



ICORE

Iron County Outdoor Recreation Enthusiasts

ICORE Annual Meeting - Notes

Tuesday, October 25th, 2022, at 6:00 p.m.

Mercer Community Center

See attached document for attendance log: 

1. Call to Order
2. Approval of minutes from 10/26/2021 ICORE Annual Meeting

Karen Hagemann motioned to approve notes and Mike Ondresky seconded the motion

3. Treasurer's report and membership update (Traczyk)

Bob Traczyk reviewed current financials. Bob reported a total income of \$2,847 over the past year (Oct of 2021 through Sept of 2022). Along with \$2,277 in membership dues, this also includes \$255 in individual/business contributions, \$104 in interest from our CD with Edward Jones, and \$230 in miscellaneous income. Total expenses were \$4,651 putting our net income at -\$1804. Membership was 71 this past year, but right now many people have not renewed. A membership letter needs to go out to secure these members for 2022. Ian Shackleford made a motion to approve this report and Kit Bogenschneider seconded it.

4. 2021/2022 Activity Reports

- a. Hurley Non-Motorized Trail (Shackleford)

There is a trail committee to create a trail connecting the Iron Bell trail in Hurley with Montreal utilizing the existing railroad grade. The committee is waiting for the railroad to release the land. Currently that effort is in the camp of the DNR and DOT. Solar lights were installed at the current trailhead.

- b. Mercer-by-Bike trail (Nelson)

A committee has been established to create a paved bike loop expansion of the "Heart of Vilas" trail system from Carow Park in Mercer along County J to W at WinMan trails. This would create an additional 9 miles of paved trail making a 22 mile loop from Mercer to Mercer. This trail expansion would go through state forest and 2 state natural areas. The committee has met several times and was able to get participation from the DNR, Iron and Vilas County highway commissions, Iron County Economic Development Zone, local business owners, Mercer Chamber of Commerce, and the Mercer Town Chairman. A preliminary engineering study is needed to begin the process of seeking grants and building



Iron County Outdoor Recreation Enthusiasts

support with key stakeholders. Eight engineering firms were reviewed and 3 were chosen to make a proposal of which Becher Hoppe and Associates of Wausau was chosen. Next step is for Becher-Hoppe to gather preliminary information (including cost estimates) and publicly available data which will be used to apply for a DOT TAP grant in Q1 of 2023. This grant award will be what is needed to pursue a full-blown engineering study to be completed in Q2 and Q3. We have asked the Mercer Chamber of Commerce to fund the preliminary engineering work with Becher-Hoppe. Brenda asked for committee volunteers who can support fundraising and/or grant writing efforts.

c. Monday Mixed Paddles (Ondresky)

The summer mixed paddle was run through late August with approximately 15-30 people participating each week. Gail Ondresky did a great job finding local experts to have appropriate talks at the end of each paddle. Feedback was very positive.

d. Looney Paddlers (Kit)

The Looney Paddlers celebrated their 12th year this past summer. Kit led 17 women's paddles on Wednesdays through mid-September. In addition, Kit scheduled 6 mixed paddles on Fridays. The Looney Paddlers have now transitioned to the Looney Hikers on Wednesdays and will continue with the Looney snowshoers after that.

e. Camp Mercer update (Bokern)

Jim gave a comprehensive update presentation on the CCC camp in Mercer. Plans are underway to re-create the original entry mound and sign. The DNR is working on making videos on the history of the camp. Jim received a W.H.S Award for his leadership in establishing the CCC Camp Mercer Interpretive Trail

f. TFSWA adopted trails (Okrongly/Pierpont)

Spring clean-up was completed on both trails with volunteers through Meet-up. The DNR let us know that part of the Grouse Habitat trail was taken over by the snowmobile re-routing. Diane was able to negotiate the creation of a snow-shoe loop from the parking lot to allow hikers/snowshoers the ability to avoid the snowmobile trail.

g. Other events and activities

Mecca is planning its 5th Winterfest in January of 2023 in collaboration with the Gogebic Range Health Foundation. It includes virtual events along with ski races on January 28th. There will also be a candlelit family snowshoe on the evening of



Iron County Outdoor Recreation Enthusiasts

January 28th. Mecca will be featured in the December issue of Silent Sports Magazine.

- h. ICORE media updates: email, newsletter subscribers, Facebook, Meetup, Website
- 5. Election of Board Members/Officers

All current BOD members/officers were re-elected for the next year. It was noted that a BOD succession plan is needed so that BOD members are rolling off in different years to ensure BOD continuity, Karen Hagemann agreed to draw up a matrix on BOD assignments and timing for our next meeting.

- 6. Open Comment
- 7. Set date for next board, Annual, meetings

The next board meeting will be held on January 24th, 2023

- 8. Adjourn

Kit Bogenschneider made the motion to adjourn and Diane O'Krongly seconded it.

Presentation by John Bates: "At Home in the Northwoods: Reflections on Belonging to a Place"