

July 18th 2017
NRGTA Board meeting
Beckley City Hall started 4:30 pm

Board members present:

Bill Wells
Kevin Rock
Jeff Evans
Andrew Davis
Marvin Davis
Thomas Skaggs (Town of Smithers)
Andrew Forron
Steve Jones
Gary Morefield
Claire Rozildilski
Phil Waidner

Guests: Billy Strasser NRGTA resource, Arc grant project manager, Jim Tucker (Gauley Bridge) and Chris Banks

President Bill Wells chaired the meeting.

Treasurer's report:

Kevin Rock gave the Treasurer's report: We have a grand total of \$3930.83 in our accounts. Kevin is in the process of closing out the account for Connecting Communities although at this time it's still open. Bill has the membership fee for one member and will send it to Kevin.

County trail Maps update:

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. Both Fayette and Summers county maps were marked up and ready to be put online. Bill went through the map for Fayette County that Bill and Andy Forron completed. The National Park service hasn't approved the proposed trails through the National Park yet. Jeff went through the map for Summers County. Everything is the early planning stage. We haven't met with the Department of Natural Resources yet to get rights of ways through their land.

Bill needs to get Gary a fresh map of Raleigh County to mark up.

We need to get the other 4 county maps marked up.

Marvin will get the maps uploaded online and if the board wants to collaborate Marvin will make them open ended so you'll be able to update them. You won't have to wait for a board meeting to update your county map. After you get your map marked up get it to Bill and he'll forward them to Marvin to upload online.

Minutes Approval:

Our May meeting in Summers County was unofficial since we didn't have a quorum (we need 9 voting board members present) so the March minutes in Greenbrier were not approved in May and need to be approved. The May minutes are available to review although they don't need to be approved. Marvin Davis made a motion and Steve Jones seconded the motion to approve the minutes from the Greenbrier meeting in March. The Board voted to approve the motion.

Web Site update:

Phil Waidner announced the NRGTA web site is about 75% complete. Phil will need board members to submit content to him to put on the web site. New NRGTA Members will be able to join through the web site. Phil will list all the current projects and the status of those projects. Marvin says we'll put the trail maps on the web site as they become available. Phil has already put some trail maps on the web site. Phil has a page called projects that shows the status of all the projects in the NRGTA. There is an Events page and newsletter page also. We could have a member's only content page and board members only content page to share documents and directory of members. We have already voted to approve to upgrade from a free account to a group option that costs \$40.00 a month and pay for a full year at our past meeting. The web site should be up and running before the September meeting. Our web address isn't set yet. Jeff made a motion that we buy nrgta.org address, seconded by Marvin Davis and approved by the board. Cost will be \$12.00 a year to buy the address. Marvin made a motion to modify the motion to a \$20.00 rate and purchase the address for 5 years and set the renewal up for auto renewal. The board approved the motion. We'll take an email vote later to approve a pay source such as Paypal.

Trail development and Trail standards (Marvin Davis):

From previous meetings we discussed Trail design standards. To get input from all board members for non-motorized trail standards Marvin had started a goggle drive discussion. The group decided we would work on non-motorized trail standards first. Today we discussed the trail standards associated with Arterial and Rural routes (routes connecting communities). The Arterial routes would be fully developed routes, existing in communities; the cream of the crop and would be available for tap funding. We never could get an agreement for the widths. Marvin's proposal offered four options for the widths. After Arterial routes there are Rural routes. They could be narrower, paved or gravel roads. They would be less likely for trail funding but more likely for recreational trail funding. There are two widths up for debate. The third would be recreational routes i.e. stack trail routes (mountain bike trails). These would be available for recreational trail funding.

Marvin opened up the discussion about arterial trail widths. We decide to have a maximum of 10 and minimum of 6 feet. Steve asks what we intend to apply these standards to. We couldn't apply these standards to the present ARC grant. It would cost too much and it's not written in the ARC grant. Marvin states we would apply these standards to building future trails which would be written in future grants. Bill suggests this will require more discussion then we have time today and wants to table the discussion. We may need a special meeting to finish the discussion and present the options to the board. There's some question as to whether these Trail Standards need to be guidelines. Gary made a motion to table the Trail Standards discussion and Steve Jones 2nd the motion.

ARC grant application:

Steve Jones reports: The grant has been awarded for one million four hundred thousand dollars with \$300,000 from the WV DOH and \$100,000 for volunteers. Billy Strasser will be the project manager. Project will be two parts, construction and non-construction. DOH wants a turnkey operation. We'll start construction on September 1st. We have lots of trails already built that need trail maintenance and trail restoration. We're working on clearing 40 miles of trails presently. Already we're having problems with the project. We have a slow cumbersome process and we're on a timeline. Steve suggests we need to change the process. It takes too long to get decisions made because we need to get the ARC grant committee together to vote.

The project is a total 500 miles with 150 miles of share the road. We'll have two trail maintenance centers, one in Richwood or Oak Hill and one in Fayetteville. We're having trouble finding and keeping help. We have two full time paid positions. We'll be managing \$300,000 for these two positions. We'll be setting up an ARC committee meeting in the next 10 days. It's important to have everyone present at the first meeting. Steve is concerned of a delay because the clock is ticking. Marvin makes a motion we table the Arc Grant discussion due to time constraints, Jeff Seconded the motion. The board approved the motion, Steve Jones Dissents.

Next meetings:

The Fayette County board meeting will be at Adventures of the Gorge on September 26th at 4:30 pm and the public meeting at 6:00 pm (from email). The November meeting will be in Kanawha County. We presently haven't set a date, time or location for the Kanawha meeting. The Kanawha County meeting will complete our county meetings for the year.

Old Business:

None

New Business:

None

A motion to adjourn was made by Marvin and seconded by Phil. The board approved the motion.

Raleigh County Public Meeting:

6:00 pm

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. Each County representative gave a description of projects in their counties.

The Television station **WVVA** was present and recorded the public meeting.

There were 5 guests present.

Bill Wells gave a summary of proposed and existing trails and how they're funded in Fayette County.

Andrew Davis summarized trail networks in Mount Hope.

Jeff Evans summarized the proposed trails in Summers County, which are in the early planning stages.

Steve Jones and Billy Strasser gave a description of the ARC power grant for the trail system from Fayetteville to Northern Richwood. Work will begin September 1st with the ARC grant money.

Gary Moorefield summarized the trail work being done and proposed trails in Raleigh County.

Claire Rozildilski described the plan for trails through the National Parks in Raleigh County.

Raleigh County residences gave us their ideas of trails in Raleigh County.

Marvin Davis described the work being done in the Needleseye Park.

Marvin suggested we maintain contact with the railroad companies so when rail line is abandoned we can pursue purchasing it for the trail network. Steve Jones added it's easier to get abandoned rail line for trail use before it's abandoned and becomes public property. Steve and Billy have a list of rail lines that they have requested the DOH to turn over to the NRGTA and if anyone knows of any rail line that will be abandon to add to it their list so we can get it before it becomes public property.

We had a lengthy discussion about concerns with ATV's using the NRGTA trails. The concerns being that the ATV's would destroy the trails intended for cycling and hiking. The group voiced

the opinion that there would be a multi faceted approach to dealing with the ATV's. Also there was a consensus that the ATV's wasn't a great concern for the NRGTA.

Bill Wells thank all the public participants for their participation in the meeting.

Email vote:

The NRGTA board email voted on August 5th to approve 3 items concerning the ARC grant

1. The committee was authorized by the Board by an earlier email vote. The Committee adopted Rules of Governance (attached). The committee needs to approve these rules that will govern the committee and the management of the grant. When you vote you can refer to this as Item #1.
2. The ARC grant budget includes a position of Trail Maintenance Manager for a period of 30 months. This will be a contract employee working for the NRGTA. To comply with government requirements, the position must be advertised. Billy Strasser has obtained quotes from the Beckley and Charleston newspapers and ads can be placed in both for less than \$750 total. No money was provided in the grant budget for advertising this position. Please approve the expenditure of up to \$750 from the NRGTA bank account for advertising this position. When you vote, please refer to this as Item 2.
3. The grant requires that we set up a separate bank account to accept grant funds. We will set up this account at BB&T where we have our other account. The only funds that will flow through the account will be reimbursement payments for expenditures under the grant. The account will have 4 people authorized to sign checks. Any check will require 2 signatures. One of these signatures will be John Tuggle, who is the Director of Region 4, the grant recipient. The other signature can be one of three of the committee members: Ray Moeller, Bill Wells or Adam Hodges. Please approve establishing a separate bank account to receive grant funds. When you vote, please refer to this as Item 3.

The vote tally was 14 yes votes and one no votes for item 1, 15 yes votes and 0 no votes for items 2 and 3.

Submitted by
Jeff Evans
Recording Secretary

Final: Monday, September 04, 2017