

**SVCRA PUBLIC MEETING
NOTES
FEBRUARY 3, 2014**

MOTORIZED USE COMMENTS:

Didn't See snowmobiles or ATVs mentioned. I'm not very impressed. – Guy from Parishville ATV Club

No inclusion for motorized sports and need for community connections - Schuyler Shea. (Dan Doust explained that this is a corporate and FERC health and safety issue).

What is the difference between mountain bikes and ATVs/snowmobiles? In the original plan biking was not an issue so why is it coming up now? Deb Christie

Pipeline service road was used until 2006 without any issues. Danny Collins (Dan Doust explained again about health and safety issue, FERC changed rules after 9/11, this is primary road for service, concern about anchor blocks on penstock, speed limit, increased maintenance of the road).

Father worked for NiMo for 45 years and a lot of people used the penstock for years. Never had any issues, even doodlebugs used the penstock road. NiMo was a friendly company and now people want to change things. This was a great trail for years. He wants to know who to speak to to get permission and will give them a history of use. He worked as a subcontractor for maintenance of these roads for years. Now there are gates that people tear up. If the roads were open, this wouldn't happen. (John Omohundro explained that the utility companies set the rules on their land).

Asked of John O – What do you have to do with this? Danny Collins. (John O. explained ADK manages the trail system).

Has any research ever been done about motorized trails in SVCRA? Schuyler Shea (John O. explained that the penstock road was the only place that it had come up). Schuyler replied that as stewards of Stone Valley, ADK should have researched this.

Brookfield regs reference ATV and snowmobile use in special circumstances. Why wasn't motorized use included in the plan when local groups want it? – Schuyler Shea

Dawn Howard – In 2007 SLC Legislature passed local law banning motorized use in SVCRA on county forest parcels along Lenny Road. Deb Christie said that the Trails Board requested this to give the east side to the hikers and keep the west side for motorized use.

Walt Paul reviewed his extensive list of comments for the group arguing that this straw group was trying to usurp the authority of RRAC. Brookfield cannot do anything without RRAC approval. He is skeptical and cautious about groups such as the Stone Valley partners.

Alex McKinnon representing District 4, a 20+ year member of SLC Legislature, is very interested in recreational use of county forest lands. He is very concerned about the east side of the Lenny Road. He recapped history of the pilot trail near Browns Bridge. He mentioned that the SLC Legislature may have to rescind their local law banning motorized use on Lenny Road county parcels.

ATV groups are being excluded from certain areas. If can't use penstock road, Lenny Road would need to be opened up. If ATVers have trails they will stay on the trail and obey the rules. We

need to be partners, not adversaries. Now snowmobilers stay on the trails. Art Wilson, Parishville ATV Club

Three towns wrote letters to Brookfield to open up penstock road. Parishville ATV club monitors their trails every day. If Lenny Road opened, there would be far less trash on county forest lands since it would be monitored by ATV riders. – Deb Christie

ATV access is need for economic growth – Ron Robert

Been running the penstock road for 50 years meeting 30-40 going in each direction. Never had any problems and they picked up the garbage. Sharing the area would be good for everyone— Dahl McCormick, Pierrepont Town Board

The Red Sandstone Trail got closed to motorized use after it had been used for years by locals for years. The kids started using the roads. Sandstone trail is now just for walking. People moved in and pushed the natives out of the way. He then inquired where John O. came from. Danny Collins

Seniors used side by sides since cannot walk like they used to. Need to have community connectors. Will travel at 20-25 mph. They want to get out enjoy nature before they die. Art Wilson

Wants to know how ATVs and side by sides can get closer to the river. Danny Collins

There are definitely user group conflicts here and they need to talk. Need a community connector. Doesn't take a genius to do an Article 78. He could do one tomorrow against the Stone Valley partners tomorrow. Walt Paul

Whitewater paddlers now work in a productive relationship with ADK. They work together to better manage the resource. Phil LaMarche – American Whitewater

SLC is a economically distressed area. ATVs or UTVs cost around \$12,000, that's 8% sales tax for SLC. Art Wilson

Kuno, gas supplier, has not fixed Boyce's non-ethanol gas pump because of low volume of sales. If more ATV/snowmobile use in South Colton, those pumps would get fixed. Deb has called Kuno about this. Deb Christie

OTHER COMMENTS:

Cyndy McLean – how much clear cutting? Concern about taking away from a pristine area. Requested that a minimum of trees be cut. Does LNT include provisions for trash removal and how is trash managed? (Mark Simon explained fall clean up and that most of illegal dumping occurs along the Lenny Road near the transfer station. Illegal dumping includes washing machines, 15-20 tires, couch, party area, steel belts from burned tires. The actual garbage along the hiking trails is minimal. Labor Day weekend there was a trespass issue at the kayak takeout. Most of the trash is where area is not gated).

John O explained that this group consists of partners and has no impact on individual property owners. This group has no authority. Other than the mountain bikers there has been no proposal for the owners to change the use of their land.

SLC is working with Clarkson University to develop an economic review of portions of the Multi-Use Trail to determine the potential economic impact of the trail system. Clarkson did a good job with the economic study of the bass tournament. Alex McKinnon

Volunteered use of SLC GPS folks to determine length and location of existing trails – Alex McKinnon

SVCRA PUBLIC MEETING – FEBRUARY 3, 2014 (7pm)
Comments As Captured on Flipchart Paper, then Summarized by Ruth McWilliams

Cyndy McLean

Observation deck...how much clear cutting to be done? Want to minimize number of trees taken out.

Dan D—don't believe much (see map)

Schyler Shea

Maps / no inclusion of motorized vehicles...overlooked or otherwise?

John O – considered a few meetings ago

Dan D – issue with corporation and FERC (health and safety issues)

Deb Christy

Mountain bike trail / different between mountain bike and ATVs or snowmobiles? Why mountain bike trail added?

Dan D – believe mountain bike trail is away from the penstock

John O – current land use policy of Brookfield doesn't mention bicycles

Deb C – used until 2006

John O – 2001 changed rules; FERC has changed rules

Cyndy M – too close to penstock?

Dan D – security and health/safety issue...primary road, speed, concrete anchor blocks

Danny Collins – know regulations have changed...doodlebug, horseback riding, motorized vehicles, etc. ran penstock. Who do I give history?

Dan D – Brookfield contacts

Art Wilson

If unsafe for snowmobiles and ATVs, then unsafe for mountain bikers?

John O – current plan takes into account the landowner land use rules

Cyndy McLean

Trash / receptacles?

Mark Simon – annual clean-up / trash from primarily along Lenny Road; other hot spot along county forest land...trash from parties; Brookfield property...not as much (Labor Day weekend)

Ruth McWilliams – town's Tourism & Beautification Committee clean-up on whitewater release days

Schyler Shea

Connector trail?

John O – looked at penstock trail only; accepted land use regulations

Dan D – special purpose / didn't look at different alternatives

Dawn Howard – discussed / lots of concern...2007 local law (5 parcels / 2 locations); volume of hiking

Deb C – trails advisory board / wanted multi-use...west side for hikers; east side... penstock / buffer...noise, etc.

John O – nothing about agreement has impact on landowners – existing property owners and regulations

Walt Paul

Written comments / NYS Conservation Council...giving to John Omohundro

More technical review...not looking for comments back; see comments – e.g., recreational views / biases...process should be facilitated by landowners; Brookfield...RRAC process? Use of ADK website...use of it vs. landowners? Planned work...mountain bike trail, whitewater access improvements? GEIS...at what point is it needed (loved to death)?

John O – not altering authority structure / advisory...multiple owners, multiple users; changes about resource...environmental impacts? Procedures borrowed from county / some ideas about impacts and environmental review

Walt P – total number of miles of trails by uses? Need to understand build out / actual mileage figures

Alex MacKinnon (Board of Legislators / District 4)

Recreational Trail Advisory Board—county reforestation areas primarily; hiring of trail coordinator (Deb Christy) was only expansion of government; east side of Lenny Road; pilot ATV road...area as access to Colton; local law passed not allowing motorized vehicles; Dawn Howard (Soil & Water Conservation District) provides forestry services; ATV people and equipment to clean trails...wouldn't it have been better to open for cleanliness and management? Access to equipment, grant funds...use in a variety of ways; Gates...heavy, requiring significant construction to install; Pilot trails...people dedicated or paid to do work; Various user groups stay out of each other's ways; County highway department help

Mark Simon – most of material has been removed

Alex M – EIS on county re-forestation land...manage them forever; different trails / different signs; trail management...development, design, location

Cyndy McLean

What is issue?

Alex M – bad in past; up to them to prove it can be better

Denny Bulger – are you suggesting rescinding county law?

Alex M – trails...bad examples of mud; possibly getting better; want to work with power company / build bridge; county trail committee...Tom Ortmyer left

Cyndy McLean

ATV issues in past?

Dawn H – problems on county land / neighborhood kids tearing things up

Deb C – 2006 county trails advisory board of users / all users represented; good portal for user groups...Stone Valley group? Remains from dogs and humans

Art Wilson

13 parcels / 12 with ATVs; all welcome; feel excluded from certain areas...community connector through penstock or else Lenny Road

Deb C – letter from 3 communities to Brookfield / all want access to Colton community

Deb Christy

County parcels cleaned up / ATV clubs...clean and monitor; report to Dawn and Deb...stewardship is important

Dahl McCormick

Running penstock in past...30 or 40 running at a time; no accidents, carried in and out; like to see area shared

Danny Collins

1998 ice storm hit hard / kids road on highways with trails closed; Colton lawsuit on Stark Road...individuals; signs and gates; people moving into the area pushed natives out

Art Wilson

People used to go where they wanted to go; now stay on trails and make sure people understand private landowners and rules

Danny Collins

Lenny / O'Malley Brook Road...how managed? Your feelings?

Mark S – Bob Scott / dump truck and other equipment

John O – respect founders' wishes...power authority and Lew Weeks; willing to dialogue with snowmobilers and ATVers

Art Wilson

Side-by-sides...many elderly cannot walk like they used to...their form of recreation on county parcel; Parishville to Benson Road to Hannawa Falls...community connectors

Cyndy McLean

Economic possibilities...eat and buy at local stores?

Alex M – Clarkson University...economic review of portions of trail; grand opening on May 31st? Bass tournament experience...mountain bike regatta like bass tournament?

Phil LaMarche – reporting to county on whitewater project

Ruth M – economic / market feasibility being done as part of whitewater project

Deb C – trails advisory board would like to hear about the project

Mark Simon

Management plan not new...update to 1997 plan; Stone Valley trails...get owners talking and looking at trail system as a whole; sanctioned mountain bike trail on county land...look at before proceeding on west side; mileage is not GPS'd; rising use but don't know by how much

Alex M – county has sophisticated GPS equipment

John O – whitewater...most traffic is spectators

Danny Collins

ATVs down to watch whitewater rafting; photos of cars down by river...gate down; trucks down by Bob Scotts; ATV tracks?

Ruth M – whitewater kayaking, not rafting (expert kayakers)

Mark S – photos? Hoopey Toohey (sp?) road...closed by Brookfield; ATV tracks... reported as such

Walt Paul

State level...conflicts, ideological biases; DEC is bringing groups together; user group conflict at Stone Valley...not going away; if community connector is desired, then need to sit down; adversarial to productive relationships

Phil LaMarche

Lot of impact questions...traffic problems, behavior problems; “policing” people I represent... worked with Mark and others about parking, use of trails, etc.

Art W – we use “police” word too...county is economically depressed; cost of ATVs, trailer, registration, etc...revenue to be gotten

Deb Christy

Non-ethanol gas at Boyce's / Kunoco not getting to it; need more volume