

## ISLAND TRAILS NETWORK

Minutes of Regular Meeting  
03/18/10

**Call to order:** Whipple called meeting to order 12:09 PM 03/18/10 in the Chamber Conference Room.

**Quorum:** A quorum was established with Whipple, Foreman, Slater, Saltonstall, Tschersich, Glaspell, and Witteveen present.

**Approval of Consent Agenda:** Schroeder moved to replace the agenda item "Trails Plan" with "Sunny Cove Trail" in the minutes of 03/18/10. Foreman moved to accept the consent agenda as amended. Slater seconded. Passed 7-0.

**Audience Comments:** Blythe Brown and KSWCD have a grant to identify and map fish passages, including culverts and bridges which are being identified by ITN's trails assessments. Brown will focus on roads early in the study in the hopes of collaborating with ITN the mapping of bridges and culverts later in the study. Whipple asked Brown and Schroeder to share trail mapping data with ADF&G so they can update the locations of legal stream crossings.

Brown is also planning to do a geoblock demonstration project this year to show the public how it works. She is considering the fairgrounds as a location, but would like to brainstorm with ITN on where and when to install it. Greg D'Elia is interested in doing this as an Eagle Scout project.

### **Unfinished Business:**

**Trails Summit:** Slater gave a summary of the first two committee meetings. Most of the emphasis is on encouraging submissions. Entrants are asked to use YouTube but are still allowed to mail a DVD. Posters are still being hung, board members were encouraged to approach clubs, organizations and interest groups to encourage submissions. Schroeder added that submissions have been lean, and he's concerned about getting enough. Schroeder suggested commenting on web videos tagged with the word "Kodiak" and encouraging them to apply through a video comment. Foreman asked if Betsy would be willing to visit Mr. Beber's office to encourage him to talk to his film students about the event. Foreman suggested we approach fishermen and hunters too. Schroeder will begin advertising this week through print and radio media, and continue this until the Trails Summit.

Slater will hold a party at 6:00 Saturday the 27<sup>th</sup> at her house to review submissions. Poster for the event is in production and will be posted next week. Doors open at 6 for an open house with informational booths. Food will be served at 6:20, the silent auction will be held during intermission and at the end

of the event. Food will be Big Al's pizza with salad. Schroeder said a current list of members will be on-hand, so that current members can walk in without waiting in line. For all others, membership forms will be available outside the door. Glaspell pointed out that the Envirothon high school science competition is that day, and is an opportunity for Schroeder to plug the event. Wanda Scholze suggested that a table showing Ft. Abercrombie Miller Point plans would be appropriate. All agreed.

**Three Pillar Point trail:** Schroeder said that challenges about raising capital have been met. Koniag Inc. is guaranteeing our purchase of geoblock for this project, which will allow us 90-day terms and allow the project to go forward. Schroeder circulated a project overview in timeline view, with cash flow represented. The contracts for the bridges and heavy equipment work have been awarded but not yet signed. ITN will be a loan, not a line of credit, from Wells Fargo for the project. The amount of the loan is \$75k for a 6-month term, with monthly interest payments due during the term of the loan. Whipple told Schroeder to ensure that ITN be named additional insured by the helicopter and excavator operators, and the bridge builder be bonded, and that language pertaining to this be included in the contract. The installation itself will take 20 days once begun and will not unduly encumber our summer trail crews. Foreman said the board should formally thank Koniag for their guarantee of our geoblock purchase.

### **New Business:**

**Sunny Cove Trail:** Schroeder distributed map with aerial overview of this 2-mile 17b easement trail with 14 proposed bridges. The trail connects the residential area of Sunny Cove with the village of Ouzinkie and is badly impacted. Improvements would be full-pave geoblock with periodic bridges and boardwalk, much like the Three Pillar Point trail. Schroeder said he initially had reservations about taking on this project because of concerns about PR implications, about ITN's capacity to run two large-scale projects simultaneously, and about anchoring ourselves too firmly in motorized trail projects that are far away from the public eye and losing sight of other strategic goals. But he has recently reconsidered the project now that the plan for Three Pillar Point has solidified, that there is room for more trail work between August 15<sup>th</sup> and September 30<sup>th</sup>, and in light of the revenue-generating opportunities afforded by this project.

Discussion ensued as to the level of stakeholder support, and to whether these stakeholders fully realize that this is a public trail, open to anyone, and that improving it may increase use. Cole said this would be a good training opportunity for ITN to hire ONC shareholders and teach them to build and maintain sustainable ATV trails. She added that EQIP funds will be fully utilized for the first time ever in Alaska, and that WHIP funds might become more competitive in future years. If ITN were to commit to the project by April 1<sup>st</sup> of 2010, there was a good chance that they could secure the grant funds.

Whipple voiced support for the project based on past experience with how critics of these types of projects are often swayed to support them, and also considering how many of ITN's other mission areas could be subsidized by this project. Saltonstall echoed that financial solvency is important, and that grant monies will become increasingly scarce.

Schroeder said the next step is to complete the stakeholder interviews, meet with ONC management, inspect and assess the trail informally (NRCS has what they need to fund it) and bring a final report back to ITN by an March 30th for an electronic vote by April 1st . Cole will promote the contract back to active status to prepare for a possible April 1<sup>st</sup> contract signing. (Laura Slater departs)

**Bike Path Issues:** Schroeder introduced Sandra West as a bike path advocate along with new member Skip Bolton, who was not present. Schroeder met independently with West and said that ITN might be provide support for this group to act as an ad-hoc committee.

West said that she has been riding the bike path for years and first approached Andy several years ago about it, and joined the borough Parks & Recreation committee to advocate for this issue, but would like to see more action. The proposed multi-use trail would extend from Kodiak to Bell's Flats, provide safe commuting for walkers and bikers, connect communities, and make drivers feel more secure. KIB has GPS mapped some of this bike path to provide a conceptual view of the trail. Kodiak Daily Mirror will interview Sandra West tomorrow about her aspirations for the bike path, which might attract interest.

West has identified a \$5k grant that might be used to provide GPS assessment of the proposed path, which might attract a grant for planning and design of the bike path. Foreman suggested Outdoor Recreational Trails Advisory Board (ORTAB) as a possible funding source for planning & design. Whipple suggested ITN expand the scope to include Kodiak to White Sands as well. Schroeder was impressed with how many discrete segments West had identified, and predicted that the project construction and even planning may have many different phases and funding sources. Whipple reminded the board that Rep. Austerman is a proponent of trails and would certainly listen to us if we've leverage our own funds towards advancing the planning and mapping of the route. Glaspell will ask ORTAB representative Shelley Lawson to attend the next ITN meeting to discuss funding opportunities.

Foreman added that a booth or table at the Trails Summit would be a great place to introduce the membership to the idea of bike path extensions. Foreman moved to form an ad-hoc committee to promote the bike path with Sandra West as the chair. Saltonstall seconded. Passed 6-0. Foreman added that an announcement about the new committee should go to our membership.

### **Audience Comments:**

**Jason Boyle** said he is trying to promote the voluntary five-star inspection program for charter vessels. This results in safer recreational and charter vessels and fewer boardings.

**Eric Engvall** said that he is an avid biker and bike path user and plans on joining the bike path committee. He reminded ITN to consider recurring funding to provide maintenance for the bike path.

### **Director & Staff Comments:**

**Bree Witteveen:** Said the finance committee met to include Witteveen, Saltonstall and Schroeder. Meetings will be monthly, just prior to the regular board meeting. Schroeder will provide advance copies of financial reports that will be discussed in more detail. A budget review will be held every summer, approximately halfway through the fiscal year. Three people including Witteveen and Schroeder are necessary for a quorum. It shall also henceforth be spelled the "Phinance Committee".

**Andy Schroeder** reminded the board that the EVOS meeting is tonight, and community members have been asked to provide input on how the remaining Exxon funds are to be spent. Parcels identified for purchase currently or in the past include Termination Point, Boy Scout Lake, and easements along the American and Olds Rivers. The meeting is tonight from 6-9 PM at the KNWR Visitor's center.

**Erin Whipple** said Koniag is discussing holding an island-wide land summit to address land issues around the borough by government and private entities. A smaller land summit held this week that invited the regional and village native corporations and was successful. ITN would be a stakeholder at these future land summits and may wish to attend.

**Upcoming Meetings:** To be determined.

**Adjournment:** Meeting adjourned at 1:35 PM.

**Also present:** Eric Engvall, Jason Boyle, Wanda Scholze