Green Mountain Trail Collaborative  
Stewardship and Communication Work Group  
Meeting Notes  
May 21, 2010

Date: 5-21-10  Time: 12:30-1:30  Location: Phone Conference

Facilitator: Brian D. Cotterill  
Note Taker: Todd Taylor

Committee Members in Attendance:
Danny Hale  VASA, VTGC  
Doug Weber  VORA  
Jessica Rickettson  FPR  
Sherry Winnie  FPR  
Tony Clark  Moosalamoo Association  
Todd Taylor  Local Motion

Action items from previous meeting:
1. (Brian)... Lead effort to invite additional members to committee to ensure full trail user group representation.  
   a. Brian contacted Vermont League of Cities and Towns and Vermont Recreation and Parks Association (VPRA). VPRA is interested in participating as the point for the municipal recreation and trails voice.
2. (Jessica)... Lead effort to draft a survey the group can use to capture data from various segments of stakeholders.  
   a. Jessica is still on board for taking a lead role in developing this resource.
3. (Walter)... Generate a list of trails organizations via VT Trails and Greenways list.  
   a. Walter posted the list as a Google Group page and is being added to by all group members to include regional trails and recreation stakeholders.
4. (Sherry)... Generate a list of existing web based trail management resources.  
   a. Sherry posted trail management resources as a Google Group page.
5. (All)... Register as a member of the work group by going to http://groups.google.com/group/trails-collaborative-education-group  
   a. Members are populating the Google Group, it is now up to 15.
6. (Brian)... Get administrative permission for Google Group changed into his name so he can post info and documents for public viewing.  
   a. Done
Meeting Agenda for 5/21:
- General Updates
- Input on Google Group Resources
- New Resource, Current Trail Ethics
- Recommendations for new work group members

**General Updates**

**Trail Finder**
- Todd: Local Motions Trail Finder is expanding to Central Vermont, Rutland County, and the Upper Valley on June 3rd. This is a web-based interface for locating and learning more about trail recreation opportunities in Vermont. Check it out at [http://www.localmotion.org/trails/about.php](http://www.localmotion.org/trails/about.php).

**FPR**
- Sherry: Press Release re: community Recreation Trails program coming out this week to announce this year’s FPR trail project grant awards.
  - Also, new commissioner, Sara Clark, is taking over this week for Jason Gibbs.
  - National Trails Day events coming up – Lake Bomoseen State Park June 2nd, Lake Elmore State Park June 4th.

**Moosalamoo**
- Tony: Attended the third Landscape Management public meeting in Brandon, good discussion there with notable user conflict between mushers and skiers on the Forest.
  - Moosalamoo hosting a National Recreation Area Retreat June 2-4.
    - Learn more at [http://www.moosalamoo.org/events.asp](http://www.moosalamoo.org/events.asp)
  - Also, the area is hosting as many as 6 VYCC trail crews this summer.

**Facilitator Updates**
- Brian: Brian is attending monthly Tail Collaborative steering committee meetings and will continue to bring updates to the work group.

- SCORP (Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan) is in need of revision in order for the state to receive funding from Land and Conservation funds. Lisa’s group from UVM will likely complete the revision. This workgroups research can be used to supplement so Lisa and Brian plan on working together to administer a comprehensive survey at the end of the summer. (Note, survey should be printe and available online.)
Question: Can VTGC’s website host the survey?
  - Danny: Site won’t be ready until September. Maybe host on FPR, UVM site instead?

Question: How does this work group dovetail with the Landscape Management work group?...
  - Brian and Walter are trying to make sure they work efficiently without overlap. Brian mentioned the focus of this committee being geared toward creating a universal VT trail ethic. Simple in message, geared toward safety, minimizing user conflict and protecting trail resources. The challenge is gathering what is already out there (quantitative) and garnering all stakeholder voices (qualitative).
  - From there, this group will have the data and stakeholder buy-in to draft an ethic with the greatest potential for being effective. We are still in the beginning phases and are working toward having a critical mass of data to analyze from which we generate recommendations.

- Brian is writing an article for the VTGC newsletter to describe this group’s work and solicit participation in Trail Summits (articles due to Jess by June 1st).
- Summits/Meetings in Progress:
  - Horse Council scheduled on June 13th
  - GMC/Trail Chiefs, mid-late June
  - NE Kingdom regional focus group, mid-late June

  Question: Are we preaching to the choir by gleaning input from user groups/ managers? Need to reach out to local clubs, dinners and workshops at the source

Input on Google Group Resources
  - Continue to use google group as a discussion board.
  - Note new page with draft Success Indicators for work group, please add comments.
  - Forward opportunities to meet with stakeholders to Brain. He will need your help in reaching them all.
New Resource, Current Trail Ethics

- Need to research what use ethics already exist. Add the following to the google group
  - Fellowship of the Wheel
  - Missisquoi Valley Rail Trail
  - Upper Valley Trails Alliance
  - Rutland Area Physical Activity Coalition
  - Land Trusts
  - Regional Planning Commissions

Recommendations for New Group Members

- Brian has reached out the VPRA as a rep for cities and towns.

Action requested by June 2

- Sherry… Get a copy of the last SCORP survey that Linda had put together and forward it to Brian.
- Jessica… Get a copy of the last Trails and Greenways Council trail survey and forward it to Brian.
- Tony… Get a copy of the Vermont Department of Tourism trails survey and forward it to Brian.
- Brian… Post survey page to google group for discussion.
- Brian…Post a Trail Summit schedule page to google group.
- All… Post regional trail groups to contact in google group discussion.

Action Ongoing

- Brain… Reaching out to regional trail groups to get trail summit and survey participation… also gathering email lists from stakeholders for eventual survey.
- Survey team… Will strive to have draft survey by next months meeting.