Trail Summit Meeting  
Vt. Horse Council  
June 13, 2010  
UVM Extension Office, Berlin

Facilitator: Brian D. Cotterill  
Note Taker: Brian D. Cotterill  
Time: 1:00 – 3:00

Members in Attendance:
Mike Benoit   vhcmike@yahoo.com  
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Heidi Krantz   hkrantz@myfairpoint.net  
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The following are the outcomes of the Vermont Horse Council’s Trail Summit meeting.  
(*** Indicates frequency and that the item was mentioned in a session more than once.)

**Trail Resources at Stake (What is at risk or vulnerable?)**

1. ***Space for parking, turnout – horse tie or fence.***
3. Signage – are equestrians welcome? Where do we go?
4. Safety – water crossings, bridges need solid decking (unlike many VAST bridges that have large gaps in decking).
5. ***Shrinking base of accessible trails for equine use.***
6. ***Abuse of land by users and over use.***
7. Water quality impacted by use
8. Keep access for equines on current trails.
9. Education, who is ultimately liable/responsible for  
   a. Accidents/injury on private land?  
   b. Financial upkeep?  
   c. Maintenance?

**Education and Stewardship Messages (Key elements of Vermont’s universal trail ethic?)**

2. Restriction during mud season.
3. ***Respect other users.***
4. Stay on marked trails.
5. Respect private property owners.
6. Report damage/issues/user conflict to????? (Who is the keeper of this info?).
7. Clear designations of users allowed on each trail.
8. Degree of difficulty information for each trail.
9. Education about how other users should approach/pass a horse on trail.
10. Advance notice for winding, narrow, steepness, water and hazards.
11. Ride at own risk and liability clause.

**Branding and Delivery (How to deliver the message?)**

1. Posters/ signage at trail heads.
2. Clear and consistent signage (high tech and low tech methods).
3. State and Federal financial support and education about how to use/ access the funds.
4. Trail maps, hard copy and web, outlets for messaging at…
   a. Chambers
   b. Rest stops
   c. Stables
   d. Websites
5. Key words for web search-engine optimization…
   a. Multi use equestrian
   b. Trail recreation
6. Web interface for communication between user groups.
7. Radio interviews, TV, multimedia messaging.
8. State vets, riding clubs, breed associations, word of mouth, 4-H, pony clubs, mailings, posters.
10. Establish event calendar on web to minimize user group conflict, large group event “registration”.

**Sustainability Indicators and Monitoring (What are the methods for measuring success?)**

1. Surveys
2. ** User group frequency – trailhead log.
3. ** Passes purchased to use system - $ to go towards maintenance, insurance.
4. Issue permits for free, restrict use by day of the week.
5. Signage directing users to website for survey/ reporting.
6. Increase donations of time to maintain system.
7. Support by Feds and State in the form of $ and time.
8. Documentation of contributions to the state economy by various recreation groups.
9. Establish endowments to trails foundation.
10. Adopt-a-trail and club support (adopt regional maintenance models statewide…
   hoe does GMC do it for example?).
11. Easy mechanism for closing the trail user feedback loop.
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For more information on the Vermont Trail Collaborative:  
https://www.uvm.edu/~snrvtdc/?Page=vttrailcollaborative.html

For more information on the Stewardship and Communication Workgroup:  
http://groups.google.com/group/trails-collaborative-education-group

To give feedback and ideas to the Vermont Trails and Greenways Council Board Chair  
contact Danny Hale: director@vtvasa.org