

**April 2012 Update to Municipalities
from Iron Ore Heritage Recreation Authority**

Dated April 25, 2011

Trail projects.

1. Completed public use deed and land swap among State, Northview Property and IOHRA. IOHRA secured deeds for 350 acres of land in Negaunee and Negaunee Township for trail development. Responsible for deed work, land exchange documents, resolutions for land use, and all coordination between State departments, Mr. O'Dovero, City of Negaunee, Negaunee Township and Hiawatha Snowmobile Club. This work culminates a 23-month project. Allows IOHRA to sign MDOT and DNR Trust Fund grants to develop 12-mile trail between Marquette and Negaunee. Timeline is for a June 1 bid let.
2. Numerous work plan meetings among State DNR and MDOT, our engineer firm and IOHRA for trail development plans. Tweak of engineering plans, surface plans.
3. Coordination among Clint Jones, owner of Mineral Range Railroad, Lake Superior & Ishpeming Railroad, State of Michigan to finalize State's purchase of lease of land under rail grade to allow our trail to follow Eagle Mills Grade. Finalized removal of rail to allow snowmobiles to run on grade during 2011-12 season and allow construction trucks access.
4. Finalized State lease so that IOHRA is now local manager of State owned grade between M-35/492 intersection and MDOT bridge at Holiday Inn (along Eagle Mills grade).
5. Secured \$777K from MDOT TE Grant (which will be awarded to Marquette County Road Commission on our behalf) and \$400K from DNR Trust Fund to help pay for 12 mile project with total costs estimated to be \$1.5M.
6. Coordinated with City of Marquette and MDOT to include Soo Line Bridge in project for this Phase. Although delayed one year, leases still in place.
7. Coordinated with MDOT Rail Safety, Canadian National, and UPEA on safe railroad crossing in Negaunee. Finalized plans for landscaping, lighting and ballards to provide for safe crossing of Canadian National rail grade east of Negaunee.
8. Coordinated a \$400,000 Loan at 3.5% interest to provide IOHRA to pay costs of trail work.
9. Hired engineering firm to provide plans for Phase IV—4.8 miles of surfacing on trail west of Winthrop Junction through Ishpeming, Tilden Township and Ely township. Providing \$120K in March for \$400K project. If grant approved, would be built in 2013 or 2014.
10. Purchased 33 acres of property from Heartwood Forestland Group. Property is in Negaunee and Negaunee Township. Requesting reimbursement for CF penalty payment.

11. Ten additional interpretive signs in production for placement in Ishpeming and Negaunee. Coordinating grant work that will pay 75% of project.
12. Wayfinding signs erected in Ishpeming. Possible through grant funds received by Marquette County Health Department.
13. First Trail Kiosk to be erected at Cliffs Shaft in May 2012.
14. Sold 26 mile markers.
15. Continue to Research ATV trail route in Ishpeming and Negaunee.
16. Continue coordination of volunteering ski trail grooming between Ishpeming and Negaunee.
17. Aided Hiawatha Snowmobile club in rebuilding a burnt bridge along trail in Negaunee. (Bridge was on private land at the time and was not insured). Bridge replacement was \$22,000.
18. Meet with trail owners surrounding trail to discuss plans, property issues, fencing needs, etc.

Miscellaneous operational projects

1. Was successful in Republic millage vote and added Republic as participating municipality.
2. With Republic coming on board, our municipal number became even and therefore, our Articles call for the County to appoint someone to keep us with an odd number of board members. Dotty Lewis was appointed to represent Marquette County on IOHRA board. Dotty is a planner with Marquette County and continues to provide expertise on planning issues for IOHRA.
3. Finalized and sent out 2009 audit to all municipalities. Working with auditor on 2010 and 2011 audit.
4. Received the Peter White Award from Marquette Regional History Center for our interpretive work
5. Partnered with Marquette Regional History Center on National Endowment for the Humanities grant for interpretive plans in Marquette area.
6. Prepare 2012 budget and cash flow through 2016.
7. Investment and debit policy work
8. Paid back our Line of Credit at Range Bank. Allowed for early operational expenses prior to millage monies.
9. Continue to interact with State Departments, elected officials to provide updates on trail projects and advocate for multi-use trails.

Marketing and Public Relations

1. Mining Journal and TV6 interviews on trail development plans.
2. Work on new web site which will include an interactive map.

3. Facebook page development. Utilizing it to provide information to trail users.
4. Advocate for DNR Trust Fund dollars to remain secure for outdoor recreation development projects.
5. Advocate for continuance of MDOT Transportation Enhancement funding.
6. Met with local businesses to secure private funding
7. Secured \$5000 "Active Living" grant from Marquette County Health Department