

Kentucky Recreational Trails Authority Meeting Minutes
Thursday, August 31, 2006 – 1 p.m.
Location: Frankfort Convention and Civic Center

Members Present: Kristen Branscum (Chair), Judy Piazza, Sandy Runyon, Mike Caudill, Mark Cramer, Malcom Winsper, Jerry Hancock, Tim Hazlette (proxy for Transportation Cabinet appointee), Lisa Rudzinski (proxy for Jeff Hancock of KSP), Preston McClain, Ron Cardwell and Alvin Cox.

Guests: Leewood Goodlett – Dept. of Agriculture; Jody McDonald – Governor's Office; Teri Trimble – Big Sandy; Shawn Dyer – Governor's Office; Gene Clabes – K.E.E.P.; Bruce Crowe – United Mountain Horse; Buck Winburn – TREK board member

Staff Present: Kristi Amburgey; Will Warren; Danielle Landolt

I. The meeting was called to order by Kristen Branscum.

II. Roll Call

- a. Ten appointed members were present, which meets the seven needed for quorum
 - i. Tim Hazlette was in attendance to represent Transportation although no official appointment has been made
 - ii. Major Lisa Rudzinski was in attendance for Major Jeff Hancock. However, no proxies were filled out for the first meeting to authorize her vote.
- b. After roll call, the board was notified that two members are still left to be appointed. One is a member from a biking organization that is affiliated with a national organization. The second is an official appointment from the Secretary of the Transportation Cabinet to be his designee.

III. Introductions

All board members introduced themselves and explained what they hoped to achieve through the Kentucky Recreational Trails Authority.

IV. Materials Overview

The materials that were in the binders for each board member were briefly discussed so that the members would be aware of what information that had available to them.

V. Agenda Item: Goals and Objectives for the KRTA

Discussion: Chair Kristen Branscum asked for an open discussion among the board members regarding what they and their respective interest groups feel should be the main goals and objectives for the KRTA. Branscum related that one subject that she had heard raised most often was the issue of landowner liability and the limited public land available. Private landowners are concerned about the liability of opening their land up to use.

The consensus among the board members is that landowner liability issue must be addressed before proceeding on any other initiatives. Deputy Commissioner for Fish & Wildlife Mark Cramer briefly discussed the KRS' that protect those activities his agency addresses such as fishing and hunting on private lands. Preston McLain brought about the discussion of the Black Mountain Recreational Park in Harlan County and how the park is protected. The issue of losing liability protection if a fee for recreational use is charged was discussed as a result.

Malcolm Winsper suggested that the KRTA look at hold harmless laws from other states as a template and to network with other organizations on the issue.

Sandy Runyon spoke about the sKYward Trails project in Eastern Kentucky. Runyon related that there are economic development opportunities for recreation in Eastern Kentucky, as well as, statewide, so landowner protection needs to be addressed to take advantage of these opportunities. Until the issue of landowner liability is addressed, the sKYward Trails project cannot fully move forward. Skyward Trails in Eastern Kentucky: Statistics show Kentucky's per capita use of ATVs are among the highest in the U.S. Skyward Trails is looking into providing safe trails for Eastern Kentucky. There are EPA issues to also be addressed as old strip mines acreage can be used for trails. The issue of balancing the needs of all types of users, not only ATV, was raised. Runyon also stated that 3 counties are working together to purchase land for non-motorized use.

Branscum relayed to the group a brief overview of how the KRTA was created. Since the KRTA took the place of the abolished ATV & Off-Road Motorcycle Commission, Branscum stated that the KRTA would stay true to the original intent of the Commission which was to always be cogniscent of safety and environmental issues.

Branscum discussed the plans for an Adventure Tourism Plan for Eastern Kentucky which came from Governor Fletcher. After the Governor's meeting with a group of Eastern KY county officials and members of the sKYward Trails' KY Mountain Trails Development Coalition, he instructed the Department Tourism & the Governor's Office for Local Development to set about funding and orchestrating a feasibility/comprehensive plan. The Governor expressed his support of an economic for trail and adventure tourism development and wanted the feasibility to insure a return on investment. The status of this project being awarded to the state from the Appalachian Regional Commission should be known sometime in September.

Action taken:

1. Kristen Branscum will look in to bringing in a staff member from the Commerce Cabinet legal department to the next meeting.
2. Judy Piazza will check with Office of Insurance on laws regarding recreational use and hold harmless coverage.
3. Piazza & Branscum will work together to see if the KRTA can use LRC staff in the future.
4. Branscum will work on bringing information to the board regarding pending "hold harmless"/recreational use laws in other states.

VI. Agenda Item: Mission Statement for KRTA

In the interest of time, upon recommendation by Kristen Branscum, the mission statement discussion for the KRTA will be made into an agenda item for a future board meeting.

VII. Agenda Item: ATV Training

Discussion: Malcom Winsper brought to the board's attention the need for ATV safety courses. The board discussed how many dealerships give safety training vouchers when you purchase a new ATV, however those certified classes that are available are small in number which makes it hard for people to attend.

The board also discussed how the state could streamline efforts to gain more certified trainers and courses offered. Ron Cardwell mentioned Knott County and their initiative to build an ATV training facility in the county.

Mark Cramer brought up Fish & Wildlife's Hunter Safety program and gave details on its volunteer instructors and how it is mandatory for all hunters born after 1975.

The board concurred that ATV Training needed to be a part of the overall trail authority mission. It was mentioned that having a statewide Training program might help with any insurance issues.

Leewood Goodlett of the Department of Agriculture gave an overview of the safety initiative they had developed. Staffing is limited and the funding was declined last year for a proposed ATV safety program. Suggestions were to standardize training, ensuring that it was consistent.

Action Taken:

1. Kristen Branscum will provide copies of the ATV manual developed by the Agriculture Department to all members.
2. Ron Cardwell will check with Honda on their safety program and try to obtain a copy of their program.
3. Malcom Winsper will look into limitations on ATV use.

VIII. Agenda Item: KRTA Communications and Budget

Discussion: A website for statewide upcoming recreational events and activities was suggested, as well as, an electronic newsletter. Also include information on public and private trails. Kristen Branscum stated that the Tourism website could include a trails section. Using that website would not require a monetary budget allotment. Tourism is providing the time, meeting space rental and cost of materials for the committee. Jodie McDonald of GOLD, mentioned that funding was available by GOLD through the Recreational Trails Program. The maximum that can be requested is \$100,000.

Action Taken: Kristen will look into Tourism website access opportunities

IX. Agenda Item: New Business

Discussion: Most of the different recreational groups have been contacted for participation.

Action Taken:

1. Alvin Cox and others offered to make contact with individuals to see if they would be interested in applying for the Mountain Bike appointment position.
2. Judy Piazza requested brochures from the different groups that were represented by the board members, such as TREK.

X. Agenda Item: Speakers, agenda items & time for the next meeting

Discussion: A motion was made by Sandy Runyon to keep the meeting date of the KRTA as the last Thursday of every month for future meetings. The motion was seconded by Judy Piazza. For now, they will be held in Frankfort, but moved up to 11:00 to accommodate members who had further to travel.

The next meeting is scheduled for September 28, 2006 at 11:00 in Frankfort.

Action Taken: Kristen Branscum will try to schedule representatives from Hatfield & McCoy creators Rec Resources to the next meeting.

Kristen Branscum made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Judy Piazza seconded the motion.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:30 p.m.