



Board meeting

Monday, May 3, 2021 at 6:00 p.m. held virtually via GoToMeeting

MINUTES

1. In attendance: board members Teresa Schmidt, Bob Traczyk, John Bates, Mike Ondresky, Karen Hagemann, Ian Shackelford, and Diane O’Krongly (arrived at about 6:30) ; guests Martha Pierpont and Amy Nosal.
2. Open comment: none.
3. Approval of minutes from 1/26/2021 ICORE Board meeting: Motion by Bates to approve as presented, second by Traczyk. Approved unanimously.
4. Treasurer’s report and membership update: Traczyk presented his treasurer’s report. There was a \$500 donation from an individual in Upson, with no restrictions. The Manitowish Waters Historical Society donated \$5000 for brush clearing at the CCC Trail, and \$4500 has been paid with a hold back of the remainder for one last pickup of brush this spring. There was also a donation from Mike Fauerbach’s family for the Hurley Non-Motorized trail. We have 61 current memberships. Motion from Bates to accept the treasurer’s report; second by Hagemann. Motion approved unanimously.
5. Trail reports
 - a. Hurley Non-Motorized Trail: We’re still waiting on updates from the railroad. On March 30, there was a press release from Canadian National announcing the sale of a lot of property in northern Wisconsin to a company called Watco. Shackelford has been trying to get in touch with CN to find out if the property we are interested in was part of that deal, and did get a response from a person at CN who said they would look into it. Hagemann attended the Iron County Railroad meeting. The topic of conversation was on the discontinued lines (lines that are not in use but still have rail) in the area and potential uses for shipping. There was no mention of the abandoned lines like the property we are interested in. Highway 51 will be reconstructed as part of the intersection project at

Highway 51 and US 2. Coleman Engineering was going to request a highway crossing at the trailhead for our future trail construction, so ICORE should follow up to make sure that is included in the plan.

- b. CCC Camp Mercer Trail - The Land Use Agreement with Northern Highlands American Legion state forest has been signed and returned. There will be a trail cleanup this weekend to remove more brush. Jim Bokern is working on the signage for the historical features on the site.
 - c. Spring trail work bees:
 - i. May 8: CCC Camp Mercer trail at 8:30 a.m.
 - ii. May 14: Hurley Non-Motorized trailhead cleanup 9 a.m. - 12 p.m.
 - iii. May 15: Hidden River Trail at 10:00 a.m.
 - iv. May 22: Deadhorse Trail at 10:00 a.m.
6. Event reports
- a. New events chair needed: Bates cannot chair the schedule of events for this year. He has too many other commitments for his own work. Schmidt volunteered to coordinate and promote events, if board members and other volunteers would chair individual events. Shackleford could lead a hike, Nosal could plan an event with Cathy Techtman, Schmidt could coordinate with Bokern on a 'grand opening' event for the CCC Trail, Hagemann will contact Bethany Thomas about doing a hike on the North Country Trail (NCT). The Northwoods Land Trust (NLT) has a hike planned at their Sack Lake property in late summer or early fall, so we could consider co-sponsoring. Traczyk suggested a hike into the Montreal river gorge from the Michigan side; He will contact someone he knows for more information. The NCT is also planning a September event for the Bill Thomas bridge that was installed on the NCT trail, and Traczyk suggested that we help with that event.
 - b. Turtle Flambeau Flowage - 2 virtual meetings to report (Bates)
 - i. March 24 stakeholders meeting: representatives were there from county forestry, fisheries, wildlife biologist, Xcel Energy, county land and water conservation, MECCA trail, and more. Bates spoke on behalf of ICORE and shared some of our ideas for development of more silent sports trails, improvement of the auto tour, signage on the Hidden Rivers trail, backpack trails on Big Island, more law enforcement presence to enforce camping and other regulations, and a change to the voluntary quiet area on the eastern area of the TFF to make it a mandatory quiet area. Traczyk and O'Krongly were also in attendance. The DNR is writing a new management

plan for the TFSWA, and we hope that the feedback from this meeting will inform that plan. ICORE should follow up to make sure that our suggestions are considered.

- ii. Second meeting was with TFSWA manager Beth Feind on the development of a Friends group for the Turtle Flambeau Flowage. There were also representatives from the Turtle Flambeau property owners association at that meeting. There are a lot of regulations that govern the creation of friends groups for state property, including the requirement to develop a separate 501(c)(3) and to support any initiatives by the DNR for the property. Bates asked the ICORE board if we still wish to pursue this idea. He recommended that we not pursue it at this time, and the board agreed. Bates will contact Feind and let her know.
- iii. June 8: some state representatives are going to walk at Lipp Lake and Lake of the Falls to review the area, since O'Krongly discovered that these are parts of the state natural area. Meet at 11am at Lake of the Falls county park if you would like to join them.

7. Other reports or action items

- a. Ondresky will put together the mixed paddle events again this year and will publish a schedule of events.
 - b. Kit Bogenschneider has planned a season of women's paddling events. She is posting them on Meetup. All participants are welcome, but those who want to participate in the group shuttles will need to be vaccinated.
 - c. The Rice Lake association is looking for volunteers and paid employees to help with curly leaf pondweed removal this summer. Contact Bob Kary for more information.
 - d. The Northwoods Land Trust just purchased over 200 acres at the Beaver Creek Hemlocks near Springstead. Their intention is to put trails through the area, and Bates suggested that this could be another opportunity for ICORE to support the development of more silent sports trails.
8. Set date for next board meeting: August 10, 2021 at 6:00 p.m. at the Methodist Church in Mercer. Plan for the annual meeting in northern Iron County in October.
9. Adjourn at 7:10 p.m.

Minutes presented by Teresa Schmidt, ICORE secretary