

MORC Trail Steward / Dirt Boss Summit 2017
March 11, 2017; 11am – 3pm
Darby's Minneapolis



Directors In Attendance: Sam Pond (VP), Aron Braggans (Technical Director), Bill Bieganeck (Central Trails Coordinator), Jason Schmidt (Board Member at Large), Graydon Betts (Treasurer, Northwest Regional Trail Coordinator), Ryan Leiske (Trail Coordinator).

TS/DBs in attendance: Troy Greives (M-H), Marshall Christopherson (M-H), Brett LaFord (M-H), Dave Jones (Theo), Scott Christiansen (BC), Colin Van Der Hyde (DB at CGBP & Leb), Chance Glasford (TS CGBP), Chris Cahill (Bertram), Scott Reschke (Rebecca), Jeff Gude (Terrace Oaks), Freddie von Hohenberg (Leb), Ryan Panning (Leb), Willie Van Hohenberg (Leb), Michael Mullaney (BC), Dave Tait (Leb), Bob Shepherd (Leb), John Grant (Leb), Don Yougndahl (MN River Bottoms), Jeff Leech (CLP), Eric Olson (CLP).

Attendants: Matt Andrews (Executive Director)

Introductions & 2017 Trails Report / Update

1. Directors Introductions- Regional Trail Coordinators
2. TS / DB introductions
3. Trail Report / Update- 4 minutes each
(2016 Successes & Challenges, Plans for 2017, Current Volunteer Situation)
 - a. Battle Creek
 - i. Overlook project.
 - ii. Trail in good shape.
 - iii. Shore up some of the trail to reduce maintenance.
 - iv. Create stacked loops to create better organization.
 - v. Better signage.
 - vi. Ramsey County behind the trails. Working on the Master Plan
 - b. Bertram
 - i. Lochness trail opened in 2016. Features were built by hand.
 1. Blue black difficulty technical wooden features, long skinnies, etc.
 - ii. YRU contracting built 2600' section of trail.
 - iii. Good volunteer turnout.
 - iv. 10.5 miles of singletrack.
 - v. 2017 – working on SW buildout – ~15 miles.
 1. Funded by Wright county + REI grant.
 - vi. Wright County applying for RTP grant.
 - vii. Bertram is not a turn-key project, therefore different sections need to be build out in phases.
 - c. Carver Lake Park
 - i. Trail source built a wood berm.
 - ii. Had a lot of traffic.
 1. A lot of trail crossings. Community is frustrated with high speed crossings.
 2. Looking to reroute the trail to reduce crossings.
 3. Sometimes 20 HS riders crossing the w/o a break.

- iii. 8-10 volunteers per week.
- iv. Good support from City of Woodbury.
- v. Tapped out on mileage, aside from a couple reroutes.
- d. CGBP
 - i. 2016 was a big build year.
 - ii. Finished master plan.
 - 1. BMX track
 - 2. Mtb skills area
 - a. Downhill rock garden
 - b. 3 tier drop
 - 3. Slopestyle course
 - 4. Dirt jobs
 - 5. Tot tracks
 - iii. Jumps are gapped – no rolling them.
 - iv. Progressive jumps lines for learning.
 - v. Hopefully get some pros to come through from 2017 & 2018 X Games.
 - 1. Possibly do summer jam during X Games.
 - vi. Red Bull connection.
 - vii. Oktobershred 2016 was largest yet. Look to put on more events in 2017
 - viii. Looking to revamp website photos.
- e. Elm Creek
 - i. No report
- f. Hillside
 - i. Became MORC trail in 2016.
 - ii. Trail was maintained very well by MORC volunteers last year.
 - iii. Park suffers from Oak wilt that has killed off a lot of trees in the South portion. Northern half is not as effected.
 - iv. Existing trail in Section 3 no longer exists.
 - v. City of Elk River has allocated funding to redesign and build out new trails.
 - 1. Section 3 & 4 will be rebuilt.
 - 2. Bids were sent out recently.
 - 3. Elk River has approved funding.
 - 4. Elk River has been a fantastic land manager to work with.
 - vi. Graydon checked with Insurance carrier regarding articulating features – MORC insurance policy allows it. Features must be signed otherwise puts Land Manager and Host at risk of lawsuit.
- g. Lake Rebecca
 - i. 4 month build. Nearly 14 miles built.
 - ii. 2016 was a wet season, had drainage and groundwater problems that were not anticipated.
 - iii. A lot has been fixed with pavers, etc.
 - iv. Some more bridge work required.
 - v. 3RPD approval to build a skills park near picnic area near trail head.
 - vi. Have a lot of materials throughout the park, throughout the trail to haul to skills park or to trailside features.
 - vii. Tot track planned at trail head.
 - 1. CGBP Crew suggests to use rock and wood (non dirt) features.
 - viii. Have been scoping things at south end of park for advanced features and harder climbs.
 - 1. Similar to Grizzly Land
 - 2. Steep side slopes, Ravines, etc.

- 3. 3RPD wants to tear down existing rest room and build a new facility by the porta potties and handicapped parking. Bring in electrical out for lighting.
 - ix. Trailwork at 6pm on Thursdays.
 - x. Wayzata HS come out twice to help.
 - xi. Free bikes for kids wants to come out and help.
- h. Lebanon Hills
 - i. Another round of trailhead construction.
 - 1. Pave in overflow parking.
 - 2. Caged storage area for trailer with power equipment.
 - 3. Expanding demo area.
 - ii. Move a couple features out of skills park.
 - 1. Have Colin lead the skills park and jump consultant and project.
 - iii. Have good volunteer turnout.
 - iv. Ongoing feature buildout. Dakota County has given the go-ahead on this
 - v. Some machine work required in a few sections.
 - 1. Freeze thaw and rain events moved a lot of soil. A lot of work for hand tools.
- i. MN River Trail
 - i. Boardwalk at wet area below Hopkins road.
 - 1. Bloomington is OK with the idea, but want to wait for DNR trail planning.
 - ii. Not a lot of funding from DNR.
 - iii. 9 mile log crossing is gone. Raft is still in place.
 - 1. Vandals keep cutting guide lines for raft.
- j. Murphy Hanrehan
 - i. Low volunteer turnout.
 - 1. 1-2 regular volunteers.
 - 2. 4-6 people on any given work night.
 - ii. Better group/turnout of high schoolers.
 - 1. Picked a project close to the trailhead.
 - iii. No big projects planned for 2017.
 - iv. Focus on trail maintenance.
 - v. Finish out log ride in bird loop.
 - vi. Most problem in the prairies with maintenance. Where most of the poaching occurs.
 - vii. During winter, 3RPD blocks ski trail to users and sends them to Mountain Bike Trail.
 - 1. Skiers pay a fee, walkers and bikers do not, therefore 3RPD justifies the trail closure.
- k. Salem Hills
 - i. No update
- l. Terrace Oaks
 - i. Reroute old some of the old sections.
 - ii. City is resistant to adding new trail.
 - iii. Biggest challenge is volunteers.
 - iv. Highschool team Burnsville-Eagan.
 - 1. Last build was success with HS because 2 coaches joined were along who knew trail building.
 - v. Even if cities want to build their own trails, they still need somewhere else to trail.
- m. Theodore Wirth –
 - i. Updates on Section 6 & 8 – estimates from contractor. Talk to parks

MORC Update

1. 2017 Priorities Overview

2. MORC/IMBA Relationship Q & A
 - a. As of Feb 1st, we are a stand-alone non-profit.
 - b. A lot of back-end work to get membership shifted over, and servers migrated.
 - c. Ability to become a supporting organization to support IMBA's national trail advocacy efforts.
3. Volunteer Needs:
 - a. Secretary
 - b. Communications
4. Trail School – IMBA Trail Care now defunct.
 - a. MORC looking to replace it with our own.
 - b. Online webinar and course.
 - i. Safety
 - ii. Dress.
 - iii. Take a quiz at the end.
 - iv. IMBA guidelines.
 - c. Have dirt boss sign off on it.
 - i. Entrust you have quality trail stewards to sign off on it.
 - ii. Trail Steward knows competency.
 - d. REI Trail Day – could be a good overlap. New trail development.
 - i. Trail planning mitigates a lot of the problems that appear.
 - e. Tim Wegner/Buck – do only video.
 - f. Could make part of MN League.

Committee Updates / Overview

1. Governance
 - a. Outdated DB/TS guide that needs revamping.
2. Marketing / Communications
3. Technology
 - a. Forums update
4. Finance / Fundraising
 - a. Diversifying fundraising.
5. Membership
6. Events

General Discussion / Feedback

1. Forums
 - a. Server technology and software is outdated and scheduled for decommission.
 - b. Trail conditions are important.
 - i. Get trail conditions application that is decoupled from forums that can be maintained by Java script.
 - c. Have we reached out to MTBR? About a MORC subforum?
 - d. Any outreach to general membership?
 - i. Board will not make a decision regarding the future of the forums without surveying the general membership and key volunteers.
 - ii. Listen to people who want to use forums as a communication tool, and provide a solution.
 - e. Think about this decision as a business decision.
2. HS Mountain Biking League

- a. Try to get access to coaches to get team building activities.
- b. Teams have a requirement to work on trails.
- c. With split from IMBA, review agreement with MNSHSL.
- d. Josh Kleeves – MTB High School League Executive Director.
- e. Wet trail policy?
- f. Parking & passing lanes.
- g. Race facilities different because they are rain or shine.
- h. 70-80 parents volunteer – 700 cars at an event.
- i. This is a growing opportunity, have to stay in front of this.

Meeting adjourned 2:12 pm