

**Ice Age Trail Alliance  
Washington/Ozaukee Chapter  
West Bend Public Library  
Minutes, September 2, 2014**

Joe Aldstadt, Leah Bradley, Lisa Delaney, Mike Fischer, Todd Guse, Lance Henrickson, Paula Klima, Peter Klima, Shirley Miller, Sue Munger, Kevin Mueller, Rich Propp, Craig Sanford and Bob Stodola were in attendance. Joe (Acting Chair) began the business meeting at 7:03 p.m.

Secretary's report: Joe distributed draft minutes from the June meeting for review. Shirley moved to approve the minutes, Lisa seconded, motion carried.

Treasurer's report: Bob gave the following report: The balance as of May 31st was \$2,114.28. Through the summer months, we had expenses of \$132.17 for NTD port-a-potty (our portion of the expense was shared with Waukesha/Milwaukee Chapter), stamps, Meander expenses, and other NTD expenses. Income was \$64.50 from NTD donations and Meander registrations. The balance on August 31st was \$2,046.61. Paula moved to accept the report, Rich seconded, motion carried.

Trail Work Project Updates:

- A. Weeknight work-days – these work days have wrapped up for the season. They were well attended with 6 to 10 workers per evening. A lot of work was completed.
- B. South West Bend – the approximately ½ mile re-route has been flagged and approved. Project work is ready to begin. A group of volunteers from the Washington County United Way is going to start the corridor clearing on Wednesday Sept. 24<sup>th</sup>. Work times are set from 9 am to 3 pm. Lisa will be leading the group. Lance and Rich will be crew leaders.

Prior to this work, Lance and Rich will work on chain-sawing a number of trees that currently block the route. They will work with Lisa to coordinate a date for this trail work. We have set a second corridor clearing work date for Saturday, October 11<sup>th</sup> at 9 am. It is anticipated that this work day will complete the corridor clearing and may include raking the trail route.

Tread construction will begin in early 2015. Joe will work with IATA staff on perhaps scheduling this as an MSC "Wild Card" project. We discussed whether there is enough work to qualify this as a "Wild Card". With ½ mile of tread work including heavy four-step construction, signage, and closing the existing trails, there should be plenty of work to complete.

- C. Park Ave entrance relocation – a Project Review Form has been drafted and submitted to IATA staff. When the approvals are received, we can begin construction (probably in 2015). There is approximately 200' of trail to re-route. One or two workdays should be adequate to complete this project.
- D. Waterford Road Bridge – the precise borders of the easement will be defined by Rod and Judy. Rod was waiting until fall to mark the easement. The water would be

at its lowest, the bugs would be fewer and visibility from the bare trees would be improved. Until a new bridge / boardwalk structure is completed, we need to make several repairs to the old structure. There are a couple of gaps between the boardwalk sections that can be closed with a few boards. Judy is working on a plan for these repairs.

- E. Pike Lake Walk-In Camp Sites – these three sites have been open most of the summer. Rob Wessberg reports that they are very popular. Two of the sites can be reserved ahead of time. The remaining site is first come, first served.
- F. Kiosk Make-Over – three of our six kiosks have been “made-over” with new signage. Two of the other three are on hold pending discussion with the DNR staff on placement of their signage. Joe will contact Jason from the Northern Unit on this topic. The remaining kiosk that hasn’t been updated is at Shannon Road. The kiosk is currently tilting toward the parking lot. We are waiting for the DNR to “straighten up” this kiosk before its make-over. Sue will contact Rob Wessberg regarding this repair. We may recommend moving the kiosk further away from the parking lot. We want it to be seen from the road but still out of reach for most vandals.
- G. Loew Lake parking lot – work is planned for this calendar year. The DNR will be hiring a contractor to install the driveway and parking lot. We will need a short “V”-shaped access trail to connect with the IAT which we’ve asked Rob Wessberg to construct as well.
- H. Barn Storage – our Chapter owns a considerable amount of lumber left over from past MSC projects. This lumber is currently stored in the DNR barn located off of Monches Road. Rob has notified us that this barn will soon be torn down and its contents moved to another nearby DNR barn. We will be asked to move the lumber ourselves.
- I. Segment Leaders – most of the northern trail segments have two segment leaders assigned to them. The southern trail segments (Pike Lake, North Holy Hill, South Holy Hill and Loew Lake) only have one segment leader. Joe asked if the Chapter members present would consider becoming co-segment leaders to help with the workload along these southern segments, particularly for chain-sawing and mowing.
- J. Maintenance Trailer Sign – Joe received a bid for a 2’ x 3’ sign to be attached to our Chapter’s trailer. It will be bright yellow, include the triad logos and have "Ice Age Trail Volunteers" in bold print. The motion to approve purchase of this sign for \$75 was made and approved via e-mail last month. Joe will go ahead with the order.
- K. QR Codes – QR codes created by our last Eagle Scout project participant, Ben Hinz, have been installed throughout the county. The QR code currently links users to the [www.iceagetrail.org](http://www.iceagetrail.org) website. This is a pilot program for the state, primarily to determine if Ben's design will withstand our dynamic seasonal weather conditions. When the pilot is finished, we’d like to change the QR codes to link directly to the segment map for that location. We would also like to add a counter to the link to gauge their impact. Also, Joe attended Ben Hinz’s Eagle Scout Award Ceremony in August at Lac Lawrann. Congratulations Ben!

## Hikes:

### A. Recent hikes:

- National Trails Day (NTD) Hike on June 7<sup>th</sup>. Hike went very well. We had between 80 to 100 hikers attending. Expenses and donations have been split equally between our Chapter and Waukesha-Milwaukee Chapter.
- Summer Solstice Hike on June 19<sup>th</sup>. Rain in the area during the day kept most hikers away but there were three that completed the hike. Hikers who cancelled missed a very nice hike – except for the last mile when the rain came down in buckets and lightning was all around.
- Trail Dog Running LLC sponsored two runs on the IAT during the summer. Approximately 75 runners raced in June and ~125 raced in the July. Paula and Joe set up a Chapter info table at the race in July and there was a lot of interest in the IAT. Joe will invite Pat Danaher of TDR to a future Chapter meeting to discuss further collaborations in 2015.
- Moonlight Hike on August 8<sup>th</sup>. Twenty hikers attended this hike, including from from the IAT, the Hiking Meet Up group, and the Milwaukee Nordic Ski Club. It was a beautiful evening and the full moon cooperated nicely.

During the Moonlight Hike, there were a number of geo-cachers coming and going at the Ridge Road parking lot and they seemed to be enjoying the trail. At this point, we delved into a discussion of geo-caching along the IAT. Unlike the official IATA Cold Cache program, which does not place a physical object at a site's location, geo-cachers hide containers of trinkets at their sites. Apparently the new Milwaukee River segment is littered with geo-cache sites, and a few areas of the DOT wetland may have been damaged. If a Segment Leader finds a geo-cache site, they should contact the Landowner to see if the site has been approved. If such approval has not been given, the Segment Leader should remove the geo-cache.

### B. Upcoming hikes:

The first four hikes are on the YMCA calendar as part of the "Healthy People Project" for which Lisa has been our liaison. Johnson Bus Service will provide a shuttle for the Sept 13<sup>th</sup> & Oct 5<sup>th</sup> hikes.

- Saturday, Sept 13<sup>th</sup> at 9 am – South Kewaskum & North West Bend Hike – Joe, Leah and Paula will lead. Shuttle from Culver's to Wildwood Rd.
- Sunday, Oct 5<sup>th</sup> at 1 pm – South West Bend Hike – Lisa, Paula, Leah (?) and Craig (?) will lead. Shuttle from West Bend Mutual to Ridge Run.
- Saturday, October 18<sup>th</sup> at 9 am – Milwaukee River Hike – leaders TBD. Hikers will have to car pool from the New Fane lot to Sunburst Ski Hill. Sunburst has given us approval to park in their lots.
- Sunday, Nov 23<sup>rd</sup> at 9 am – Pike Lake Hike – leaders TBD. Shuttling is not needed because the hike will be a loop within the park.
- Saturday, Dec 6<sup>th</sup> – 9:30 am – Polk Kames Hike – details to follow.

State/Regional News:A. MSC Project Projects (see [www.iceagetrail.org](http://www.iceagetrail.org) for details):

- Reports given on the successful East Twin River and St. Croix Falls projects.
- Chippewa County/Harwood Lakes – Sept 16-21.

## B. Statewide DNR and IATA Land Acquisitions –

- No news to report.

## C. IATA Board of Directors Update –

- No news to report.

Miscellaneous Topics:

A. Event Flyers – The YMCA event flyer has been created and has the next four hikes listed on it. Several laminated copies were available for segment leaders to post at their trailheads. Joe will create a workday event flyer for our October 11<sup>th</sup> workday.

B. Brat Sales for 2014 – No news on this topic; Joe will contact Doug for an update.

C. Hiking Program Update – Since June, 2 hikers have finished the program and 1 hiker has registered for it. Leah will be the new program administrator. Lance will change the flyers to list Leah's contact information instead of Craig's. Lance will also change the hiker's e-mail address from "optional" to "mandatory" as that is the preferred method for contacting participants.

D. Cache Bash – Bob S., Rod, and Joe manned a table at this event in early August along with Luke Kloberdanz and Dolly McNulty. Over 1,000 geo-cachers participated in the two day event dubbed the "Sturgis of Geo-Caching". Participants showed a lot of interest in the Ice Age Trail.

E. Summer Saunters – Leah reported that the program was a success with 35 participants. A visit from Monty was one of the highlights.

## F. Upcoming activities of neighboring IATA chapters &amp; organizations –

- Lakeshore Chapter: no workdays scheduled.
- Wauk-Milw Chapter: no workdays scheduled.
- Lac Lawrann: Bluegrass Festival on Friday, Sept 12th.
- OWLT: another busy month – check their website.
- CLCF: none reported.

Sue moved to adjourn, Paula seconded. Meeting adjourned at 8:55 p.m.