

# **Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management**

## **RI Trails Advisory Committee**

### **Meeting Minutes**

**June 15, 2010**

**Chet Hayden RI Federation of Riding Clubs**

**Sylvia Hayden RI Federation of Riding Clubs**

**Cindy Julien Gun owners PAC**

**Don Dibiasio RI State Rifle & Revolver Association**

**Roy Najecki RI Land Trust Council**

**Bob Butler NEA4WDC**

**Kevin Nelson Statewide Planning**

**Lisa Primiano RI DEM, Planning & Development**

**Gregg J. Cassidy RI DEM, Planning & Development**

**Steve Church RIDOT**

**Bill McCormick RI Trials Club**

**Henry Cruciani Appalacian Mountain Club**

**Jack Lancelotta Jaycee Foundation & Pawtuxet River Authority**

**Barbara Kilcup Yankee Trailers**

**Sue Barker Greenways Alliance of RI**

**Meeting called to order at 2:34 PM.**

**1. Meeting Minutes. Review of meeting minutes for the April 27, 2010 meeting. Motion to accept meeting minutes of April 27, 2010 made by Roy Najecki and seconded by Cindy Julien. Approved.**

**2. Status of Current Grant Round. Lisa Primiano gave a status report on the grant round for trail improvement grants. A sub Committee reviewed the 26 applications for large trail improvement and seven equipment grants, ranked the grants, and recommended seven trail improvement and two equipment grants for funding. Projects in Burrillville, Bristol, Central Falls, providence, Warwick were recommended for funding to the Director of DEM. A list of all the projects and scoring was distributed. The Trails Advisory Committee must approve the list before it is formally submitted to DOT.**

**Roy Najecki made a motion to accept the list recommended by the Grant Ranking Sub Committee and forward the list to DOT seconded by Barbara Kilcup. Approved.**

**Cindy Julien raised the question of whether the entire \$663,000 is immediately available for projects.. Steve Church clarified that DOT will authorize funding from their Federal Highway funds as each project submits invoices. This will eliminate the problem of funds being tied up by projects that are never completed.**

**Steve Church added The next step is for the Director of DEM to**

transmit a memo to the Director of DOT requesting the funding be authorized for the project recommended by the Trail Advisory Committee. The award letters to the grantees should specify that the cultural and environmental resources in project locations must be reviewed for a categorical exclusion since the proposed projects are federally funded..

**3. Rules & Regulations.** Lisa Primiano brought up the fact that the Rules & Regulations governing the Recreational Trail Grant program were promulgated in 1999. The Program has evolved since then and in some cases the Regulations contradict how the program actually works. Lisa asked those interested in reviewing the existing regulations contact her. A tentative schedule would be to complete revisions by this fall. Steve Church and Roy Najecki expressed interest. Cindy Julien requested copies of the existing regulations be forwarded to all Committee members for their input.

**4. Policy on Purchase of Equipment.** This has been a contentious issue in past meetings. Steve Church clarified that it is permissible to use Federal Highway Funds for purchase of equipment if, as part of the process, the equipment is documented and tracked. Gregg Cassidy distributed a copy of an award letter sent to a grantee for purchase of equipment. Steve suggested that the policy on purchase of equipment be formalized as a part of the new rules and regulations.

**5. User Fees. Program Guidance from Federal Highway Administration states that user fees are allowed although it is clear from past meetings that some members of the Trail Advisory Committee don't approve of giving grants to Organizations that charge user fees. Lisa Primiano pointed out that this issue could/should be addressed when the Regulations are updated.**

**6. Application Form. Lisa mentioned that grant applicants have expressed some confusion about the grant application form particularly the budget section as it relates to matching funds. Steve Church mentioned that in-kind services are governed by Recreational Trail Program rules and are referenced in an OMB Circular. Lisa suggested that the Application Form be reviewed when the Regulations are being revised.**

**7. Materials Only Grants.**

**AMC. \$1344.00 grant for AV equipment and other materials for an educational program to increase awareness about trail safety and maintenance. Kevin Nelson made a motion, seconded by Sue Ballard, not to fund the request since a definite, tangible deliverable was not identified as an outcome of the project. Rejected.**

**Discussion centered around examples of specific deliverables that would enhance the proposed project.**

**Narrow River Land Trust. \$1527.00 to enhance signage on the Narrow**

**River Land Trust Trail system in North Kingstown, South Kingstown, and Narragansett. Motion to approve the grant made by Roy Najecki provided that it is clarified what the message on the signs will be. Seconded by Barbara Kilcup. Approved.**

**Town of Coventry. \$3000.00 to improve a trail at Foster Memorial Park. This request was tabled at the last meeting pending clarification of the budget. More detail about the materials to be purchased was provided. Sue Barker made a motion to approve the grant request, which was seconded by Roy Najecki. Approved.**

**Blackstone Park Conservancy. \$2547.10 to install fences to restrict access to trails in sensitive areas in Blackstone Park. The grant would pay for signage and fencing. Motion to approve the request by Sylvia Hayden, seconded by Sue Barker. Approved.**

**WPWA. \$2850 to replace a bridge and repair fencing at Browning Mill Pond. This grant request was not reviewed since it was not received in time to be on the official meeting notice. Tabled.**

**Next meeting August 17, 2010 at 3:30**

**Motion to Adjourn by Chet Hayden. Seconded by Bill McCormick. Approved.**

**Meeting adjourned 3:10.**