

Root River Trail Extension - Citizens Exploratory Committee  
Meeting minutes.

Date: June 12, 2024

Location: Houston Nature Center, Houston, MN

### 1. Call To Order, Roll Call

The meeting was called to order at 3:34 p.m. by Larry Kirch, City of La Crescent, Community Development Director.

Members Present: Jay Wheaton - Houston, Jason Kraft – Houston County, Larry Stryker – La Crescent, Dick Wieser – La Crescent, Ben Horn – Houston County, Jake Olson – Hokah

Members Absent: Kevin Walther – Hokah

Others Present: Hein Bloem, Allison Wagner, Houston County EDA, Meghan Horton, CEDA

### 2. April 3, 2024 Minutes - Acceptance

We did not have a quorum for the May meeting. Larry Kirch asked if there were any changes or corrections to the minutes. There were no changes or corrections and the minutes were accepted by consensus.

### 3. Discussion Items -

- a. Finalize Draft “Trail Plan” - Larry gave a very brief overview of the document and spent some time on the recommendations page. Several member stated that they had reviewed the plan in the last few days and that the plan was ready to be approved. Dick Weiser made a motion to adopt the plan as drafted, seconded by Larry Stryker, upon a voice vote the motion carried unanimously.
- b. Review Survey Parcels Legals Info – Larry Kirch and Jay Wheaton stated that they didn’t have time to thoroughly review the legal descriptions for this meeting and that there would be a small group that would review the legal descriptions of the land that the DNR purchased for the WMA. Larry Kirch would organize a meeting.
- c. Discuss timing of presentations to city councils/county board – The consensus was that each city and county would have two presentations, one for a general overview of the Trail Plan using a Powerpoint slide show followed by a request for action by each city and the county. Larry Kirch said he would start with La Crescent on June 24<sup>th</sup>. At Houston County we would present at back-to-back meetings on July 10<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup>. Larry would reach out to Hokah and Houston about getting on the city council calendars.

- d. Review draft presentation slides – Larry Kirch apologized for not getting the draft slides done but would do so by early next week and send them out for comments.
- e. Next Steps – Following the city and county actions, next steps could be laid out in terms of the plan recommendations.

**4. RRTE-CEC membership status – City of Houston**

The City of Houston still has not appointed a new member. Jay Wheaton said that Margaret Knutson was interested and would work with her and the City regarding her appointment. Jay mentioned that he heard that the Root River Trail Towns group was interested in having La Crescent and Hokah join the group.

**5. Public Comment – None**

**6. Next Meeting – July 10, 2024 at 3:30 p.m. – Hokah Fire Department**

**7. Adjourn – the meeting was adjourned at 4:35 p.m.**

Meeting minutes drafted by Larry Kirch, City of La Crescent, Community Development Director