

**WI-IL Fox River Water Trail
Core Development Team**

Monday, December 7, 2015
Lost Valley Visitor Center, Glacial Park, McHenry County Il

Amended Meeting Minutes (1-4-16 – minus Angie’s suggested changes for mission statement as that was not included in this meeting’s discussions)

Present: Angie Tornes, National Park Service

Greg Farnham, Rock River Trail Initiative

Tom Slawski, Southeast Wisconsin Fox River Partnership, Southeast Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission

Rebecca Ewald, Village of Waterford WI

Barb Messick, Village of Waterford WI

Karen Ann Miller, Fox River Ecosystem Partnership, Kane Co. Development Dept.

Review Minutes of November 9, 2015 – Corrections made and amended minutes were approved.

Old Business

Karen said that Brian Daly from the Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning (CMAP) will be joining the Core Development Team (CDT), the Illinois counterpart to SEWRPC. Discussion on mapping services was held and Openlands in the Chicago area, was suggested as a possibility as much of the mapping has already been done for other projects.

Discussion on roles and responsibilities for the CDT.

Rebecca will take care of setting and distributing agendas. It was agreed to allow time at the end of each meeting to set the agenda for the next meeting. Rebecca will send out a draft agenda reminder a week before the meeting via email asking for any additions to include on the final agenda.

Barb and Karen will alternate on taking meeting minutes. Minutes will be sent with draft agendas with a deadline for submitting modifications/corrections. Minutes will be approved at meeting.

Expanding the CDT:

Discussion on additions to the team was held. Suggested to include representatives from each county. In Wisconsin, using Southeast Wisconsin Fox River Commission (SEWFRC) which encompasses communities along the Fox River in the three Wisconsin Counties. At this point, Barb and Rebecca introduced the concept of a Fox River Water Trail and Barb has been providing updates on the development. Will continue to do so.

Greg is awaiting word on a representative for the CDT from the Illinois Paddling Council.

Mission/Vision Statements:

The CDT used Angie's examples of mission, vision, goals and objectives from water trails around the country to assist the team with developing their own set of statements.

Karen shared a mission statement and the team review the language, making a few modifications after discussion of where the headwaters lie (Tom believes he has more information on that utilizing the surface water data viewer and will share it as soon as he can). Karen confirmed the mileage of the trail as coming from the USGS. :

*The mission of the Fox River Water Trail is to develop **and support** a water trail along the Fox River from the headwaters in Colgate, Wisconsin to the confluence with the Illinois River in Ottawa, Illinois (223 miles) to promote access to and interaction with its natural resources, scenic beauty, historic and cultural amenities for the purpose of recreation, exercise, education and stewardship.*

There was some question on including other water trail interconnectivity, i.e. White River. Could be difficult to add others without losing focus. Angie noted that the Chesapeake Bay Water Trails was comprised of many interconnected trails; she advised focusing first on the Fox mainstream and simply referencing other connecting trails. Karen suggested that we just include other trails we know of in the trail guide or add a link on the web or in the document when we get to that point.

Consider the following for Vision Statement:

- Economic vitality
- Sense of place
- Diversity of culture
- Creates identity and respect for our communities and sense of place
- Geologic history – over 10,000 years old from the Pleistocene Era, by the movement of glaciers in Wisconsin which retreated and left melt water that created the Fox River
- Show story of formation and man's travel over it – Native people's use of the river, European explorers and settlers.

It was suggested to use the Vision Statement Barb developed and include considerations listed.

*The WI-IL Fox River Trail Development Team recognizes the large scope of diverse interests and environments along the Wisconsin-Illinois Fox River and envisions communities of engaged citizens and visitors coming together for the common goals of quiet and active recreation, appreciation of the scenic beauty, abundant wildlife, and historic and cultural features along the river, **respect for the history that created the waterway and man's interaction from its beginning**, and growing interest in preserving the natural environment while river communities grow and prosper.*

Discussed Goals

- Develop a map with water trail detail; perhaps develop theme-based maps
- Educate – history, culture, natural features and resources
- Apply for NWTs designation
- Access site evaluation – existing conditions, gap analysis, new sites and locations, relocations
- Use best management practices outlined in NWTs designation

- Promotion and advocacy
- Ensure water quality
- Develop the best water trail we can using the Water Trail Action Plan and Best Management Plan as guidelines
- Name the trail to differentiate from the other Fox - Tom noted Angie's email reference to the Fabulous Fox and suggested it's a fine name for the trail, helping to distinguish it

Barb will compile the goals (see attached)

Next Step:

Angie explained the planning process used by other water trails groups and referenced the documents summarizing the process she'd sent via email. She noted she will provide examples of access attributes other water trail groups have used for their data collection and gap analysis.

Mapping preliminary

Take it to river communities – Greg explained how RRTI accomplished this

Went through inventory of all public access points with county parks staff to create the list

Identified amenities

Create an inventory of what we want on a map. The CDT discussed various potential ways to collect data using volunteers and others. Enlisted student help to collect data – use consistent criteria between sites (public and/or private?) Karen has resource for college students

Greg suggested we start with the basics: access, dams, hazards and maintain quality control (through hands on management) in working with students. It involves lots of detail work and cross-checking, segment descriptions.

Agenda Check-in for next meeting

- Review minutes
- Revisit Mission and Vision Statements and Goals
- Consider expansion of steering committee.
- Review existing maps – Rebecca will compile
- Review committee design
- Review public information
- Next meeting January 4