

**Greenway Technical Committee Staff
Meeting Notes
GF Park District Office Conference Room
10:00 am – October 11, 2005**

Steve Mullally, GF Park District
Dale Skyberg, EGF Parks & Rec
John Winter, MN DNR

Melanie Parvey-Biby, City of GF
Gladwin Lynne, MN DNR
Kim Greendahl, City of Grand Forks

Guests: Ann Sande, Friends of the GW Mike Pokrzywinski, Friends of the GW
Julie Romig, MPO

- I. **Opening Comments:** Chairperson Steve Mullally congratulated Gladwin Lynne on his upcoming retirement from the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources.

- II. **MN DNR Update:** The MN DNR is trying new managing strategies for its parks. Some of these changes were based on park use, which affects Northwest and South Minnesota the most because they are not considered high tourist traffic areas. A system of opening certain parks for only five months a year is being implanted this season. John will be proposing to the MN DNR Commissioner that the five month open system should be extended to seven months to allow for the necessary opening and closing preparations by staff. An ideal schedule would be to shut down October 18 and open in March, instead of May 1. Does MN DNR need support from the Greenway Technical Committee for this plan? No. Gladwin has been working on a close down checklist, which John is presenting to superintendent in two weeks. MN DNR might do an internship mentor program in 2006 because training new managers and interns can be difficult. Might be a good idea to invite Cortland to a Tech Committee meeting and or a dedication, especially the pedestrian bridges, to help him better understand the project and the value it has.

The MN DNR will remain a member of the Greenway Technical Committee and continue to help with projects, especially those involving graphic design. The local government will have to be more responsible for other projects. Agreements need to be made between the City of East Grand Forks and MN DNR so there is a better understanding of the procedure and responsibility.

Other RRSRA news:

- Shower buildings will be “let” November 3; construction would begin in the Spring 2006.
- Have signed a 10 year agreement with the City of East Grand Forks to allow a snowmobile route in the RRSRA. Can allow cross county ski trails as well. Need to work out the details; Dale will work with Steve about equipment.

- Looking for handicap accessible fishing site. GF: North end ramp opened today hopefully the south end ramp will be completed by November 1.

III. Friends of the Greenway Update & Discussion: Mike reported that the Friends of the Greenway is a small group of people that believes in recreation on the river. They gained a lot of credibility in the beginning of the project and people may have high expectations of the board, but the group is fairly inactive at this time. The Friends have an endowment fund are also registered as a 501 (c) 3 non-profit. They see the group as more of an advocate for the project. They can be an advocate for wise investments along the river and maintaining what is there now, focusing on technical issues and staying a-political. Possibly some day they could host a public meeting and invite elected officials. They plan to stay organized as a 501(c) 3, keeping the chili cook off going, encourage and provide opportunities to bring people down to the river. Tried building membership but that didn't go well. Have visited with Bob Backman, Riverkeepers, who advised them not waste time trying to build big membership but work with staff at all levels on issues that are important to them.

IV. Trail Marker Options: November 8 meeting to discuss the trail marker issue. The meeting of the larger Greenway Technical Committee will be moved to November 15.

V. Other

- a. **Greenway Map Update:** Kim will contact Bryce to attend the November 8th meeting to discuss updating the map.
- b. **Lighting near pedestrian bridges:** John Staley, Grand Forks Park District, has agreed to provide lighting near the north end pedestrian bridge.

Greenway Technical Staff Meeting: PLEASE NOTE CHANGE FROM REGULAR SCHEDULE: November 8 – 10:30 am at Grand Forks Park District

Greenway Technical Committee Meeting: PLEASE NOTE CHANGE FROM REGULAR SCHEDULE: Tuesday, November 15 – 10:30 am at Grand Forks Park District

Upcoming Greenway Events:

Veteran's Day Race- Lincoln Dr. Park November 11, 2005, 11 am

Submitted by: Kim Greendahl, Greenway Specialist, City of Grand Forks