



**Friends of SMARTrails
Board Meeting Minutes
Monday, May 12, 2025
Kaleva Community Center
6:00 PM**

Board Members Present: Rob Carson, President; Linda Cudney, Secretary; Dave Myers, Claire Richard, Mark Coe. Zachary Pawlowski, by phone.

Board Members Absent: Jacque Wallace, Bonnie Brown, Elaine Gibbs.

Guests: Sara Herberger, MCCF, David Jarvi, Manistee County Planning Department, Aime' Merizon (Community Outreach Specialist SEEDS)

- I. **Call to Order** Meeting called to order by Rob Carson, president at 6:00 PM.
- II. **Consent Agenda** It was motioned and supported to accept the consent agenda. AIF. Motion carried.
 1. **April 12, 2025 Board Minutes**
Motioned by Mark, supported by Dave to accept the minutes from the April 12, 2025 meeting. AIF. Motion Carried.
 2. **Treasurers Report and Payment of Bills:**
The Treasurers report is postponed in the absence of the Treasurer. Rob picked up the tent, etc. It is at Maple Grove Community Center and needs to be unpacked.
- III. **New Business :**
 1. **Iron Fish Trail Event 6/7/25.**
SMART members will try and attend that day, some possibly later. Linda and Dave will see about setting up on Friday evening.
 2. **Discussion with Tribal Council**
Rob will contact either Chad Eckhardt or Steve Parsons to schedule a meeting in the near future. He will let Katie at County Planning know also.
 3. **Clean up Work on Chief Grade**
Mark reported that there needs to be clean up work done on the Chief Grade. It is scheduled for Sunday, May 18, 2025 at 9:00 AM and meeting at Marks place on Chief Road. Dave, Mark, Rob and Claire will try and attend.
- IV. **Old Business**
 1. **EDA Update Awesome News**
Rob reported that Networks Northwest held the bid opening on Wednesday, May 7, 2025 with the DNR and Engineering Team. Five bids were received and the winning bid went to

AJ's Excavating. Next was the preparing of the final documents to be submitted to EDA in reference to the bids, bid opening and required supporting documents. Once EDA receives and approves it, a contract will be executed with AJ's Excavating. The trail is expected to be done this summer with the bridge being constructed off site and dropped in place over Bear Creek before winter. SMARTrails will post information on social media sites and tag all the entities involved.

2. Trail Flip Chart of Manistee County Trails

In process, with more maps being added.

3. Reports from other Trail Entities

Shoreline Cycling Club: Claire reported they had a trail work day at Big M with bench cuts. Linda congratulated them on their grant from MCCF for \$19,490.00 for "Non motorized Trail Park Grooming Sled and Shed Project" to improve and protect their equipment".

Benzie Manistee Snowbirds: Doing some trail maintenance.

Dirtbirds: Increasing members (approximately 200 members) and their last group trail ride had 3 groups. Next meeting will be May 17, 2025.

TARP: (Thompsonville Area Revitalization Project) Linda reported she presented to TARP. They have received a lot of donations for their trailhead, pavilion, ADA Campground and bathrooms. Doug Mansfield from Mansfield and Associates is the land use consultant for the project. They did a nice video of the project, which only cost \$1,200.00 and had many hits on social media. Linda will man a SMART booth at the Thompsonville Summerfest on June 16, 2025.

4. Fundraising Ideas

Moving forward with different ideas.

V. Other Business

1. Recreation Commission Update

a. Dave Jarvi explained the initial draft ORV Ordinance and attachments. Members will look it over and bring back ideas, etc, at June meeting.

b. Discussion on E bikes, 3 wheelers and their relation to the ORV Ordinance..

c. Carmen at the Chamber of Commerce along with the County applied for a \$5 Million appropriation for the trail from Thompsonville to Kaleva.

2. Social Media

Claire and Zach will work on a press release to inform people of the Thompsonville-Copemish Trail Connector project, listing all the players involved.

3. Admin Technology: It was suggested to put our map on the website and link it to the Manistee County Recreation Commission and Manistee County Planning.

4. Meeting dates: Zach put the meeting dates on our website for anyone that may be interested in attending any meetings.

VI. Board Members Comments/Correspondence

VII. Adjourn. Motioned and supported to adjourn at 7:02 PM.

Next meeting on Monday, June 9, 2025 in Kaleva at the Community Center.

Meeting minutes respectfully submitted by:

Linda Cudney, Secretary