

# PECATONICA PRAIRIE PATH COMMISSION

Friday, June 16, 2017  
Pecatonica Public Library  
400 W. 11<sup>th</sup> Street  
Pecatonica, Illinois  
9:30 a.m.

## MEETING MINUTES

### Call to Order Meeting called to order at 9:34

#### 1. Roll Call

Directors Present: Steve Ehlbeck, Freeport Park District (Retired); Tim Bragg, Alt. Delegate, Rockford Park District; Jim Gastel, Delegate, Stephenson County; Shaun Gallagher, Delegate, City of Freeport; and Claire Webb, Delegate, Stephenson County

Other Staff Present: Carlos Molina, Winnebago County Highway Department; Jack Carey, Freeport Park District  
Others Present: Stephen Arjes, James Brechlin, Sheila Brechlin, Vivian Gaines, Paula Hachmeister, Janet Klinger, Dennis Seaton and Garelt Stahl.

#### 2. Approval of Minutes – March 17, 2017 (Tim B.)

Jim Gastel moved; Tim Bragg seconded approval of the minutes from the March, 17 2017 meeting of the Pecatonica Prairie Path Commission. Motion passed.

#### 3. Presentation

Commissioners discussed opportunities to memorialize Mary Mohaupt's path advocacy and support. A memorial bench has been installed by the Village of Pecatonica in Mary's memory at the new Pecatonica trailhead. Commission members planned to discuss other memorial opportunities at a future meeting. Winnebago County staff will also contact Rick Mohaupt about securing any outstanding Pec Path files Mary Mohaupt had in her possession at the time of her recent death.

#### 4. Treasurer's Report – (Claire W.)

Treasurer Claire Webb distributed copies of the latest bank statement. Shaun Gallagher moved; Jim Gastel seconded approval of placing the Treasurer's report on file. Motion passed.

#### 5. Legislation (17-001) Resolution Establishing the Pecatonica Prairie Path Commission Budget for FY 2018, 2019 & 2020

Steve Ehlbeck distributed the draft three-year rolling budget for FY 2018, 2019 and 2020. The proposed budget maintains the longstanding \$1,000 yearly financial commitment per agency. Jim Gastel moved; Tim Bragg seconded approval of the resolution approving the Pecatonica Prairie Path Commission Budget for FY 2018, 2019 and 2020. Motion passed by unanimous roll call vote.

**Legislation (17-021) Resolution Establishing the Date, Time and Location of each Pecatonica Prairie Path Commission Meeting for FY 2018**

An error for the September meeting date was discussed (September meeting should be September 15<sup>th</sup>.) Shaun Gallagher moved; Jim Gastel seconded, approval of the resolution approving the date, time and location of the commission meetings for FY 2018 as amended. Motion passed.

**6. Reports –**

**a. Staff**

**Winnebago County (Carlos M.)**

Work continues on construction of the DeGarmo trailhead; and construction is scheduled for several months. Winnebago County is not anticipating any delays tied to the state budget impasse as the ITEP grant funds for the project are Federal dollars (state pass-through).

Winnebago County anticipates reopening the section of path closed due to the sanitary sewer project mentioned at the March 2017 meeting. County staff continues to document sections of the path damaged as a result of the sewer project for site restoration purposes.

Winnebago County completed recent path inspections; Winnebago County Forest Preserve offered suggestions regarding path maintenance. The primary issues of concern are overgrown sections of path and vegetation management along the path. ComEd conducts annual path inspections and sprays for woody species. Commissioners discussed coordinating ComEd's database with the Commission with respect to plant/weed species along the path. Other vegetation matters discussed included having volunteer group's seed plant materials along the path and spraying invasive plants particularly along the path centerline to address visibility issues for path users.

**Stephenson County**

Plans are at 99% approval; the City of Freeport is just awaiting review from the state. Construction is expecting to occur over two seasons, with a March/April start date.

**b. Publicity/Marketing:**

Commission members discussed the website posting criteria approved June 2016. Shaun Gallagher moved; Jim Gastel seconded to affirm the existing web posting criteria. Draft path event permit requirements were distributed for discussion (delete any references to snowmobiles; switch out any reference to Jane Addams Trail and replace with Pecatonica Prairie Path). The Commission discussed Winnebago County Forest Preserve District as the primary contact for event requests and will refine the event process for discussion at the September 15<sup>th</sup> commission meeting.

c. **Maintenance Report:**

Items of note regarding repairs include rail repair near Conley Road a path washout near Conley Road. The Village of Winnebago noted an ADA ramp was removed and in need of replacement. Mile marker signs were discussed for installation along the path. Winnebago County Highway Department will look into sign fabrication and invoice the Commission for the sign costs.

Pecatonica Maintenance Partners - Commissioners and the local Pecatonica Village maintenance partners group which is assuming routine maintenance on the Trail section through the Village, discussed various maintenance standards and methods including keeping the riding surface free of debris; sign cleaning and other minor repair and upkeep; vegetation management (mowing; removing invasive species; discreet, controlled use of herbicides, etc.) and beautification projects (flower and shrub plantings; native plant establishment, etc.). The maintenance partners on the PPT within Winnebago County coordinate their activities with the Winnebago County Highway Department. The Highway Department will be responsible for major repairs.

Discussions are preliminary regarding coordinating efforts between ComEd and a private property owner near bridge structure #113. Plans call for removal of a bridge and install a culvert floodgate. The project may also require coordination with the Army Corp of Engineers. At this point, the PPT Commission is only acting to facilitate this contact by the private landowner and ComEd.

7. **Old Business**

No report

8. **New Business**

No report

9. **Adjourn / Recess**

The meeting adjourned at 11:05am.

**RESOLUTION OF THE  
PECATONICA PRAIRIE TRAIL COMMISSION**

**17-CR-**

**RESOLUTION ELECTING THE PECATONICA PRAIRIE TRAIL COMMISSION  
OFFICERS FOR FY 2018**

**WHEREAS**, the Pecatonica Prairie Trail Commission Board of Directors, according to its Intergovernmental Agreement and By Laws, is required to elect a Chairman, a Vice-Chairman, and a Secretary / Treasurer; and

**WHEREAS**, According to Article IV, B. – Commission Structure, the officers of the Pecatonica Prairie Trail Commission shall serve a one (1) year term or until a successor is elected; and

**WHEREAS**, the Pecatonica Prairie Trail Commission officers may serve more than one (1) term; and

**WHEREAS**, it is in the public interest to elect a Chairman, a Vice-Chairman, and a Secretary / Treasurer for FY 2018 Pecatonica Prairie Trail Commission.

**NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, upon the unanimous vote of the Commissioners present, the Pecatonica Prairie Trail Commission hereby elects the following officers for the Pecatonica Prairie Trail Commission for FY 2018:

- Chairman - \_\_\_\_\_
- Vice-Chairman - \_\_\_\_\_
- Treasurer - \_\_\_\_\_
- Secretary - \_\_\_\_\_

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Winnebago County Highway Department is hereby authorized to prepare and deliver a copies of this Resolution to the Directors and Alternate Directors of the Pecatonica Prairie Trail Commission.

The above and foregoing Resolution was adopted by the Pecatonica Prairie Trail Commission this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2017.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Steve Ehlbeck, Chairman  
Pecatonica Prairie Trail Commission

ATTEST:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Tim Bragg, Secretary  
Pecatonica Prairie Trail Commission