



Kentucky Recreational Trails Authority Meeting Minutes
Thursday July 12, 2007 – 10:00 a.m.
Location: Humana Building Louisville

Members Present: Kristen Branscum (Chair), Ron Cardwell, Pat Collins, Judy Piazza, Malcolm Winsper, Jerry Hancock, Preston McLain, Alvin Cox and Sgt. Joey Barnes (proxy for Major James Vanhook).

Members Absent: Mike Caudill, Mark Cramer, Tim Hazlette, Sandy Runyon

Guests: Nicki Covey (Dept. of Tourism) and Polly McLain

I. Call To Order

The meeting was called to order at 10:20am by Kristen Branscum, Chair.

II. Roll Call

a. Nine members were present, which exceeds the seven needed for quorum.

III. Approval of 03/29/07 Meeting Minutes

There were some changes to the minutes from the March 29th meeting.

- Date change to May 23 instead of March 29
- Pat Collins was in attendance
- On item IV, change to May 23 instead of March 20

The 03/29/07 meeting minutes were approved with the exception of the above mentioned changes.

IV. Adoption of 03/29/07 Agenda

There were no changes to the agenda. A motion to adopt the agenda as is was made by Malcolm Winsper and seconded by Pat Collins. The agenda was passed with unanimous approval, no nays or abstentions.

V. Welcome and Introductions

All guests and staff in attendance introduced themselves.

VI. Agenda Item: Grassroots support Legislature '08

Group went over key safety issues concerning off-road safety and a consistent message to present to magistrates.

Key Points:

- Preston McLain suggested that they find out who the magistrates are by taking names and contact information. We should also volunteer to be available to come to their county and make a presentation to the fiscal court.
- Jerry Hancock has talked to different county judges and they are interested in trails but it all boils down to money. They are currently strapped for money but looking for funding.
- Pat Collins said that the KRTA should have a consistent 30 second message that could be used in the legislative act so they could have the same message for each interaction and emphasize the same points.
- Goal #1 is to increase land access and we will have legislation proposed in '08 to help with this area.
- Alvin Cox in response to goal #1 stated that members need to reiterate the fact that this legislation works with landowners who offer their land and is purely voluntary. They will use both public and private lands to develop and connect trails.

- Branscum suggested that for comparison purposes to relate that the KRTA could act in the same way as the Fish and Wildlife but agreements and usage would focus on recreational trails instead of solely hunting, fishing and conservation. All land owners are familiar w/ KDFWR, so this would be a way to relate the message.
- Cardwell brought up the two other goals that were established by the KRTA which were to educate and recognize the already existing trail opportunity. These areas should also build credibility for advertising existing trails so they can have a solid foundation so legislature will have good backing.
- Preston mentioned that if off-road vehicles became legal, someone is going to have to sell them insurance. KY leads the list in Off-road vehicle accidents and is in the top 3 or 4 of off-road usage as a whole. Safety should be a huge concern.
 - Winsper had done research on the off-road death toll and reported that the consumer products report is stamped with "Do not use." From 2002-2004, the actual number of deaths is 47 according to KY state police. He questions the accuracy of the methodology when the ratio of off-road usage is coupled with the actual death toll.
- Cardwell suggests that there should be an incentive to eliminate the liability from the land owners who opt to use their land for trails.
- Winsper requested more information on the safety issues in off-road use in KY. Properly maintained trails could be responsible to enhance trail safety as well as have safety prerequisites.
- Cardwell believes the best solution for off-road safety is education and motivation.
- McLain thinks that safety courses should be mandated and the rider must be of age and not to be used on the roads. If you passed the safety course, you get a percentage off your insurance and this incentive would draw people in to want to take the course.
- Branscum plans to promote trail education by using the website as the first step that would direct where to get training certification.

Action: Alvin Cox suggested that a mailing group be created for people interested in helping the issue. Branscum also plans to have the trail database finished by mid-August as well as have information regarding what is being done to the trails to provide validation for legislation.

VII. Agenda Item: Initial planning for grassroots support ('08 legislation)

Due to time restraints, Branscum gave out the beginning of a plan in which to spread the word re: the KRTA and the legislation that it hopes to pass in '08. The board will further discuss this at the next board meeting in-depth.

One idea that the KRTA can do to help maintain trails in the state, should the KRTA receive money in the next budget cycle is a trail tool trailer. The tool trailer would be full of equipment needed to clean up and manage trails. Groups would be able to check out the trailer for trail cleanup projects around the state. Many groups do not have the resources to purchase or hold this equipment on their own.

- Branscum related that one idea is that sponsorships can be sold in order support the trailer and get the necessary equipment.
- Cardwell thinks the trail tool trailer can be used as opportunity for advertisement and safety awareness.

Action: This idea cannot be made into a reality unless the legislation is passed in '08 and there is a budget allocation. In the meantime, the board wants to create a brand that would be recognizable for KRTA which includes safe riding in the slogan.

IX. New Business

Cox requested that the next meeting be a review of legislation and info on the trail database.

X. Set speakers, agenda items & time for next meeting

Piazza motioned to have a meeting before the next August meeting and was seconded by Collins. When Branscum receives the first draft of legislation on 7/18, she will send information on a conference call so that they can review.

Branscum is working on logistics for the August meeting, which will be held in conjunction with the announcement of the ARC Adventure Tourism Study plan that is being finalized now.

XIII. Adjournment

Malcolm Winsper made a motion to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by several members.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:15 p.m.