



Kentucky Recreational Trails Authority Meeting Minutes
Thursday, January 31, 2008 – 11:00 a.m.
Location: Frankfort Convention Center

Members Present: Kristen Branscum (Chair), Bill Burger, Ron Cardwell, Pat Collins, Alvin Cox, Mark Cramer, Jerry Hancock, Preston McLain, Sandy Runyon and Malcolm Winsper

Members Absent: Mike Caudill, Major James Vanhook and Transportation appointment

Guests: First Lady Jane Beshear, Dennis Blackburn (KY Backcountry Horsemen), Anna Zinkhorn (N KY Horse Network), Regina Crawford (Sen. Bunning's office), Donna McClure (Sen. McConnell's office), Roy Cornett (KY Backcountry Horsemen/TREK), Dennis Crowley (KY Trails Association), Edith Conyers (KY Backcountry Horsemen/TREK), Bill Macht (N KY Horse Network), Jim Mayer (N KY Horse Network), Karen Denham (N KY Horse Network), Mike Dulin (IMBA/KYMBA), and Debby Spencer (WMTH)

Staff: Susan Rieber (First Lady's Office), Cathy York (Commerce), David Lovelace (Commerce), Amy LeMay (Tourism)

I. Call To Order

The meeting was called to order at 11:10am by Kristen Branscum, Chair.

II. Roll Call

- a. Ten members were present, which exceeds the seven needed for quorum.
- b. Bill Burger has been appointed by Secretary Vance of Environmental and Public Protection Cabinet to represent their cabinet's position on the board. Mr. Burger is in the EPPC with his offices located in Lt. Governor Mongiardo's office.

III. Adoption of 1/31/08 Agenda

There were no changes to the agenda. A motion to adopt the agenda as is was made by Sandy Runyon and seconded by Ron Cardwell. The agenda was passed with unanimous approval, no nays or abstentions.

IV. Welcome and Introductions

All guests and staff in attendance introduced themselves.

- a. First Lady Jane Beshear was in attendance to relay the administration's emphasis and plans for recreational trails. By the 2010 Alltech FEI World Equestrian Games, the state's goal is to have an approximately 2,000 mile contiguous multi-use trail system from East to West across the state. Mrs. Beshear noted that we needed to highlight the natural assets and beauty that we have in this state and to raise the image of our state by enhancing outdoor recreation.

The KRTA board and guests in attendance passed on their appreciation to Mrs. Beshear for her support of recreational trails and everyone is looking forward to working together to achieve these goals.

V. Agenda Item: Legislation

The Commerce Cabinet/KRTA will be proposing legislation regarding the role of KRTA and recreational use.

Key Points:

- The bill is currently going through drafting and review so it is not available to view and discuss thoroughly at the time.
- As soon as the bill is sponsored and assigned a number, the board and the email distribution list for individuals will be notified.

- It will be of great importance that individuals and groups that have an interest in recreational use support this bill by contacting legislators on its behalf.
- Members noted that the ability to enforce rules and regulations on trails is important for personal safety, landowner safety and environmental concerns.

Action Items: The board would like Branscum to look into producing a two sided printed piece that they could use as a leave behind for various meetings, but especially for any meetings with legislators. The piece should also include FAQs and economic development numbers.

VI. Agenda Item: Member Reports

- Branscum (Commerce): Two announcements pertaining to federal lands. 1. The Forest Service will hold a public meeting regarding the trails around Cave Run Lake on 1/31 at 6pm at the Morehead Conference Center. 2. The Mammoth Cave National Park has completed the draft version of their Trail Management Plan and is seeking public comment. The comment period ends March 24 and there is a public open house scheduled for February 2nd at 6pm CST, Mammoth Cave Hotel. To view the plan online, go to: <http://parkplanning.nps.gov/>
- Cardwell (ATV-West): Once the legislation is approved and ready for public consumption, the American Motorcycle Association has expressed an interest in reviewing it. If the bill is something that the AMA can and would like to support, they will endorse it thereby giving it more awareness throughout the state.
- Cramer (KDFWR): Due to the state budget situation, Fish & Wildlife will not pursue the conservation tax credits bill during this session.
- Collins (Mt. Biking): The International Mountain Biking Association will again send its Trail Crew to Kentucky. May 15-18 the Trail Crew will be in Frankfort to hold a trailwork session revolving around the Capital View Park. The class is open to everyone and for more information on the IMBA Trail Crew and its schedule, please check out <http://www.imba.com/tcc/index.html>
- Runyon (ADD): The eastern Kentucky ADDs have been working with the sKYward Trails Coalition for approximately two years now. The biggest concern and issue facing these 10-12 counties is the liability concerns.
- McLain (ATV-East): The Black Mountain Off-Road Adventure Park in Evarts (Harlan County) has recently compiled and released an economic impact report from their park. The economic benefit of trail systems is evident through these findings. Survey results are below:

Black Mtn Adventure Tourism Park
Economic & Visitor Report
Results of Survey between July 2004 and July 2006

Data for this report has been collected from a paper survey passed out for two years, by phone, and by emails with our visitors and local business.

The majority of our visitors come from up north, from Canada, NY, IN, IL, OH, WI, Mass, and MI. Total 73%

The rest of the visitors come from FL, NC, SC, TN, KY, TX, GA, and AL, our furthest USA visitor has been from Calif. With one group riding our park from Spain.

86% of off road riders live within a 5 hour drive from Harlan County.

The average age of riders is 40 years old.

The average household income ranges from \$ 41,000 to \$85,000 dollars.

Favored activities include ATV riding, hunting, fishing, and camping, with 97% owning their own ATV and many owning two or more.

The average group is 5 or more, over half having children under the age of 15.

ATV riders are planners with 25% planning trips within one month, and 75% within a 3 month time frame. They rely on tourism sites, web sites, and ATV Clubs, and word of mouth.

Other trip related activities include, shopping, dining out, movies, and sight seeing.

The average dollars spent while here is \$ 202.79 per person, per day, at present we have an average of 28,000 to 31,000 visitors per year.

Our local rentals and RV parks are showing an increase of full capacity for a 3 day weekend stay at 97.4% and for stays of 4-7 days of 78.6%, the national average stands at 63.2 %. Our local restaurants are showing an increase of 120%.

With the recent ARC study for Eastern Kentucky, it shows that another 1,500 jobs can be created, and additional 130,000 visitors, and over \$10,000,000 dollars of new money coming into our area. The State KRTA board was just issued a check for \$623,000 dollars, ARC grant money, to roll out this project in E.Ky.

Harlan County has seen 3 Franchise name ATV shops, and 2 local ATV shops open up, 14 new log cabins built, 4 new RV/camp sites, 31 rental homes/apts, 3 new restaurants, 2 new car washes, ATV rentals, and 61.5 new jobs created.

The Harlan County Adventure Tourism Park has been selected the No.1 ATV destination in the United States, 3 years in a row. www.atvpathfinder.com

- Hancock (Equine): Four major horse organizations have joined up and are working together to consolidate interests from the equine user group. TREK will have its annual meeting on Saturday, February 9 at the Cumberland Falls State Resort Park.

VII. New Business

Dennis Crowley with the KY Trails Association, a hiking/backpacking organization in Kentucky gave an update for his user group area. On his website, he announced that he would be willing to add all events related to trails on there and is trying to become a clearinghouse for all hiking information going on in the state. As a member of the SE Foottrails Coalition and the American Hiking Society, Crowley reported that no one is taking a look or is representing the Sheltowee Trace. The Sheltowee is a National Recreational Trail and should be seen as another gem in Kentucky's natural assets. Crowley also brought up that the state should look at walking and biking trip packages like the ones that are offered in European nations such as Italy and Ireland; Mrs. Beshear noted that this would be a great thing for Kentucky to have for the 2010 games.

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

The next meeting will be on Thursday, February 21st. The time will be 11:00am, EST and the location is TBD. The members would like the meeting to be held at the Capitol or Annex and to last no more than one hour. After that, members can meet with legislators if they wish.

XI. Adjournment

There was unanimous vote to adjourn.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:15 p.m.