

Bike! Walk! Northwest Georgia
October 8, 2009
Mountain Cove Farm/McLemore Cove
Minutes

Attending: Bill Moll, David Kenemer, David Howerin, Larry Brooks, Patrick Clarey, Julie Meadows Terry Palmieri, Rick Moon, Brad Kotrba, Bill Steiner, Sharon Foxworthy, Ty Ross, George Page, Jim Henry, Deborah Tinker, Betsy Shuttters, Connie Forester, John Culpepper, Larry Vanden Bosch, Virgil Sperry, Jean Garland, Jeff Mullis, Sammy Rich, Eric Lindberg, Micah Morrison, Janet Cochran, Rebecca Shearer, Sue Hiller, Buzz Wachsteter, Eric McDonald, Dinah Rowe, Mike Dillard, Kathy Dillard

Bike and Pedestrian Trails - Senator Jeff Mullis

- Bill Steiner introduced Jeff Mullis, Chairman of the Senate Transportation Committee
- Senator Mullis discussed the status of Georgia transportation funding and the role of rail banking and rail-trails
- He emphasized that the way to promote rail-trails was to:
 - Talk with your local representatives about your interest in the rail-trails
 - Publicly support rail-trails when opponents write letters and speak against the rail-trails (vocal citizens have a disproportionate effect on policy)

Northwest Georgia Contract – David Kenemer

- The two former RDC budgets have not been officially merged, but are being managed as merged
- Funds are available for all 15 counties for the community-based activities and support to be discussed next

Spring Workshops – Based on Dalton Bike-Ped Plan

- Dalton/Whitfield is scheduled for a bike-ped plan for FY2010
- The spring program will be based on a national planner providing assistance to this plan, with participation/observation by other communities
- This is subject to meetings with Dalton/Whitfield to make these arrangements

Walking Lunches – 10 To Schedule

- BWNWGA provides up to \$500 for promotion, t-shirts, etc. – but NO food (GDOT regulations) for the event
- Planning and any food sponsors are the responsibility of the hosting town/organization
- The walk is about 1 mile, followed by lunch
- The intent is to encourage walking at lunch

Trail Map Printing Funding

- Funds (up to \$1,000 usually) are available to help publish maps of walking trails
- The host organization is responsible for all brochure/map development
- The funds are approved after a prototype of the brochure is presented at a BWNWGA meeting
- Requests have been less than the funds available in past years

League of American Bicyclists Cycling Classes

- The class teaches riding technique, road positioning and traffic skills, and bicycle maintenance
- The host is responsible for arranging a location and class promotion, with assistance by the instructor
- The class size is a maximum of 8
- The cost per person is \$25, with a \$25 match by BWNWGA

Winter Speaker Series – Two Biking, Two Hiking

- BWNWGA brought in nationally renown speakers last year as a trial, with an activity followed by a talk
- Based on that experience:

- The speakers will be scheduled for February to early April
- The talks will be in cooperation with another organization to allow more than one-day on-site and a wider public impact
- Suggestions for speakers and cooperating organizations are needed
 - Rebecca Ryan ("Live First, Work Second") was suggested as a possible speaker

Hosts are needed for all of the above at the November meetings (there are no December meetings)

Bike Route Network

- Brad Kotrba discussed the unused railroad right-of-ways in NW GA
- Sammy Rich talked about the Vann Valley ROW currently being abandoned
- The group voted to support the rail banking of the ROW for potential future use as active Railroads again and for current use as rail-trails
- The group voted to recommend to the NWGARC Board that they publicly support both the Vann Valley preservation via rail banking and a general preservation of regional rail ROW
- The routes for the two former RDC networks have been merged into a single NWGRC bike network

Meeting was adjourned

Next meeting: November 5 (Dalton) and November 12 (Rome)