

McLeod County Trails Plan

Task Force Meeting Summary

~ May 7, 2015, McLeod County Fairgrounds ~

(Bold items refer to the agenda item; Un-bolded text refers to the meeting summary)

1. Introductions

2. Trails Plan Highlights

a. **MMDC's Scope of Services (handout).** MMDC's proposal to create a McLeod County Trails Plan was reviewed and discussed. The main benefits of creating a trails plan were highlighted.

b. Discussion on typical plan contents:

i. **Existing Network; Missing Components; Future Map.** At its simplest form, the trails plan will take a look at the existing trails network; examine which trails components are missing, needed, and/or desired; and will make decisions on which trails components are desired in the future.

ii. **Policies and Programs that impact trails in the County.** Trails plans not only take a look at the existing and preferred physical infrastructure, but also examine the County's policies and programs to determine if changes are needed.

iii. **Bicycle Plan or All-Trails Plan?** Meeting participants were asked if the emphasis of the plan should be on bicycle trails or all forms of trails (i.e., snowmobile, ATV, horse, etc.). It was decided to include a profile on all trail types, however, planning efforts would focus on making recommendations on the bicycle component. It was discussed that ATV trails would require a separate planning process. Implementation steps for all types of trails can be included.

3. The Planning Process

- i. **Key Stakeholders.** The Trails Committee was appointed by the County Board and, as a result, represents countywide interests in trail issues and trails development. The Trails Committee initially will help guide the development of the McLeod County Trails Plan. Once the Plan is approved by the County Board, the Trails Committee will continue to meet periodically as needed to discuss trails issues, including the steps needed to properly implement the trails plan.
- ii. **4-6 Task Force Meetings.** Four to six meetings with the Trails Committee will take place over the next four months to develop the draft trails plan.
- iii. **Public Review Process.** It would be advantageous to host a few public informational meetings throughout the County near the beginning of the planning process to solicit comments from the public.
- iv. **Next Meeting (time and location)?** It was discussed that evenings may work better for the Trails Committee rather than in the afternoon. MMDC will send out an online Doodle Poll to schedule the next meetings.

4. What would you like to see this plan accomplish? Meeting participants expressed the following opinions on the question:

- Make a connection to the Dakota Rail Trail.
- Get feedback from surrounding stakeholders, including Carver County and the Three Rivers Park District.
- Include sections in the plan helping to profile all trails in McLeod County (not just bicycle trails).

- One of the goals of the plan should be to ensure that all stakeholders are cooperating on trails issues by simply “talking to each other.”
- Include information on the miles and types of shoulders on McLeod County’s roads.
- Safety should be a goal of the plan.
- Providing connections to key destinations should be a priority, including parks.
- Access for all entities should be discussed.
- Private property issues need to be addressed.

Next Meeting Tentative Agenda Items (time and date to be determined...):

- Introductions (key stakeholders will be invited).
 - First meeting summary.
- Benefits of having a trails plan (expanded from the first meeting).
- Overview of the Planning Process (i.e., meetings, public outreach, etc.).
 - Review of existing trails network.