



## **Iron County Outdoor Recreation Enthusiasts**

### **Annual Meeting**

**Monday, October 7, 2019 at 5:00 p.m.**

Mercer Community Center

2648W Margaret Street, Mercer, Wisconsin

1. Call to order
  - a. Moment of recognition of Mike Fauerbach, dedicated ICORE member and friend who passed away January 12, 2019.
  - b. In attendance: Ian Shackelford, Teresa Schmidt, Joe Kravitz, Bethany Thomas, Beth Wetzler, Amy Nosal, Mike Ondresky, Bob Traczyk, John Bates, Karen Hagemann, Angie VanSyoc, Bob Kary, Rita Kary, Hedda Patzke, Gail Ondresky, Diane O'Krongly, Paul Hagemann.
2. Approval of minutes from the 2018 Annual Meeting - Motion to approve with corrections to attendance list. Second by Bates. Passed unanimously.
3. Treasurer's report - Traczyk presented a report covering October 1, 2018 through September 20, 2019 showing \$18,659 income and \$8,723 expenses, with total assets of \$36,310.83. Motion to accept the treasurer's report by Hagemann. Second by Bates. Passed unanimously.
4. Membership update - Traczyk reported that he and Mike Ondresky sent a letter to members due for renewal, and responses are coming in. Once they are all recorded, Traczyk will send another reminder. We had about \$2100 in income from memberships last year.
5. Election of board members: President, Vice-President, Treasurer, Secretary are up for reelection. After discussion, Bates nominated the current slate of officers to serve another 2-year term: Ondresky for president, Bates for vice-president, Traczyk for treasurer, and Schmidt for secretary. There were no other nominations from the floor.
6. 2018/2019 Activity Reports:

- a. Hurley Nonmotorized Trail - Looking at three miles of railroad grade from Hurley to Montreal; connects Iron County to Michigan's Iron Belle Trail. The committee is planning to apply for a Knowles-Nelson grant to assist with this purchase as well as a Gogebic Range Health Foundation grant for both trail land purchase and work at the trailhead. We also have a number of pledges for this project from local residents. Costs will include purchase of the land, design, retrofitting of old railroad bridges for bike and pedestrian use, and actual trail construction. Shackleford showed a map of the proposed trail route. The trails committee will hold a work bee this Sunday, October 13.
- b. Iron County 24 Trails - Shackleford has been working on identifying all the trails in Iron County, and there is a list and a map for each one on the ICORE website.
- c. Manitowish to Sandy Beach Bike Trail proposal - Bates submitted a letter to the DNR on behalf of the ICORE board requesting that they consider summer bicycle use of the railroad grade, about 4 miles, that runs from Highway 51 and 47 to Sandy Beach and then to Powell Marsh. It is currently used as a snowmobile trail in the winter. The DNR responded to say that they are considering the request and gathering information.
- d. "From Green to Blue" - the Montreal River trail project. Nosal reported on ideas to create "spur" trails off the Iron Belle trail to connect areas of interest like the Iron County Farmers Market, Norrie Park, and Interstate Falls. There are quite a few partners on both sides of the Montreal River that are interested in seeing this project move forward. The DOT requested public input on the reconstruction of the Highway 51 and US 2 interchange, and were "flooded" with comments reflecting the importance of pedestrian access through the area.
- e. Paddle and biking groups in Iron County - ICORE members Mike & Gail Ondresky and Martha Pierpont took over the Monday Mixed Paddlers social paddling group, with 60 people on their contact list and an average of 25 attendees each week. Loony Pedalers (Tuesday mornings) has become a more structured group, led by Jean Raschke and Sandy Cashman, and has a good following. Kit Bogenschneider continues to run the Loony Paddlers group for women on Wednesdays, which continues with hiking and snowshoeing for men and women in colder months. All three groups use ICORE's Meetup as a communication tool.
- f. Corrigan's Lookout and Lake of the Falls - Last fall, O'Krongly's Hurley School field biology class and North Country Trail volunteers worked on the trail at Corrigan's Lookout and got the trail rebuilt in a single day.

O'Krongly is also working on a project to provide kiosks for Lake of the Falls County Park directing visitors to the many hiking and walking opportunities on state land directly connected to the park, including the nearby Lipp Lake trail that ICORE worked on about two years ago. She is writing a letter to the county forester and the county trail manager to see if they will approve the project and determine where funding will come from.

- g. Social media and marketing - Schmidt reported that ICORE has 269 members on Meetup; 275 follows on Facebook; 85 followers on Instagram; 174 subscribers on MailChimp; 7200 website visitors since creation.
- h. 2019 ICORE Events - Bates reported that ICORE sponsored a total of 22 events including 4 walks, 7 talks, 2 bike rides, 2 paddles, 2 birding events. Some were extremely well attended, others less so, but we've had events throughout the year. The next scheduled event is a hike on Jim & Joy Perry's land on the Potato River in Gurney on October 25.
- i. Other ICORE and Iron County trail updates
  - i. Traczyk, Nosal and others have been participating in the Iron County Recreation Committee.
  - ii. ICORE was also invited to participate in the Turtle Flambeau Flowage/Trude Lake stakeholders meetings with Xcel Energy and the DNR, and Ondresky attended.
  - iii. Northern Iron County Engaged Residents (NICER) is a relatively new group of residents that are working on community priorities in northern Iron County. UW-Extension helped them develop a list of priorities, and 4 of their top 5 priorities are trail projects.
  - iv. Beth Wetzler reported from the Turtle River Pursuit committee. The event will be held at MECCA Ski Trails on February 15-16, with a classic ski on the first day and freestyle on the second day. (Last year one of the days was held at WinMan, but they are not participating this year.) They had 54 racers last year, and are hoping for 75-100 racers this year. They've also added a 5K "Claire d'Loon Classic" race for recreational skiers and families. Last year ICORE brought a lot of volunteers to the event, and they are looking for volunteers again this year. The proceeds from the event will go towards the MECCA Experience Fund designed to get more students and adults experience on the trails.
  - v. Nosal reported that John Sendra, Mercer Town Chairman, is working to extend the Mercer bike trail to Carow Park.

- vi. Thomas reported that the NCT Heritage Chapter has been working in Iron County this year and made a lot of progress. The built a half mile of trail near the Potato River; hired WisCorp to build a more difficult section of trail near Upson Lake lookout; finished a new section near Casey Sag road; a new campsite; and the county constructed a new bridge at Wren Falls so they are moving west from there working towards Highway 169. Bates suggested that we try to sponsor some ICORE events on the NCT next summer to highlight the great work being done there. Traczyk commented on the fantastic quality of the trail and bridges being built there.
7. Open comment - none.
8. Motion to adjourn made by Bates, seconded by Traczyk. Unanimous vote to adjourn at approximately 6:10 p.m.

The meeting was followed by a potluck supper and a presentation with Ron Bergin of Chequamegon Area Mountain Bike Trails (CAMBA).