

March 23rd, 2017
NRGTA Board meeting
Greenbrier County Court House in Lewisburg 5:00 pm

Board members present:

Bill Wells
Adam Hodges
Jeff Evans
Andrew Davis
Marvin Davis
Andrew Forron
Doug Hylton
Steve Jones
Gary Moorefield
Claire Rozdilski
Phil Waidner

Bill Wells called the meeting to order after we had a quorum, around 5:00 pm. Doug Hylton the Greenbrier County representative was present and everybody introduced himself or herself to Doug.

Treasurer's report: Kevin Rock was absent; Bill Wells gave a Treasurer's report. We have a grand total of \$3575.00 with \$1225.00 in the West Virginia connecting communities and \$2350.00 in the BBT account.

There were not any additions or corrections to the previous meeting minutes. A motion to approve the minutes was made by Doug Hylton and seconded by Gary Moorefield. The motion was approved.

Connecting Trails: Bill wants everyone to take their County maps and Mark them up for our six county connecting trails and the auxiliary trails that connect into the connecting trail network. This will help us to show our plan when we're applying for grants. Fayette County: Andy Forron, Greenbrier County: Doug Hylton, Nicholas County: Ray Moeller and Andy Forron, Raleigh County: Gary Moorefield, Summers County: Jeff Evans. Bill will find someone for Kanawha County. Marvin is offering to put an online Map together. The group can make changes to the map.

Mission and the Vision Statements: Marvin states there were three Vision Statements submitted. We discussed the differences of each version of the Vision statement and voted. A motion was made By Marvin Davis to approve Option A and was seconded by Andy Forron. The New Vision Statement reads: **"Building a world class trail network connecting communities"**. This was the Vision statement was developed by the NRGTA workshop on 2.21.2017. Next we need a working group to develop the core values strategies and Trail standards. There was an agreement to keep the Mission statement the same as what we agreed to originally. **" The NRGTA shall create and maintain a regional trail network"**.

Fundraising: Andy Forron, we need to put membership applications in the local shops. Also we need to put the application online. Andy also suggests we put together a sheet that we take to shops. We don't have a web site to post the applications yet but we have a Facebook page. Andy Forron agreed to develop an NRGTA display for local businesses.

Membership: The board previously approved a motion to purchase the Wild Apricot non-profit membership management software when money was available for the annual fee. NRGTA now has sufficient funds available and the board agreed to purchase the Wild Apricot Software for membership tracking. Also we can use this software to put together a web site. Marvin made a motion to buy the \$40.00 option. Gary Moorefield seconded the motion.

Phil Waidner and Gary Moorefield Volunteered to maintain the software. Phil will work with Kevin Rock for Kevin to set up payment for the software.

Tabletop Display: Adam Hodges suggested we put together a tabletop display for display in stores or government functions. Andy Forron will put together a sheet describing the NRGTA for posting in stores. Adam Hodges will work with Andy Forron to develop the tabletop display.

Bill Wells and Billy Strasser are going to meet with the Greenbrier County Commissioners at their next monthly meeting. Bill is offering to make a presentation at any of the County Commissioners meetings. Call Bill if you can arrange to have Bill at a County Commissioners meeting.

Next meetings are: Summers County May 16th at the Pipestem Resort McKeever Lodge and Raleigh County is tentatively July 11th. Gary Moorefield will confirm the date later.

Bill Wells requested news articles for our next newsletter in April. The next Newsletter will come out by the end of April. Send Bill your articles by early April.

Claire Rozdilski and Marvin Davis met with the climbers. We need to have good trails to access the climbing areas. We need a NRGTA representative on the climber's board to give our input to the climber's board of directors.

Steve Jones and Billy Strasser did an interview with Channel 4 news for about an hour. It will be on TV Wednesday. There was an article in the February Blue Ridge Outdoors magazine issue about the NRGTA.

Claire Rozdilski announced that the National Parks Service would have a public listening session on April 8th at 5:30 to 7:30 pm to discuss climbing and trails to access climbing areas.

Steve Jones stated that the Arc grants are on the chopping block. There's \$0 from the Trump administration budget. ARC has brought in 55 projects in West Virginia and created 2750 jobs. We need a letter writing campaign to our representatives supporting the ARC grants. Marvin Davis included that we need to add our Governor and State Delegates. Steve Jones will put together some talking points in a letter and send it out to members to talk to our representatives.

Billy Strasser updated the board on the ARC Implementation Grant for the Fayette and Nicholas County Trail. A Federal agency is required to do an environmental study. The Department of Highways will partner with the grant group and put up a cash match. The DOH wants a letter of support from the Fayette County Commission that the county will own and maintain any trails they pickup. Steve Jones and Billy Strasser received that letter from the commission on Tuesday. There are a number of organizations around to pickup the maintenance on the trails. Steve stated there a number of grants written for maintenance of the trails and we're looking for ways to get volunteers to maintain the trails.

Motion to Adjourn: Marvin Davis, seconded by Phil Waidner. The board approved the motion.

Greenbrier County Public Meeting

6:00 pm

We had 6 participants from the public.

Bill Wells gave a welcome to all the public participants and gave a description of the NRGTA.

Doug Hylton gave a Meadow river trail update. There were 16.7 miles of rails to trails damaged by the 1000-year flood last year. Also there will be a new Rails to Trails made up of 6 miles of track from CSX. CSX will remove the rails prior to converting to trails.

Jeff Evans; Summers County is the early planning stages of putting a trail from Hinton down to the end of Mary Ingles trail, just outside of Glenn Lynn Virginia. The trail would be 25 miles long with a gravel base. It would follow the old Kanawha Giles turnpike and be 8 feet wide. The trail is in the early planning stages and we haven't met to get right of ways yet.

Billy Strasser gave a description of the ARC power grant for trail from Fayette to Richwood. We'll be connecting trails through Fayette and Nicholas Counties. We could possibly include Greenbrier counties into the trail network.

Marvin Davis; Oak Hill wants to connect the Oak hill trail system with the NRGTA trail network. Funding is still pending for the Needles eye Boulder Park.

Open Discussion: there were many questions and inquiries of the repairs to the Greenbrier River trail after the 1000-year flood. Doug Hylton stated that the Greenbrier River Trail is owned and maintained by the State Parks system and Greenbrier County doesn't have jurisdiction over it. The Department of highways has listed the needed repairs to the Greenbrier River trail and has put the repairs out for bids. One representative for a local group has offered \$10,000.00 for repairs to the Greenbrier River Trail. One of the public asked if we had the support of Governor Jim Justice. Bill Wells stated we have much support within our State government.

Email vote:

There was an email vote that concluded today, April 3rd 2017 to add D. Anne Cavalier and John Frisby as Board Members representing the towns of Smithers and Montgomery respectively. We have received 10 yes votes for the approval. This represents a majority of the board members so their election is approved. There were no dissenting votes

Submitted by
Jeff Evans
Recording Secretary

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