

**VOYAGE FORWARD COALITION
MEETING MINUTES
JUNE 27, 2017 10:00 am
RANIER COMMUNITY BUILDING**

STEWARDS PRESENT: Mike Wellcome, Pete Schultz, Ward Merrill, Travis Glowasky, Sherril Gautreaux, Tammy Riley, Doug Skrief, Myrna Meadows

I. WELCOME

- a. To approve the agenda.

A motion was made by Gautreaux; seconded by Riley and carried unanimously to approve the agenda.

- b. To approve the minutes of the previous Coalition Driver meeting.

A motion was made by Skrief; seconded by Riley and carried unanimously to approve the minutes of the previous meeting.

- c. Review budget.

The account balance remains the same as last time.

II. CHAMPION UPDATES

Quality of Life – The group will meet again in August.

Workforce Development – A summary report for the survey is complete! There will be a press release and Journal article after it is posted on the VF website. Next step is how to determine skills of workforce. Myrna suggested statewide media release – perhaps DEED.

Tourism – The CVB drafted a letter on short term vacation rentals and suggested that VF group embrace the idea of promoting and regulating short term vacation rentals. Kooch County agreed to fund a portion of the ATV Comprehensive Trail Plan. Voyageur's ATV Club received \$150,000 funding through the legislature, it is intended to pay for design and engineering of the master plan, which is to connect International Falls, Ericsburg, Ray, Kabetogama, Ash River, Ash Lake, Cusson, Elephant Lake and Crane Lake. The group discussed a recent birding group that had some difficulties in booking their trip during high tourist season. The birders were pleased with their accommodations in Littlefork. The birders wanted access to the sewer lagoon in l'Falls. There were efforts to make that happen, however, more notice to the sewer district was needed. A lesson was learned that birding groups may need customized care. The birders visit during spring and fall migration. Gautreaux will follow up the sewer district on access to the lagoon.

Beautify Koochiching County –Urban tree planting was suggested to the l'Falls comprehensive plan folks. The city-wide clean-up in June was successful.

Economic Development/Marketing Partnership –The one-page marketing message for the Voyage Forward region is completed. It is a template that will allow cities to use their own logo and photograph. At their next meeting, the group will discuss the distribution of the template to each city. The CVB ordered 1000 copies of the marketing message.

Cross Border Initiative – The OARS (Outlying Area Reporting Stations) Lake of the Woods study was released and reported in The Journal. Wellcome will post the article on the VF website

Grow and Diversify Business – No one present to represent this Driver.

Attract and Retain Businesses - No one present to represent this Driver.

III. QUARTERLY MEETING

The regional meeting was held in Littlefork in June and was well attended. Feedback from Littlefork was that the VF efforts are relevant to their community. Each driver distributed a one to two page handout describing their efforts and focus which the group thought was well received. Ideas were tossed around about the how to conduct the next meeting such as changing the meeting agenda so that the driver updates are presented before the host region update. Gautreaux and Riley each took notes and will exchange notes they took at the regional meeting for a possible press release. Some points to consider for the next meeting:

- An after action report
- Hand out the feedback forms at the beginning of the meeting
- Pay attention to AV equipment compatibility, proper cords, etc.
- Review the community's survey questions prior to regional meeting to use as talking points in the VF summary
- Update the driver handouts

The next regional meeting will be in Northome in the fall. Wellcome will work with Northome to set up a specific date for the meeting.

IV. STRATEGIC PLANNING

Riley distributed an updated strategic planning. Items should be added to the document following each meeting. Each meeting should be driven by the priority outcomes identified in the prior meeting.

V. NEXT MEETING DATE

The next Coalition meeting will be a week prior to the Northome regional meeting.

VI. ADJOURN.

The group adjourned at 11:00.