

HERITAGE ROUTE - ALCONA COUNTY

August 18, 2009

Meeting Minutes

Present: Karen Sanderson (Chairperson); Dan Mullen (Harrisville State Park); Art Laatz; Marlena MacNeill (Alcona County Road Commission); Ken Gauthier (Sanborn Township); Marcia Simmons; and Denise Cline (NEMCOG).

Treasurer's Report

There were no changes in the balance of \$145.43.

Management Council Update

- By-laws have been adopted
- The name of the Sunrise Side Coastal Highway has been changed to the Huron Shores Heritage Route. Members of the Alcona County Team discussed the name change. There was not uniform agreement with the decision.
- The Management Council discussed signage.
- Coastal Coalition is now a member of the Management Council.
- Brandon Schroeder discussed the coastal resource toolbox he has been working on.

Heritage Route Signage

The Northwest MI Council of Governments has contracted with Corbin Design to draft signage recommendations for Heritage Routes which will be presented to MDOT. Denise Cline reported that the report contained a lot of background information on the signage that MDOT currently allows. The recommendations the report makes are very general – in sum the recommendations highlight the need for consistent signage and examples are given. However, no specific guidelines or signage designs are contained in the report. The Alcona Team discussed the report and agreed that specific designs and suggested guidelines would have been a preferable result of the study. In addition, Denise noted that Senate Bill 606 (introduced by Senator Allen) concerns signage.

Brochures

Denise informed the team that she has submitted two grant proposals to try to obtain funding for brochure printing – a Kodak American Greenways grant and a Community Foundation of Northeast Michigan grant. The quote she used for the printing was from Mitchell Graphics: 120,000 brochures (20,000 per county) for \$6,131.22.

Website

NEMCOG has been working on a proposal to MDOT (which will be submitted to Pete Hanes) for funding for coordinating websites for Heritage Routes. LIAA (Land Information Access Association) has submitted a proposal to build the site based on the US 12 Heritage Trail site that they designed. The Alcona Team discussed the need for a county website required by the Pure Michigan campaign. The EDC has been discussing the issue. Marlena MacNeill noted that, while no funding for professional development of a site is in place, the EDC does have manpower to assist with site development. It is possible that the Heritage Route site can fill this need. The group needs to find out who owns the final site. In addition, each community should have the ability to update its own information. The need to incorporate the current website maintained by Art Laatz was discussed. The need to incorporate the whole county into the website was also discussed. A meeting will be set up between the interested parties to discuss the idea further.

Huron Side Conference

Denise Cline informed the team about a one-day Heritage Route conference being held in Bay City on September 9 from 9 – 3:30 at the Alan & Jack Wirt Public Library. The conference is being funded by

MDOT through the Bay Region Office. Denise is attending – if others would like to attend, they should arrange to carpool.

Management Plan

The Alcona Team reviewed their priority tasks and projects in the Management Plan. Updates will be made by Denise and incorporated into the overall plan.

Misc

- Dan Mullen noted that there will be an “outdoor bash” at the Backwoods Bistro – a fundraiser for the track team to cover transportation costs.

Next meeting: September 10, 2009 at 9 am at the Harrisville City Offices.

Meeting adjourned at 10:45 am.