveys



UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA EXTENSION
2022 REPORT OF THE UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA TO THE REGENTS

Visitors: Posters and flyers

Overview

- Print posters and flyers with QR code link to survey
- Posters to be placed in high traffic areas
- Flyers to be handed out at restaurants/lodging

Feedback

- Any thoughts on how to make this successful?
- Where are the key places to put these?
- Who are good contacts for the flyers?
- Any incentives we could offer?



UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA EXTENSION
2022 REPORT OF THE UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA TO THE REGENTS

Visitors: Intercept surveys

Overview

- Have paper and pencil surveys
- Volunteers approach riders and ask them to complete survey

Feedback

- Do the clubs have volunteers willing to do this task?
- Do we need to offer a financial incentive to the survey volunteers?
- What locations and times would work?
- Any major ATV gatherings?
- Anyone able to serve in a coordination role?
- Incentives for survey completion?

UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA EXTENSION
1625 UNIVERSITY AVENUE, ST. PAUL, MN 55108-6099

Visitors Counts

Overview


- SEH has cameras
- Will place at key locations along the trail

Feedback

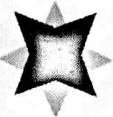
- Clubs – are you willing to participate?
- Any thoughts on how to make this successful?

UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA EXTENSION
1625 UNIVERSITY AVENUE, ST. PAUL, MN 55108-6099

Basic components of economic impact



Per Visitor Spending



Number of Visitors

UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA EXTENSION
1625 UNIVERSITY AVENUE, ST. PAUL, MN 55108-6099

UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA EXTENSION
1625 UNIVERSITY AVENUE, ST. PAUL, MN 55108-6099

Brigid Tuck, tuckb@umn.edu
John Bennett, jbennett@umn.edu

© 2022 Regents of the University of Minnesota. All rights reserved.
The University of Minnesota is an equal opportunity, affirmative action employer. This PowerPoint is available to all individuals having a request at 612-625-6207.

UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA EXTENSION • FOOD & AGRICULTURE • COMMUNITIES • FAMILIES • YOUTH