



**Kentucky Recreational Trails Authority Meeting Minutes**  
**Thursday March 29, 2007 – 11:00 a.m.**  
**Location: Frankfort Convention and Civic Center**

**Members Present:** Kristen Branscum (Chair), Judy Piazza, Mark Cramer, Malcolm Winsper, Jerry Hancock, Ed Harding (proxy for Tim Hazlette), Preston McLain, Ron Cardwell, Jack Couch (proxy for Sandy Runyon), Alvin Cox, Mike Caudill, Mike Dulin (proxy for Pat Collins) and Major James Vanhook.

**Members Absent:** All members were present or represented via proxy

**Guests:** Buck Winburn (KY Horse Council), Bruce Crowe (United Mt. Horse), Ginny Grulke (KY Horse Council), Gene Clabes (KEEP), Laura Sudduth (Trailkeepers), Cliff Planck (Trailkeepers), Dave Manner (US Forest Service), George Bain (US Forest Service), Chris Hood (US Forest Service), Donna McClure (Senator McConnell's Office), Holly Hopkins (Senator Jim Bunning's Office), Phyllis McGuire (TREK), and David McGuire (KY Horse Council).

**Staff Present:** Laurie Gutermuth

**I. Call To Order**

The meeting was called to order at 11:05am by Kristen Branscum, Chair.

**II. Roll Call**

- a. Thirteen members were present, which meets the seven needed for quorum.
- b. Ed Harding was in attendance to represent Tim Hazlette from KYTC.
- c. Mike Dulin was in attendance to represent Pat Collins.
- d. Jack Couch was in attendance to represent Sandy Runyon.

**III. Approval of 12/06/06 Meeting Minutes**

There was one change to the 12/06/06 meeting minutes. In reference to the discussion regarding the Daniel Boone National Forest, please note the following corrections to be made: (1.) they are on step 6 out of a 9 step ongoing project-not 8 as mentioned; (2.) The project was to be completed in 3 years, and with some lagging, it should be completed this year-not in 5 years as mentioned; (3.) There is ATV use permitted in certain areas in the Daniel Boone FN, but not in the Red River Gorge Area- the notes from the previous meeting looked as if it meant that there was no ATV use at all on the Boone; (4.) Trail mileage was corrected to say there is 600 miles of trail at DBNF, with 400 miles for horse use. There is also 100 and 20 mile trails open to ATV use.

The 12/06/06 meeting minutes were approved with the exception of the above mentioned changes.

**IV. Adoption of 12/6/06 Agenda**

There were no changes to the agenda. A motion to adopt the agenda as is was made by Kristen Branscum and seconded by Judy Piazza. 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: Daniel Boone NF Trail System Update/Overview**

Deputy Forest Supervisor George Bain reported on trail systems in the Daniel Boone Red River Gorge Area.

*Key Points:*

- There is increased activity in horse use on the 706,000 acres, and since the April 2004 forest plan was revised, cross country travel by horses is now allowed.
- Currently, there are 600 miles of trail, with 400 miles for horse use. In addition, there is 100 mile and 20 mile trail for ATV use.
- The impact of this activity is user created trails as all of the horses use the same trail and eventually resource damage. DBNF needs to prioritize where to put resources.
- In the Cumberland ranger district they are using a LAC process, which focuses on coming up with a balance of recreational use and protecting fragile resources. (The 9 stop process)
- Monetary resources are limited in trying to execute plans to repair trails.
- A group is trying to get an equine campground by the job center in Frenchburg on Highway 77. The US Forest Service does not have the money to build the campground but would be willing to let someone use the land. Mr. Bain readdressed this issue saying there is really no funding, and trail systems need to be defined for horse use before opening a new campground.

*Action: Kristen Branscum opened up suggestions for help with repairing trails to all members, after which Mr. Bain suggested an Integrated Resource Management plan in which all member work together. He also wanted a mailing list of all board members, to open up communications.*

**VII. Agenda Item: Updates**

**1. ARC Adventure Tourism Plan update**

Kristen Branscum gave an overview of the ARC Adventure Tourism Plan for Eastern KY study. Branscum provided a handout for the KRTA members to look at the progress of the study, and let them know it should be completed by June 1, 2006. This April should be a busy month for this study.

*Action:*

*Branscum will keep the board updated on the progress of this study and its findings as it moves forward.*

**2. Legislative Update**

*Key Points:*

- Senate bills 136 & 48 were withdrawn.
- There was some last minute changes made to Senate bill 216, but it was not called up.
- Judy Piazza suggested that there were too many bills in too short of a session, and bill language and purpose were not clear.

*Action:*

*It was suggested that a meeting with legislators be held in Eastern Kentucky to go over legislation. Legislators will be invited to the next KRTA meeting in Knott County. The board members voiced that we need to have a more comprehensive plan and timeline to address legislative needs.*

**3. NOHVCC Conference Update**

Kristen Branscum attended the National OHV Conservation Council in Charleston, West Virginia in late March. It was recognized that Kentucky does not have an OHV Program manager. Many states that require registrations of OHVs take those monies and fund trail programs through the OHV program manager's office. Board member were directed to review Branscum's notes on the Conference, and an ATV safety DVD and activity book collected from the Conference were included in all member meeting packets. Mention of the ATV Safety program that 4-H has in existence was also discussed. More information for local communities to acquire grant money and about the program itself can be found at [www.atv-youth.org](http://www.atv-youth.org)

**VIII. Agenda Item: Strategic Planning--Where do we go from here?**

The board discussed the role of OHV/ATV safety of as part of its mission statement because Kentucky has the highest death rate due to ATV accidents. *Post-meeting note: This statement was verified by the Consumer Product Safety Commission study as of 2004; data from '05 and '06 has not yet been verified.* To improve safety, thus possibly improving willingness of landowners to put up land for trails, etc, and them expanding tourism, Kentucky needs a location for information on safety classes and certification. We need a body of knowledge that will link all trail user groups and provide information on location of trails, safety, and events around the state.

As reiterated by some board members and guests, the directive of the KRTA via legislation is for the purpose of “planning and implementing programs to expand tourism opportunities for off-road activities pertaining to non-motorized and motorized vehicle use.” The overall consensus of the board was to achieve these goals through three basic avenues: 1. Increase land access for recreational trails; 2. Reduce liability of landowners that allow recreational activities on their land; and 3. Promote trail safety and education.

Proposals for achieving this goal were provided by each member of the board as follows:

**Mike Caudill** - – Increase access, reduce liability, education (Pine Mountain Ridge – horse trail)

**Ed Harding** - Combine all programs each user group has into one portal. Work together as a group to provide as much information as possible.

**Mark Cramer** – Increase access and reduce liability. Need more land. Compatible use.

**Jack Couch** – Remove obstacles (improve access to public lands), expand opportunity.

**Alvin Cox** – State coordination, look at Hatfield & McCoy and Virginia, and compatible use – but be environmentally sound.

**Judy Piazza** – Comprehensive list of every available recreation trail in Kentucky, and list multiple uses of each trail and all requirements to participate in each use. Also list Tourism sites and help point to places that can provide funding needed for trails.

**Ron Cardwell** – Validate economic value and consulting or clearing house of information for all user groups.

**Preston McLain** – Agreed with all previous proposals, also expand trails, include safety, and recognize Ron as administrator. Promote current opportunities, expand tourism, and motorcycle safety should be included in ATV safety classes.

**Malcolm Winsper** – Training and safety, environmental issues be included in training classes, liability to get programs going, and use trails properly.

**James Vanhook** – Better promotion of current opportunities in the state and increase access

**Jerry Hancock** – Increase access, decrease liability, help with funding programs for counties to put in camp grounds, host horse shows, etc.

**Mike Dulin** – Inventory of what is around the state, common sign language on trails, maps and GPS coordinates. Find out what makes Kentucky trails better than other states and really know the trails.

**Guest Comments** – Increase access, inventory existing trails, help with partnerships between other state & federal agencies, help promote rural communities with marketing & public relations of their successes, help to finding revenue from the users of these existing trails to help with maintenance and upkeep.

*Action:*

*All members are encourage to collect success stories from their areas or other that they know of in regards to recreational trails (ie: the economic impact of the Hatfield-McCoy area) so that we can add in a presentation that the board can use when talking to legislators or other parties about our mission.*

*Kristen Branscum will send a first draft of the mission statement based on comments for board members to add comments. This will be done electronically and also added to the kyoutdoors forum that Preston discussed. Instructions on this forum will be sent separately to board members.*

**IX. New Business**

Mike Caudill will bring information on the Pine Mountain Ridge horseback trail to the next meeting for the board.

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

The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday April, 19<sup>th</sup> at 10:30 p.m. at the Knott County ATV & Motorcycle Rider Training Center.

Ron Cardwell is working on logistics for the meeting, so more information to follow on exact schedule.

**XIII. Adjournment**

Kristen Branscum made a motion to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by several members.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:05 p.m.