

**Leelanau Scenic Heritage Route Committee
Meeting Minutes
Monday, April 28, 2008 12:00 noon
Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore Headquarters in Empire**

Members Present

Marsha Buehler, Leelanau Township
Greg Julian, Leelanau County Planning Commission
Dave Langhorst, Michigan Department of Transportation
Kimberly Mann, Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore
Tom Nelson, Leelanau Conservancy
Gary Niemi, Michigan Department of Transportation
Linda Payment, Village of Empire
Fred Plamondon, Elmwood Township
Tom Ulrich, Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore
Frank Wilcox, Glen Arbor Township

Guests

Bob Kuras, Sleeping Bear Dunes Visitors Bureau
John Peck, Trailway Work Group
Christopher Timm, Disability Network/Trailway Work Group

Staff Present

Patty O'Donnell, Northwest Michigan Council of Governments

I. Welcome and Introductions

Marsha Buehler called the meeting to order at 12:08 noon. Introductions were made around the room.

II. Review Proposed Agenda

The agenda was reviewed. Agenda approved.

III. Review and Approve Previous Meeting's Minutes (March 31, 2008)

The February 25, 2008 minutes were approved by consensus.

IV. New Business

a. Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore General Management Plan

Tom Ulrich presented the draft General Management Plan that is now out for review in hardcopy, on the website, or as a summary with a map. Staff have been giving presentations to groups in the area. The preferred alternative is being presented for input and comments.

Tom discussed the following:

- A wilderness study has been completed; suggested wilderness of 32,200 acres
- Impacts of each preliminary alternative
- Public input is the last step before the final revisions and plan
- Management zones have been suggested: high use; experience history; recreation; experience nature
- Preferred alternative – primarily for preservation of natural resources; opportunities for visitor enjoyment of natural, cultural, recreational resources
- Cultural – mix of preservation and rehabilitation

- Roads – essentially the same
- Trails and other facilities – modest development for recreation. Water trail; Bay to Bay trail; Trailway in Leelanau County; day trips to North Manitou

Public comment on the General Management Plan closes on June 13, 2008. People can also make comments on the website at www.nps.gov/slbe. There will be three public meetings – June 3rd at Platte River Elementary School near Honor; June 4th at the Hagerty Center, Northwestern Michigan College’s Great Lakes Campus in Traverse City; June 5th at the Glen Arbor Township Hall in Glen Arbor. All are from 5:30 to 8:30 p.m.

b. Sleeping Bear Dunes Visitors Bureau

Bob Kuras informed the Committee that the Sleeping Bear Dunes Visitors Bureau promotes this Leelanau County area. He presented a proposal for a “Travelers Information Station” that would include a signage program. It is comprised of a 10 watt transmitter, MP3 digital message programmer, antenna and security cabinet. The broadcast area is a 3 to 5 mile radius. The Bureau would broadcast information on events, activities, attractions, lodging, road conditions, Park activities, and public service announcements to encourage visitors who are in Leelanau County to see its natural attractions, stay longer, and come back more often to enjoy its events and activities and use its lodging; and to provide a public service to all who live and work in the southwestern portion of Leelanau County. Signs are being proposed on the heritage route at the following locations:

- East side of M-22 as a right-hand read for northbound traffic on M-22 about 3 miles south of M-72
- On the east side of M-109 as a right-hand read for northbound traffic about .2 miles to the north of M-22
- On the west side of M-109 as a right-hand read for southbound traffic about .2 miles to the south of the M-109 and M-209 intersection.

These signs are not under the TODS/Michigan Logos program and this program is a not-for-profit activity. The signs will be smaller than the TODS and it was asked if they could be more natural looking. Patty will send Bob some sign guidelines and examples and Bob will work with Gary Niemi, MDOT.

V. Project Updates

a. Trailway Project Update

Patty reported that she will be meeting with Mike Duwe, Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore Planner and Barbara Nelson Jameson for the final draft of the Environmental Assessment and Pre-Engineering plan after this meeting. The final draft will be reviewed by Park Management and the Trailway Group, and be presented to the local governments. Before going to the local governments, a meeting will be held with MDOT to discuss funding, maintenance and any agreements that are needed. The Plan will then be out for public comment.

b. Wayfinding Map for the Statewide Heritage Route Conference

The Wayfinding Signs subcommittee of Joanie, Marsha, Tom Nelson, and Tom Nixon met after the March meeting to finalize what should be placed on the wayfinding sign project map to enhance it for the conference tour. The Council of Governments’ mapping staff will work on the additions.

c. Elmwood Township Park and Marina Project

Fred Plamondon reported on the Park Beautification Day that was held on April 26th with three dozen volunteers. Volunteers also cleaned the Leelanau Trail intersections for safety and vision – 50 feet from the center line. At the Township Park/Beach area the project is proposing a new restroom facility and is working with the businesses in that area for assistance. The township worked with the Disability Network for accessibility improvements to the park such as access to swimming.

d. Omena Buried Utilities Project

Marsha stated that there was nothing new to report for this meeting.

e. Streetscape Project Updates

1. Empire: Gary Niemi reported that the project was let out and that Elmers will be the contractor and should start this summer in July/August.

2. Leland: Dave Langhorst stated that the Leland Community will not be applying for the Transportation Enhancement Streetscape grant due to the design issues and higher costs. Maybe when MDOT comes in with a major road projects they can incorporate the transportation enhancement activities.

VI. Old Business

a. Michigan Statewide Heritage Route Conference Update

Patty reported that the keynote speaker is Curt Pianalto from the America Byways Resource Center in Duluth and that the Committee is working on the breakout sessions and presenters. The Conference Committee has added two different perspectives by inviting representatives from an Upper Peninsula heritage route and the Woodward Avenue heritage route. The next committee meeting/conference call will be Monday, May 5th at 1:00 p.m. Patty is working on the transportation services for the two tours – Leelanau Scenic Heritage Route and Old Mission Peninsula Scenic Heritage Route.

b. Educational Activities

Patty stated that the display at Leland High School was up from April 14th through April 29th, and will be up in the Northwestern Bank window in Suttons Bay for the month of June. She will work with Terry Ely to have the display at the Leelanau County Chamber of Commerce office.

VII. Public Comment

Fred stated that the minutes of the Elmwood Township Parks and Recreation are now on-line.

Greg Julian announced that the Lake Leelanau Lake Association is holding their Kid's Fishing Day again at Veronica Valley on June 29th.

Kim reported that the antique apple pruning workshop will be held on Friday, May 2nd at the Lawr Farm from 1-4 pm.

Patty stated that she is working on the Leelanau County Parks and Recreation Plan and that the Heritage Route will now be included.

Tom Nelson announced that there will be a Cherry Blossom Tour on May 10th, 10:00 am at the Connie Binsfield Building near Lake Leelanau. This event is sponsored by the *Leelanau Enterprise*, the Leelanau Conservancy, and the Leelanau Conservation District.

Patty reported that the Old Mission Peninsula Scenic Heritage Route dedication celebration will be held on Saturday, May 17th from 1-3 pm at Fire Station #2.

Marsha stated that the Northport/Omena Chamber of Commerce is interested in making M-201 part of the Leelanau Scenic Heritage Route. Patty will look into this.

Frank Wilcox reported that he has taken calls regarding the proposed Trailway and that the people have been told by some unknown source that the trailway is going to be built on private property off of M-109 between the lake and their homes.

VIII. Next Meeting

The next meeting will be **Monday, May 19, 2008 at 12:00 noon** at the Great Lakes Children's Museum in Greillickville/Elmwood Township on M-22.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:55 p.m.