



**TOURISM DESTINY DRIVER  
MEETING MINUTES  
JANUARY 26, 2017 @ 5:30 PM  
I'FALLS CHAMBER OF COMMERCE/CVB OFFICE**

**STEWARDS PRESENT:** Pete Schultz, Sherril Gautreaux, Eric Johnson, Jackie Glowack, Travis Glowasky, Tawnya Shoewe, Bob DeGross

**I. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS (sign-up sheet)**

The group was happy to welcome the new VNP Superintendent Bob DeGross along with Tawnya Shoewe, VNP Interpretive Officer.

**II. VOYAGEUR COUNTRY ATV UPDATE**

Schultz reported that a meeting of Voyageur Country ATV will occur on 2/8/17 at Ash-Ka-Nam Resort. The ongoing meetings allow planning for interconnecting corridors of existing trails for ATV use. Schultz also spoke about the MNDNR Regional Trails Task Force which is pushing for a comprehensive plan to promote, develop and sustain recreational trails for mountain biking, hiking, cross-country skiing, and other off-road recreational activities. Schultz also described efforts of the Arrowhead Association in planning to connect existing trails for recreation in the Arrowhead Region. Shoewe asked Schultz to forward specific information on the Trails Task Force and Arrowhead Association to her.

**III. GRAND MOUND UPDATE**

Johnson reported on the Grand Mound meeting on 12/9 hosted by MNHS. The notes from the meeting will be posted on the VF website. The MNHS is conducting feasibility studies to determine the best way to provide access to self-guided tours throughout the year. County Board wants to ensure that MNHS won't close the site again in 10 years. MNHS is proposed that it will not be staffed full-time, but will have staff presence for tours. Outreach and community programs will be developed partnering with schools, colleges, NPS, MNHS and First Nations. Marketing is key; site signage and wayfinding signs need to be reinstalled.

**IV. OPEN DISCUSSION**

VNP Superintendent Bob DeGross was welcomed and given a brief overview of the Voyage Forward Tourism Driver efforts. He spoke about "Outdoor Writers of America" conference hosted in Duluth in June 24-26, 2017 and hopes to have a presence.

Schultz spoke about the Tilson Boardwalk project stating that their fund-raising brochure has been printed and uses the VF logo which they considered to add legitimacy to their project.

Schultz gave a birding update discussing the opportunities in the works to identify trails and signage along with the MNDNR Boreal Wilderness Birding Trail project. Gautreaux will forward a copy of the Boreal Wilderness Birding Trail map to DeGross and Shoewe.

Shoewe discussed the award presented to VNPA as the 2016 NPS Midwest Champion recognizing VNPA's Landmark Grant of \$150,000 to VNP. The VNPA grant assisted in creating a Teen Ambassador Program, a Ghosts of Voyageurs interpretive program, Cruiser Lake trail project and other important

projects. The award will be presented on 1/27 at the Ranier Community Hall during the Open House welcoming VNP Superintendent Bob DeGross.

Gautreaux read an e-mail from Sonja Pelland representing Littlefork stating that though she cannot always attend the meetings – she is informed and engaged. Pelland stated interest in Littlefork being more of a visible part of a county-wide ATV trail system. She also expressed interest in attending Google mapping classes. Eric Johnson suggested that he and Dan Schermerhorn will try to schedule time to assist Pelland and others in Google mapping and HOCP website. Pelland stated that Big Falls does a great job of promoting their park and hopes that Littlefork’s campground can be better utilized and promoted. She believes that an ATV friendly campground would be an asset!

Gautreaux worked on spreadsheets for each community to catalog landmarks on Google Maps and show assets that need to be added or amended. The spreadsheet is just a tool for communities to begin cataloging their assets.

**V. SCHEDULE NEXT MEETING**

Johnson suggested that the next meeting be in Littlefork or Big Falls and will reach out to Sonja Pelland and Joan Nelson to schedule an appropriate date in the near future.

**VI. ADJOURN**

The meeting adjourned at 6:15.