



Border Route Trail Association Board Meeting Minutes July 21, 2016

Attendees: John Elliot, Gary Carlson, Bob Jarvis, Noel, Larry Quinn, Deena Reisman, Ed Solstad, Tom Suter, Bob Westphal, visitor Suma Raghavendran.

➤ Reports

- President – John E.
 - A lot of storm damage to the trail, people crawling under brush to find the trails.
 - Stump R Bridge hit by deadfalls coming downstream.
 - In Wilderness areas, no power tools allowed.
 - Next annual meeting is in January 2017; 2016 is Tom's last Wilderness Coordinator.
 - Youth group tried to work on the trail, decided 'a lot of it and difficult stuff.'
 - In a 2-mile section, 6 major falls, with brush.

- Treasurer – Deena R.
 - Currently over \$8,000 in checking
 - \$515 from Friends of BRTA.
 - Other monies described.
 - Equipment expense \$928; \$1,020 trip fees.
 - Outstanding trip expenses and donations.
 - Possible \$200 ad into Trails Magazine, Suma R volunteered to check into this.

- Web Master – John G. not here.
 - He plans to bring website postings up to date, link to ordering maps.

- Marketing
 - Some tasks include selling trail guides at presentations, giving 2 presentations a year, learn more about how the Parks and Trails Council grew, use social media, ways to promote groups to organize hikes, 'get the knowledge out there.' Track posted photos, encourage hikes to post on their own Facebook pages to spread the word.
 - Geocaching versus Pokemon midpoint on the trail discussed.

 - John E explains Trail Guides of campsites \$19 with >30pp useful information on resorts, shuttle services, mailed in individual orders and provided for wholesale to resorts and MWM (Midwest Mountaineering). REI will not stock as each item must apply to all stores. Ed S will ask Chris F at REI to reconsider.

- Wilderness Coordinator – Tom S.
 - State of the Trail reports, see posted Conditions page.

- Updates on recent 2 storms provided for review, to be posted on website.
 - See Tom's extensive report about trees down, trails blocked, beaver dam rebuilt 18 inches higher, probably 300 trees to be cleared by crosscut saw.
 - A big problem is stacked up blow downs.
 - 'Brushing' means to clear a 6-foot wide corridor as high as overhead, every 3-4 years.
 - Tree tops have been blown off, per pilot flyover.
- Mechanized Coordinator – Ed S.
 - Trips pending include August 18, 5 people already signed up, East End.
 - Pole saw. Chain saw. Brush cutter. Somebody to carry the gasoline.
 - Hikers with 25-lb packs, tarp tents, made 12-18 miles due to experience as ultrarunners; consider issuing one a chainsaw their next trip.
 - History: The Big Blow storm of 7 / 4 / 1999 felled thousands of trees on the BRT and the Kek, as well as large areas of the BWCAW. There were multiple injuries but none on the BRT. There were no fatalities.
 - Recent news: The Mini Blow storm on 6 / 19 / 2016 caused one fatality. It felled hundreds of trees on the BRT.
 - Current news: The 7 / 21 / 2016 storm killed two people in the Ely area. It did not affect the BRT.
- Monthly topics
 - Reviewed/approved with minor corrections meeting minutes from last meeting.

Next meeting August 25 at Gary's. Bob J will bring the beer.