



COORDINATING COUNCIL

March 24, 2009

North Bay-Mattawa Conservation Authority Boardroom
Janey Avenue, North Bay

TRAIL PARTNERS PRESENT:

See sign-in sheet

1. Welcome

Mark King welcomed participants to the meeting and introductions were made.

2. Approval of the minutes of June 12, 2008

Resolution No. 01-03-24-09 Tucker/Christian

“That the minutes of the June 12, 2008 Coordinating Council Meeting be accepted as written.”

3. Presentation: ‘Trail Guide to Healthy Living’ – Nathan Kirby, Greater Nipissing Stewardship Council

The ‘Trail Guide to Healthy Living’ is now available. This project has been a collaborative effort between the Greater Nipissing Stewardship Council, Discovery Routes, and trail groups and organizations from around the region. This \$35,000 project resulted in 3,400 printed guides. This new resource will be available through the Stewardship Council and through Discovery Routes, and at various book stores, outfitters, and information centres across North Bay and area. All money collected from the sale of the guide will be set aside for re-printing.

4. Regional Projects Overview

a. *Recreational Trails Resource Guide for the hospitality industry*

Discovery Routes has created a *Recreational Trails in Ontario’s Near North Resource Guide* detailing all of the trails in the region with an accompanying map, and includes additional resources and information relevant to each trail. This guide is intended for the tourism and hospitality industry, and has been fashioned in a binder format, making it simple to duplicate needed pages for visitors of the region. This design also allows Discovery Routes to update the information as needed. The Resource Guide will be one of the benefits of municipal membership with Discovery Routes and will also be sold to hospitality providers for \$65. Businesses purchasing the resource guide will receive 50 copies of the regional trail map, as well as a list of upcoming trail events, updated quarterly.

b. Trans Canada Trail Update

The Federal Government has designated \$25 million to trail development across Canada. Trails organizations will be eligible for a grant covering up to 50% of project costs. \$6 million has been allocated for trail projects in Ontario. Projects eligible for this grant must have a completion date of March 31, 2010. It is rumoured that the Ontario Trails Council will be one of the organizations that will administer this program, with application forms to become available within the next few months.

The Trans Canada Trail Foundation has established three new directors – Director of Trail, Director of Finance and Administration, and Director of Funding. The new Director of Funding is working to re-brand Trans Canada Trail through a new marketing campaign.

A grand opening celebration for the new Callander section of the Trans Canada Trail will take place June 21, 2009. There will be activities along the trail as well as a barbecue at the South Shore Community Centre. Details will be forthcoming as the planning of the event moves forward.

c. Regional Trail Signage; Partnership with Almaguin Highlands Economic Development

The Almaguin Highlands Economic Development committee has been working with Discovery Routes to develop a project that will involve creating and updating consistent trail signage in their area. Discovery Routes will expand the project beyond the Almaguin Highlands to include trails throughout the Near North. There is potential for 90% of the project's costs to be covered through federal and provincial grants.

Trail kiosks will be placed in high traffic areas, such as information centres and municipal buildings. Trailhead and directional signage will be installed along the trails managed by participating partners. Cooperative expenses, such as graphic design, brochures, tours, and administrative fees will be included in the grant applications. The remaining 10% of the costs will be transferred to the respective trail groups. Full details will be forthcoming once funding is secured.

d. Pathways to Learning; Youth 'On-Trail' Lesson Kits

Discovery Routes Trails Organization is working on a project that is designed to increase the awareness of local trails as a resource to teachers. Four trails with suitable criteria have been selected as the pilot trails – Cranberry Trail, Dam Trail, Voyer Trail, and Kate Pace Way. Educational kits will be prepared that include a teacher's guide, student's field guide and various equipment required to carry out the outdoor lessons. This program has been funded by the Communities in Action Fund.

e. Voyer Trail Project Committee Update

Members of the Voyer Trail Committee met with potential funders including FedNor, NECO, Ontario Trillium Foundation, and the Ministry of Training, Colleges and Universities to discuss the Voyer Trail Project. It is estimated that the trail will cost approximately \$300,000 to build.

The Committee has partnered with the Nosbonsing Anglers and Hunters for the future maintenance of the trail.

5. Membership Update

Since the membership campaign launched in February of 2008, Discovery Routes has gained 33 individual and family memberships, 5 trail partner memberships, and 1 business membership. Discovery Routes has recently sent out invitations to municipalities throughout the region. Municipal membership fees have been set based on population.

6. Local Trail Partner Reports

a. Powassan Rec Committee

The Powassan Rec Committee is working on further developing the South River Water Trail. There is currently only one entrance to this route, and the Committee would like to include another.

The snowmobile trail from Trout Creek to Powassan has been realigned and does not follow the road as it has in the past.

b. City of North Bay

The City's main focus is on the Kate Pace Way link from Booth Road towards Lakeshore Drive. This project will re-align the trail parallel to the road, moving it off of the shoulder. The City is also working on a multi-use trail from Gormanville Road towards the new hospital and the education centre.

In August, a new pedestrian underpass at the waterfront will be open for use. It will be located near the museum, and will link downtown North Bay to the waterfront of Lake Nipissing.

c. West Nipissing Nordic Ski Club

The West Nipissing Nordic Ski Club will be applying to the Ontario Trillium Foundation for a \$15,000 grant in order to expand their trail system and purchase needed maintenance equipment. Since

partnering with the Sturgeon Falls Rod and Gun Club, the ski club has doubled their membership rates, and has had the opportunity to expand on their services to include skeet shooting and archery.

d. Otter Lake Friends

The Otter Lake Friends currently manage and maintain 4-km of trails, which were frequently visited during the last snowshoe season. The trails are a popular destination for the Scouts, for geocaching, as well as for military survivor training. The Friends' constant challenge is to keep the trails free of debris.

e. Forgotten Trails

The Forgotten Trails Association is in need of new volunteers. On Sunday, March 28, they will be hosting a kick-off event in order to bring renewed attention to the trails and to the organization. The Association has obtained liability insurance through Discovery Routes, which they are hoping will appeal to interested participants.

The Village of South River has become increasingly supportive of the trails in the area, as they see the potential for an economic spin-off due to the new highway bypass. Forgotten Trails will soon be printing new copies of their brochure, and the Village of South River has suggested that directions and GPS coordinates of historic sites throughout the Village would be an interesting addition to the publication.

Forgotten Trails has recently entered into a Resource Stewardship Agreement with Westwind Forest Stewardship for aid in enhancing the trails, along with protection throughout the forestry operations. There is potential to build upon the partnership where Westwind could assist in trail maintenance by bringing in gravel or other trail materials with their equipment while working in the area. Forgotten Trails' main goal is to make their trails ecologically sustainable.

f. Commanda Heritage Trail

With the winter thaw, the trail and the area surrounding the trail has become quite wet, and much of the route is impassable. Once the weather becomes warmer and the land dries up, the Committee will continue with their restoration project.

g. North Bay Mattawa Conservation Authority

The Friends of La Vase Portages and the Conservation Authority are currently working with private land owners along the route in order to gain passage through their property.

The Conservation Authority currently manages 13 conservation areas. The CA has applied for funding to be used in existing infrastructure repair.

h. Cranberry Trail

The Callander Trails Committee has published a new brochure to promote the Cranberry Trail.

7. New Business

There was no new business to discuss

8. Date of next Coordinating Council meeting – June 10, 2009

Time and place TBD.

9. Adjournment

The following Resolution was carried:

Resolution No. 02-03-24-09 Vincent/Beckett

“That the meeting be adjourned.”