

Red Lake River Corridor Enhancement Project

Thursday, November 18, 2004 Thief River Falls City Hall

Members and guests present: Tom Stennes, Mike Marschall, Scott Kleven, Gail Healy, Glen Kajewski, Mike Moore, Velma Oakland, Nancy Haglund, Cory Hanson, Dave Bergman, Helen Cozzetto, Linda Kingery, John Schmidt, Troy Schroeder, LeeRoy Ose, Harlow Johnson, Lloyd Wisek, and Sen. LeRoy Stumpf

The November meeting of the Red Lake River Corridor Enhancement Project was called to order by vice-chair Gail Healy. Introductions were made and a quorum established. The minutes of the August 12th and October 14th meetings were approved on a motion by Mike Moore, seconded by Tom Stennes and carried.

The financial report was given by John Schmidt and Linda Kingery. The balance of funding from the Northwest Partnership, Northwest Minnesota Foundation and Communities of RLRCEP that is allocated to the University of Minnesota College of Architecture and Landscape Architecture is \$28,489.83. The balance in the Pembina Trails account is \$4,298.30. A motion to approve the financial report was made by Scott Kleven, seconded by Velma Oakland and carried.

The design work is starting in Red Lake Falls with a planning meeting being held in conjunction with the RLF City Council Park and Rec committee on Tuesday, November 23 at City Hall. A conference call with C.J. Fernandez from U of M C of A and LA is planned.

Mike Moore of the Riverland Assn. gave a presentation on the Riverland Travel Guide and the work that the Riverland Assn. does. They would like us to contribute \$500 towards a banner ad on the Canoe & Kayak magazine website. At this time the plan is to link that ad to the Nature Northwest website, but after discussion it was determined that a new homepage would be developed as a link for all requests for information pertaining to recreational opportunities in the Red Lake River corridor area. This homepage would have links to each community website where maps, calendars of events and food and lodging information could be found. That way if we do further internet advertising, we could use that site for biking, birding, camping, etc. Scott Kleven made a motion, seconded by Tom Stennes to contribute \$500 to Riverland Assn. to be used for a banner ad on the Canoeing & Kayaking website. Motion carried.

Glen Kajewski gave us an overview of the Conservation Security Program scheduled to begin in 2005. The program will reward farming landowners for good conservation practices. No dates have been set for signup yet. Landowners could get payments based on three tiers of participation. As the tiers go up, the criteria gets stricter and tougher. There will be self assessment workbooks available to help farmers determine their eligibility. Additional incentives may be earned by enhancement projects. Nationwide \$200 million was designated for the project and competition will be on a national level. The contracts will vary in length and will be based on land values and average rental rates within the watershed.

Senator Stumpf shared with us some of his expectations for the coming legislative session. He expects the bonding bill from last session to be looked at again, with probably no further bonding issues added. He encouraged us to resubmit our request that didn't get in last years bill, but would then be on the agenda for the next bonding bill.

The LCMR proposal could be submitted again also, since proposals that are not funded one year are often granted funding in following years. The budget projections are a deficit of \$1.3 billion. Transportation will be a major issue and a gas tax is an option, but not a popular one with anyone. Sen. Stumpf went on to explain some of the problems that have occurred because of the budget cuts that have been made in the past. ATV trails are a high conflict subject that Minnesota has not taken the initiative to develop a plan for. It is something that affects us with two large ATV manufacturers in the area. Some ATV trails are being established, but not enough planning and funding are available. DNR is also not being proactive on the subject. Sen. Stumpf would also appreciate letters of support to establish wild turkey in northern Minnesota.

Velma Oakland shared an e-mail that she received from Rep. Maxine Penas with her outlook for the upcoming legislative session.

There were no upcoming events that anyone had to share.

Our by-laws do not determine when or how election of officers is to be held, so we appointed Scott Kleven, Tom Stennes and Mike Moore as a nominating committee to prepare a slate of officers to present at the next meeting, which will be held Jan. 13, 2005 at the library in East Grand Forks.

Troy Schroeder asked if anyone had applications for trail funding as they're soon due.

Helen Cozzetto made a motion, which was seconded by Tom Stennes and carried to adjourn.

Respectfully submitted,
Nancy Haglund, Sec.