

May.16, 2017
NRGTA Board meeting
Pipestem State Resort Park, McKeever Lodge 5:00 pm

Board members present:

Bill Wells
Kevin Rock
Jeff Evans
Andrew Davis
Andrew Forron
Dave Hartvigsen
Steve Jones
Gary Moorefield
Claire Rozdilski

Guests: Billy Strasser NRGTA resource

No Official business was conducted at this meeting. Since we had only 9 of the 20 board members we didn't have a quorum. The regular official business usually approved at our board meetings will have to be approved at the next regular meeting in Raleigh County at the City Hall in Beckley.

President Bill Wells chaired the meeting.

Treasurer's report:

Kevin Rock gave a Treasurer's report. We have \$1225.00 in the West Virginia connecting communities and \$2835.00 in the BBT account for a grand total of \$3755.00. We have 21 memberships, 15 individuals and 6 corporate.

Bill suggests that all the board members talk to their County Boards and their County CVB's about becoming members of the NRGTA.

County trail Maps update:

Though the NRGTA members had agreed to have their county maps marked up for this meeting no one present had completed their County trail maps. When completed the trail maps would be used to present an overall vision of the NRGTA trail network, which would be used for grant applications. The maps need to show the trails in detail, the arterial trails and branch trails. We could sell maps of our trails after we get them put together. We may need some special meetings for counties that have interconnecting trails.

We want to have a draft map of each county by the next board meeting. Then we need to print out the maps. Dave suggests Pat Schrader to do the printing. Trail maps would be a way we could publicize our trail network. We need a map that would show our overall trail network and could be used in a magazine or other publication or used to plan a multi day trip. We will have to bid out the map printing if it's over \$1000.00. Steve Jones states there is money for mapping in his grant, about \$10,000. Although he needs to know when we plan on purchasing the maps because he has to transfer the money. The grant mapping money needs to be used by September. All present were in agreement to have their County maps ready by the next NRGTA board meeting in Raleigh County.

Trail development and Trail standards:

From previous meetings we had discussed Trail design standards. To get input from all board members for non-motorized trail standards Marvin had started a goggle drive discussion. We did not discuss the Non Motorized Trail standards document at this meeting. The board still needs to discuss, amend and approve a final Trail Standards document at the next Board meeting.

We discussed the need for our trail system to support motorized as well as non-motorized trails. Not all the Government entities will allow ATV's on their trails. Initially the NRGTA is focusing on non-motorized trails but we will include motorized trails in the NRGTA trail network in the future. We need to be inclusive instead of exclusive. Also the Hatfield and McCoy trail network is supporting the NRGTA in our efforts.

Some items we discussed on non-motorized trails; the terrain will dictate the design and type of the trail, which means we need lots of flexibility in the design of our trails. Our goal is to connect towns and then have mountain bike trails connecting to the arterial trails. This will enable visitors to plan multi-day trips.

The National Parks service has put much manpower in creating a booklet on trail design. This is a great book that a lot of work has gone into for designing trails and trail networks. This would be a great resource in designing our trail system. We have a copy and it's available online (search National Parks connecting communities). We need to inquire as to whether they'll share more copies of this book.

Web Site update:

Phil Waidner has started building the NRGTA web site. He has it roughed in. We don't have a date yet when the web site will go live. Once it's online Phil will need board members to submit content to him to put on the web site.

Display for conferences and donation box:

Andy reports that there are plastic boxes we could use. We would put the NRGTA information on the box i.e. web site, Facebook, maps etc. We could start with 3 or 4 boxes and see if they work out. Dave suggests a 7 foot tall 3 ½ wide trade show display that comes in a case for about \$250.00. The NRGTA would supply the artwork and a company he suggested would put the display together.

ARC grant application:

Steve Jones reports: All the information has been turned in; the Grant has been approved but not awarded yet. They award grants in packages and ours will be awarded any day now. The grant has a new partner, the WV DOH. They're putting in \$300,000.00. The WV DOH will be managing the construction side of the grant. We did some swapping of trail work with the county because they didn't get their grant approved. The work will start in September and be a 2-½ year project. It will be complicated because there will be several partners, WV DOH, Federal Highways, Region 4 development. This grant will be a challenge to keep on track and moving. Steve says that he has a very tight timeline. We can start the time line anytime but we only have 2 ½ years to complete the project.

A trail maintenance program will also be part of the project. There will be two crews doing trail maintenance work. There will be one crew in Fayetteville and one in Richwood. They will be mostly volunteers with two full time employees. We want to announce the project in the paper and get our politicians involved to support us. This will be a real challenge to complete. This ARC grant is in the 2017 budget.

Billy Strasser thanks the NRGTA for accepting over seeing the non-construction side of the grant.

Dave suggests that we get the governor's office involved in supporting the NRGTA because the NRGTA fits well with the Governor's agenda.

Steve reports the ARC has a peer-to-peer conference on June 28th in Huntington. It's about peers helping peers.

Membership update:

We only had two new members join since the last board meeting; both are from Fayetteville County (our 2 new board members). We have members in 7 states now.

Next meetings:

The Raleigh County meeting is July 18th. The meeting will be in Beckley City Hall at 4:30 and the public meeting at 6:00 pm. The Fayetteville County meeting in September will be at Adventures on the Gorge. Dave will look at available dates and get back to us with a date. Also Dave offers to host any future workshop meetings at Adventures on the Gorge. The November meeting will be in Kanawha County. The NRGTA board has two new members from Fayette County, John Frisby (Montgomery) and Anne Cavalier (Smithers). Andy met with a Gauley Bridge councilman. Gauley Bridge would like to have a representative on the board and host a meeting.

Old Business:

None

New Business:

Steve Jones brought up that he met with the Nuttall family about getting a right a way through part of their property. The Nuttall family expressed concerns about objections of some the activities that they do on their property, i.e. hunting, timbering and other non-environmental activities. Bill stated that the NRGTA needs to draft a policy or statement that states the NRGTA will not take any positions on these non-environmental activities. As an example we need to adopt the Forrest service policy versus National Parks policy

Summers County Public Meeting

6:00 pm

We had 3 participants from the public. Jack David Woodrum represented Summers County Commission.

Bill Wells gave a welcome to all the public participants and gave a description of the NRGTA and assessment of our current projects and summarized our overall vision of the future NRGTA trail network.

Jeff Evans; Summers County is in 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 a 50-mile loop 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. We haven't met to get any right of ways yet. The project would be broken down into two stages. The first stage would be from Bell Pointe in Hinton to the WV-Virginia border. The second stage would follow the New River on river left up to the Bluestone River and then follow the New River back to Hinton. David Ziegler clarifies that the

trail would be close to the New River and Bluestone Lake. Also David Ziegler suggests that the NRGTA network be expanded to include Mercer County with trails that would follow the Bluestone River and Brushy Creek.

Billy Strasser gave a description of the ARC power grant for the 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. We will use existing roads and right of ways, which will expand the trails to over 500 miles.

Open Discussion:

We had open discussions about ARC Grants; trail maintenance and trails in general.

Email vote:

The NRGTA board voted in May to accept ownership of the ARC Richwood Fayetteville Trail grant.

Submitted by
Jeff Evans
Recording Secretary

Final