

Linn County Trails Association

Board Meeting

Monday May 9th, 2016

The monthly meeting of the Linn County Trail Association's Board of Directors was held on May 9th, 2016 at the Shores Event Center. A quorum was present. Those who attended the meeting were the following:

LCTA Board Members:

Paul Fiegen (President) Tom Peffer (Vice President) Keith Sutherland Brad Mullin (Secretary) Sarah Barber Dean Barnum Vicky Evans Leland Freie Diane Handler Steve Hershner Kevin Kirchner Kyle Lundberg Gary Palmer Larry Scott Kirschen Seah John Wauer Dick Woodward Kesha Billings Dan Biechler Randy Burke Dennis Goemaat

Guests:

Jim Borschel Craig Elliot Robert Becker

Call to Order:

President, Paul Fiegen called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

Approval of the Minutes:

The minutes for the April board meeting were distributed electronically. The minutes were approved unanimously.

Treasurer's Report:

Keith Sutherland reported current assets of \$118,653. The motion to approve the report passed unanimously.

Reports for Standing Committees:

A. Public Awareness and Support (Paul Fiegen)

1. **New Area Trail Guide:** The development of the map is a partnership between the LCTA, CMPO, City of Cedar Rapids, City of Marion and Linn County. The group has selected a front cover and the maps could be available in June
2. **Ride Walk Play Event:** Gary Palmer informed the group of interest to conduct the event again this year. The event may be part of the Freedom Festival with a date of Thursday, June 23 from 5-8pm. LCTA will provide the insurance coverage for the event. Contact Gary if interested in volunteering.
3. **Springville Monday Niters Club:** Steve Hershner gave a presentation to a dozen people at the event at the Springville Public Library.
4. **Transamerica Health Fair:** The event was April 13th and April 14th, 10:30 to 1:30pm. Gary Palmer, Tom Peffer and Steve Hershner volunteered.
7. **LCTA/HBA Joint Rides:**
 - a. Saturday, May 21st, 8:30 am. Ride will begin at Sokol Park to Ely City Park and back.
8. **Corridor MPO Ride:** The ride is May 14th at 9:00am meet at Greene Square.
9. **Earth Day Trail Clean-up:** Eight volunteers collected 25 bags of garbage along the Cedar Valley Nature trail from the Boyson Trail head to Tower Terrace Road.

10. **T-Shirt Development Committee:** The committee has chosen a design and color. After discussion, Leland Freie moved that shirts will sell at a \$15 price point. The motion passed unanimously. The shirts were made available at the meeting

B. Trail Development (Steve Hershner):

1. **Linn County Conservation Department:** Randy Burke reported:

A. Hoover Trail- Ely City Hall to Johnson County Line at Seven Sisters Rd:

The County has received an MPO grant for \$760,000 to construct this final section of trail in Linn County. This section of trail is one-mile long. The north half of the trail is in Ely City Limits, and the 20% grant match is the responsibility of the City of Ely. The south half is the Conservation Board's (LCCB), responsibility. The LCCB has an agreement with the Secondary Road Department to add or extend culverts and rough grade the south half of the trail at the same time and with the same contractor that is working on Ely Rd. Anderson-Bogert Engineers has completed the plans for the south half of the trail and are still finalizing the exact alignment and configuration for the north half. The City of Ely is working to complete an agreement with the LCCB for the work on the north half. Anderson-Bogert will complete a concept statement and a preliminary plan set for Iowa Department of Transportation review. A bid letting for grading the north half and paving the entire one mile will be set for a January/February timeline.

B. Cedar Valley Nature Trail Paving Schultz Road to Ash Lane:

This project is 3.5 miles of grading, ditching and paving. The estimated cost is \$1.2 million. The Conservation Board has received a \$600,000 State Recreational Trails Grant from the Iowa Department of Transportation for the project. The trail will be paved with asphalt from Schultz Road to Iowa Street on the south edge of Center Point. The remainder of the trail through Center Point will be concrete. All required trail clearing has been completed.

The project letting is scheduled for May 23, 2016. Work is to commence by August, 2016. The asphalt section is to be completed this fall. The remainder of the project is to be completed no later than June, 2017.

C. Red Cedar Mountain Bike Trail: - Squaw Creek County Park

This project involves the professional construction of a 1.5-2 mile section of single track mountain bike trail at Squaw Creek Park. The County is working with the Linn Area Mountain Bike Association (LAMBA) on this project, and has received a \$55,000 State Recreational Trails Grant. YTI Engineering has completed the plans and bidding documents, and submitted them to the Iowa Department of Transportation for final review. A bid letting should take place in approximately six weeks, with construction anticipated for late fall.

D. West Blue Creek Bridge Replacement Cedar Valley Nature Trail:

This project involves the replacement of a 270' long bridge approximately half a mile east of Interstate 380. This bridge is in extremely poor condition. Anderson-Bogert is working on the project with a letting anticipated for late summer and construction to begin in the fall and construction to begin in the fall and continue through the winter with completion next spring, (2017). The preliminary estimate is \$750,000.

E. Other items:

Highway 100 meeting with Supervisor Brett Oleson, County Engineer Steve Gannon, Brandon Whyte, and Conservation personnel to continue long range planning of the project and potential funding

sources.

The search for funding sources for the East Blue Creek Bridge replacement on the Cedar Valley Nature Trail is still underway. Earliest time frame is 2018-2019.

2. Marion:

- a. **Ride of Silence:** The ride of silence will take place a 7pm on May 18th beginning at City Square Park.
- b. Marion Hotel/Motel Grant: Kesha has applied for grant for a fix-it station in City Square Park and for portable bike racks.
- c. Safe Routes to School Plan: The city of Marion has adopted a Safe Routes to School Plan.
- d. The Marion Uptown Markets is Saturday, June 11th. There will be a short ride at the conclusion of the Market.

B.Trail Operations and Safety :

1. **Cedar Valley Nature Trail:** A section of trail is open north of Schultz Rd.

New Business:

1. **Sleeping Giant Bridge:** Tom Peffer shared some conceptual drawing from Shive Hattery of the proposed bridge.
2. **City of Robins:** The city of Robins has started the construction of the South Troy Park connection to the Cedar Valley Nature Trail.
3. **Downtown Farmers Market:** Brad Mullin circulated sign-up sheets for the June 4th Downtown Farmers Market and the June 11th Marion Uptown Farmers Market.

4. Future Trail Development Project Funding:

John Wauer discussed the use of LCTA funds for future trail development. John advocates LCTA should use available funds to encourage development and improvement of trails in a timely manner. In that process LCTA may provide matching funds, up to 10-20%, for projects that may otherwise be delayed, and possibly 100% for small projects that are important, such as safety issues, that may not get government funding for some time. He proposed that future projects must be within LCTA budget and not require separate fund raising as with a capital campaign. It was recommended that a Trail Planning Committee be established. The committee could establish priorities, contact jurisdictions and survey trail users about needs for development. It was proposed that Dick Mundy lead the committee.

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 8:20



Linn County Trails Association

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

LCTA Board Meetings

LCTA Board Meeting

Monday, June 13th, 6:00pm

Location: Cedar Rapids Water Administration Building
1111 Shaver Rd. NE.

LCTA Board Meeting

Monday, July 11th, 6:00pm

Location: Cedar Rapids Water Administration Building
1111 Shaver Rd. NE.