



State of Wisconsin
NONMOTORIZED RECREATION & TRANSPORTATION TRAILS COUNCIL

Meeting Agenda
Wednesday, January 27, 2021
11:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.
Public Participation

Zoom Meeting

TIME	PRESENTER	ITEMS & TYPE
11:30 a.m.	Rod Bartlow, Chair	Welcome and review attendance
11:32 a.m.	Rod Bartlow, Chair	Agenda review/repair
11:35 a.m.	Rod Bartlow, Chair and Missy VanLanduyt, DNR a. Phil Rynish, DNR, 12 minutes b. Guests, 12 minutes c. Council members, 18 minutes	Blue Mound State Park Draft Master Plan a. DNR presentation of Draft Master Plan b. Public comment regarding Draft Master Plan c. Council discussion of Draft Master Plan and Council may or may not take action on a formal recommendation to the DNR
12:20 a.m.	Rod Bartlow, Chair and Missy VanLanduyt, DNR a. Dan Yankowiak, DNR, 12 minutes b. Guests, 12 minutes c. Council members, 18 minutes	Polk County's Stower Seven Lakes State Trail Master Plan a. DNR presentation of trail planning process b. Public comment regarding Polk County cooperative trail plan and process c. Council discussion of this item and Council may or may not take action on a formal recommendation
1:00 p.m.	Rod Bartlow, Chair	Adjourn

Public comment may be received in writing by emailing it to [Drew Hanson](#) before 5pm, Monday, January 25, 2021.



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**Nonmotorized Recreation and Transportation Trails Council (NRTTC)
Meeting Minutes
January 27, 2021 Special Meeting**

1. Meeting called to order by the Chair, Rod Bartlow (11:30—11:33 a.m.)

a. Attendance taken from zoom

- i. Rod Bartlow (Chair)
- ii. Ben Popp
- iii. William Johnson
- iv. William Pennoyer
- v. Blake Theisen (Vice-Chair)
- vi. Anne Murphy
- vii. Dave Phillips
- viii. DNR: Drew Hanson
- ix. DOT: Jill Mrotek Glenzinski
- x. Not Present – William Hauda, Joel Patenaude, Geoff Snudden, Michael Arrowwood

b. Other agency staff attending from DNR: Phil Rynish, Missy VanLanduyt, Dan Yankowiak, Diane Milligan

c. Legislature attendees: Rep. Sony Pope

d. Public attendees: Karl Heil, Steve Halverson, Nancy Wiegand, Brook Waalen, Mark Kaczmarek, Kenneth Wade, Holly Tomlanovich, Dave Newman

2. Agenda review/repair (11:34)

Bartlow asks if there are changes to the draft agenda. Hearing none, meeting proceeds with agenda.

3. Discussion of the Blue Mound State Park Draft Master Plan (11:35-12:30)

VanLanduyt provides an overview of speaker groupings beginning with DNR presentations, followed by public comment, followed by Council discussion.

Rynish provides an overview of the Blue Mounds State Park Draft Master Plan.

Phillips asks about safety issues for snowmobiles on the current route. Rynish acknowledges that snowmobilers pointed to safety issues with current route.

Murphy asks about traffic on the town route particularly at night. Rynish notes that there has not been a traffic study.

Theisen asks about snowmobile use of the town road and how many days/year of snowmobile use there are in the area. Rynish pointed to a recent year providing five snowmobile days.

Popp points to Blue Mound State Park as a popular area for xc-skiing.

Hanson notes that four sets of written public comments were received for this NRTTC meeting and all four are opposed to a Pleasure Valley route for snowmobiles.



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Kenneth Wade points to Pleasure Valley as not used by snowmobiles for decades, that snowmobiles have never been allowed in a Blue Mound State Park master plan, that the proposed route through Pleasure Valley is being misrepresented, that the sound study is flawed, and that silent sports users of the park fund most of the Friends Group donations to the park. He opposes a snowmobile trail through Pleasure Valley.

Nancy Wiegand states that it has been over 30 years since snowmobiles used Pleasure Valley, that one-third of ski trails at the park would have elevated noise levels if snowmobiles use the Pleasure Valley route, that Blue Mound State Park is developed as a prime xc-ski area, and that natural quiet is a vanishing natural resource. She opposes a snowmobile trail through Pleasure Valley.

Karl Heil states that law enforcement says that the current snowmobile route on the town road is safe. He opposes a snowmobile trail through Pleasure Valley. He opposes a snowmobile trail through Pleasure Valley.

Holly Tomlanovich voices a personal preference for snowmobiling on a trail instead of along a road.

Dave Newman points to previously submitted comments in favor of the Pleasure Valley route from the Association of Wisconsin Snowmobile Clubs to DNR regarding the Draft Blue Mound State Park Master Plan.

Popp notes this snowmobile trail, whether along the town road or in Pleasure Valley, is a connector—not a destination. But for xc-skiers, Blue Mounds State Park is a destination.

Phillips suggests having snowmobiles farther from xc-skiers (i.e. the Pleasure Valley route) would be better for both groups.

Rynish notes that the new hiking trail route in Pleasure Valley would be constructed trail tread—not just a route.

Pennoyer asks about use data on xc-skiing and snowmobiles in this area. Rynish suggests there are more skiers than snowmobilers but there is no hard data to confirm this.

Theisen points to improved safety of the Pleasure Valley route. Phillips agrees and points to the area proposed for expansion of the Park to the northwest and west which could be excellent for silent sports.

Phillips asks the Council to take up a resolution to support electric snowmobiles with initial requirement of the State to only purchase electric snowmobiles. Bartlow suggests this topic for a future meeting.

Bartlow asks if the Council wishes to take action. Phillips supports the Pleasure Valley route for snowmobiles. Popp discusses conflicting and complicated interests.

Popp moved that the council send a letter to the Department of Natural Resources expressing support for the status quo alternative for snowmobile trails. Pennoyer seconds. Bartlow calls the vote. Pennoyer, Popp, Johnson and Murphy in favor. Phillips and Theisen opposed. The Chair abstains. Motion passes 4-2 with one abstention.



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4. Discussion of Polk County's Stower Seven Lakes State Trail Master Plan (12:31-1:24)

Yankowiak provides an overview of cooperative state trails, specifically the Stower Seven Lakes State Trail, and the master plan recently voted on by Polk County.

Phillips asks about traditional uses and safety.

Theisen asks about the equivalency of the proposed new xc-ski trails offered by the County and existing xc-skiing on the Stower Seven Lakes State Trail.

Johnson asks for more information on the proposed new pedestrian path to be created and states that it does not appear to be a fair offset.

Brook Waalen states that having two trails in the Stower Seven Lakes corridor does not work because of lakes, wetlands, etc., that skiing is displaced by the master plan, that Polk County has never built ski trails, that the Stower Seven Lakes State Trail connects the two largest population centers in Polk County, that a ¾-mile new pedestrian trail would not be constructed (only brushed), that DNR does not have the resources to oversee these complicated coop state trail plans, and asks the Council to continue discussing coop state trail issues at a broad scale. He opposes the Stower Seven Lakes State Trail Master Plan.

Johnson discusses confusion over coop state trail rules changing at county boundaries, states that WI state trail system is fragmented, and wants consistency and uniformity across state trails.

Phillips discusses how non-motorized trails in WI are getting short shrift.

VanLanduyt pointed out that DNR sent Polk County a letter on January 5th that, based on the MOU between DNR and Polk County, DNR's concerns about the master plan have been addressed. DNR can say that (1) a draft plan addresses an MOU, (2) does not address an MOU, or (3) terminate an MOU. We have cooperative agreements for state trails because DNR does not have the resources to manage these trails.

Waaalen noted that the City of Amery has offered to manage the Stower Seven Lakes State Trail. Johnson agrees.

Johnson motions to recommend that DNR terminate the agreement with Polk County. No second. Motion dies. Theisen and Popp voice support for Johnson's idea but want more information and assurance that a back-up plan is in place.

VanLanduyt affirms that the City of Amery and the local friends group have offered in writing to take over management of the Stower Seven Lakes State Trail. But there is concern that if the agreement with Polk County to manage it is terminated, what will that mean for the two other state trails managed by Polk County under similar agreements.

Theisen asks for more investigation. Popp agrees.

Bartlow asks Council members to continue looking into the subject of cooperative trail management and at future meetings to discuss it.

5. Adjourn (1:25)

Motion by Theisen to adjourn, second by Murphy, none opposed, meeting adjourned.