

May 22nd, 2019
NRGTA Board meeting
Summers County meeting Memorial building Hinton

Board members present:

Bill Wells
Adam Hodges
Kevin Rock
Jeff Evans
Matt Ford
Andy Forron
Gary Morefield
Andy Pendleton
Claire Rozdilski

NRGTA Employees: Sam Chamber and Kim Maxwell (Billy Strasser was attending the Regional ARC convention in Athens Ohio)

1) Bill Wells called the meeting to order (around 4:34 pm.). Bill welcomed and introduced new Board member Matt Ford. Matt is the Team Leader of the Meader River trail and the President of the Meader River Valley Trail Association.

Also Bill welcomed and introduced Kim Maxwell who will be the Grant manager for the new ARC grant that will be evaluating and selecting the best trails to expand the NRGTA trail network. She will also be compiling the Trail Town manual. The Trail Town Manual will be a guide for cities and communities on how to become an attractive Trail Town. She will also be evaluating expanding the NRGTA into Monroe and Webster Counties.

2) Minutes and email votes:

The Greenbrier County meeting (last meeting) was not an official meeting (did not have a quorum). The minutes were unofficial and don't need to be approved.

Email Votes taken after the Greenbrier Meeting:

- A vote was taken to approve the nomination of Bill Hannabass to fill the vacancy for Oak Hill representative.
- A vote was taken to approve the nomination of Matt Ford to fill the vacancy for Greenbrier County representative.
- A vote was taken to approve the nomination of Thom Merkle to fill the vacancy for the Summit Bechtel Reserve representative.

All 3 votes were approved by a majority of the NRGTA Board.

3) Treasurer's report: Kevin gave the Treasurer's report. We have total assets of \$10,443.24.00 in four separate accounts. There's \$7820.00 available for day to day operations. **Year to date:** There was \$1690.00 in dues and \$1227.47 in donations collected. Grants funds income was \$36,448.56. **Total Income** was \$39,366.03 for January through May. **Total expenses** were \$48,751.84 with \$46,947.08 on the Arc Grant expenses and \$1,804.76 on Operational expenses. This leaves us a deficit of \$9385.81. We started the year with a cash surplus.

Kevin has prepared the 990 from last year (in an IRS format) if anyone wants to see a

copy of it. Phil will post the 990 to the Web site. It will be presented to the board by email for approval. It needs to be submitted to the IRS by October 15th.

4) Membership & Web Site: Bill read from Phil's report (Phil had prior commitments). We have 157 membership bundles. This is broken down to 37 family, 132 active, with 30 renewals due, 16 lapsed and 9 pending. Our membership has increased from last year from the low 50's to 157. We believe the use of Summit Bechtel has helped some to increase membership and more people are learning about the NRGTA.

5) Grants update:

ARC Grant Bill reports:

A) Most of the legal work for property acquisition is done for the trail from Pax to Richwood. The engineering company of Burgess and Nigel will do a one line drawing showing locations and elevations of the trail. Next the appraisers will give fair market values of the land that needs to be acquired to build the trail. Then the NRGTA will make offers to the property owners to acquire the properties. Conceptually the property owners are okay with the NRGTA acquiring the land for the trail but are waiting on the appraisals. After the land is acquired than the Burgess and Nigel will do a detailed design and afterwards we'll start construction.

The single track trails were removed from the grant because the engineering cost would be more than the construction cost. We're looking into renting a mini excavator and doing the single track construction ourselves. The NRGTA Board had previously approved part of the cost for this work but we're looking into getting money from other sources outside the NRGTA.

We'll do an email vote for approval of volunteer IN-Kind hours.

Billy will be applying for a mini grant from the HUB (an organization in Charleston) to market the NRGTA and trail system. We'll be working with a marketing firm to increase the NRGTA membership. Also we're looking for ideas to attract new members into the NRGTA, such as offering a tee shirt when you join.

B) Trail Maintenance Sam reports:

There's a work day May 29th to build a section of trail on the Whitlock farm from Wolf Creek to Crickets Run.

June 2nd there will be work day in Wolf Creek Park to do trail maintenance.

Christy Bailey and Renee from the County Parks have applied for a grant for a triple C crew. The grant would be split 3 ways.

A new trail from Needles Eye to the ACE trail is presently being flagged. It's a 3.5 miles long trail. We'll be applying for a RTP grant and also may get some help from ACE Adventures.

X) New TA Grant Kim Reports:

Kim introduced herself. Reports she's tasked to identify and assess the next steps and what extensions and connections are the best ideas. She will be speaking to stake holders and Board members about their ideas. Then put together a matrix which would become a plan that we would use to apply for Grants. She'll be putting together a "Trail Town Manual" to be used as a guide how to become a

trail town.

6) Bylaws Committee Claire reports:

The Committee consists of Claire (chair), Bill and Andy Forron. The committee met one time and has been reviewing the bylaws to determine what the bylaws state what we should be doing that we're not doing and also reviewing the bylaws in general. The committee will submit the changes suggested after their review is complete. Then allow Board members to comment and vote on the proposed changes. The committee will be meeting again shortly.

7) New Trail Authority Bill reports:

This is new legislation passed by the West Virginia legislature in the last legislative session. It allows the creation of a multi county Trail Authority that would build trails. The creation of a Trail Authority would have funding for full time employees to build and maintain trails and the NRGTA would continue to operate as it does as non profit writing grants and the things we do now. The Trail Authority legislation would provide liability coverage for land owners where trails cross their property. We'll be meeting with the different County Commissioners to discuss the NRGTA's ideas for creating a Trail Authority. We'll be putting together a proposal to talk to the Counties for the Board to approve.

8) Proposal for Tee Shirts, Bill:

Need the Board approve purchase of a 100 tee shirts that would be sold. We need to redesign our logo first. Bill will send this out in a future email vote. Andy F. will get a cost proposal with a new logo.

9) West Virginia Coal Association, Bill:

Bill attended a WV Coal Association meeting. They are interested in becoming part of the NRGTA. They could help us to have access to upper levels of government and help with Land Companies that could work with us. They could also offer help with equipment we need to build trails. Bill will draft a proposal for the Board to approve with the WV Coal Association. The WV Coal Association is looking for positive Public Relations in turn for helping the NRGTA with our objectives. The WV Coal Association would have a member on our Board.

10) Bridge Jam Music Festival Fund raiser:

Bridge Jam is August 23rd and 24th. Should the NRGTA be a member? The NRGTA could get 15% of the proceeds if there are any (Bridge Jam didn't make profit last year). Also for those purchasing tickets on line, if they specify the NRGTA promotion code the NRGTA gets 15% of the ticket price. If we have a poker run the NRGTA would collect all the proceeds. We would set up a tent for the NRGTA to run the poker run out of. Bill will send out an email vote.

11) Old Business:

- Jeff reports that Summers County and the NPS are working together to improve the Bluestone Turnpike trail between Bluestone State park and Pipestem State Park. Summers County is applying for an ARC Grant to do the design work and later will apply for a construction grant. The NPS also has a \$10,000 grant to install causeways along the trail.

New Business:

- Should we change the name of the NRGTA with the possible expansion? The name needs to represent the region we support. Also the word trail is misleading.

We have a network of routes. Some folks may be confused and believe our trails are single tracks. We'll have more discussions later.

- Should we sell tee shirts at our poker run?
- Gary Morefield suggests we acquire trail counters to count the number of folks using the trails. We would need more than one. There are counters available that come with software that put the information in a usable format. We need a proposal to put before the board. Also we need to look for a way to pay for the counters.

Next meeting: The July Board meeting of the NRGTA will be held in Raleigh County. The Raleigh County Board Meeting will begin at 4:30 PM and the public meeting will start at 6:00 PM. A date and place will be picked later.

Adjourn:

Submitted by:

Jeff Evans

Secretary

Public Meeting:

There were no public participates.

Email Votes taken after the Summers County Meeting:

The email votes below were approved by major Board members of the NRGTA:

- The National Coal Heritage Area Authority for the Wolf Creek Park grant.
- Submit NRGTA's 2018 form 990 to the IRS as presented.