

MECCA Trails Monthly Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, July 1, 2025, 5PM at the Chalet

Role call: Norm McKindles, Mike Shouldice, Tim Lutgen, Rodney and Lee Ann Silvis, Jerry Leiterman, Jon Olsen, Diane O’Kronley

Minutes 5/20/25 meeting: Motion to approve: Olsen/McKindles motion carried.

Treasurer's Report: Brief discussion of donations and expenses; \$93,000 in cash available with anticipated \$71,000 in pending expenses for the Equipment Building . A generous \$500.00 donation from the PAW Shop, Mercer was received along with Winterfest race revenue/match of \$14,162 from the Gogebic Range Health Foundation. Motion to approve: McKindles /Lutgen motion carried.

Public Comment: Rick Boes, Town of Mercer Board Supervisor discussed disc golf as a promotional vehicle to bring visitors to Mercer and the potential use of Room Tax Funds to construct a course. Norm McKindles shared information with Mr. Boes that the MECCA Board is currently exploring the idea of installing a disc golf course.

Dave Lombardo, Race Director for “Run For A Vet”, reported that the American Legion Auxiliary will hold the 19th annual event on July 4th on the MECCA Trails. Pre-registration numbers are strong. He thanked MECCA for the use of the Chalet and assisting with mowing the trail route.

Old Business: WDNR will be removing the Osprey Trail Cabin that has fallen into disrepair and is not worth repairing. Jerry Leiterman will be meeting with WDNR to finalize the plan to repair trail damage caused by the 2024 logging operations. A discussion on purchasing an electric chain saw and related safety equipment was discussed. The saw would not be used for routine use but rather as a tool to be stored in the UTV for “surprise” windfalls during grooming operations. It was agreed to budget \$1,000 for this initiative in FY 2025-26.

Committee Reports:

Facilities: Diane O’Kronley - A cord of cut wood was cut in 17” lengths and delivered next to the woodshed by volunteers ready to be split. Wood was

donated by WDNR after it was left behind by the logging contractor from the recent timber cut.

Finance: Jon Olsen - Preliminary FY 2025-26 Budget will be drafted and presented at the August Monthly Meeting.

Membership: none

Outreach/Promotion: Mike Shouldice - The Solstice Bike Fest was held in Manitowish Waters on June 20.

Equipment and Trails: Norm McKindles & Bernie Landgreck - Mower blades will be changed after July 4th; a reminder to torque the mower blades to 300 foot pounds. Damaged height turn screw on the mower was replaced. UTV coolant needs to be checked after each use and reported to Norm McKindles. The machine has been losing coolant for an unknown reason; Norm will schedule an appointment at Lakeland Lawn and Equipment in the fall.

A proposed re-route of the Wolf Loop was discussed along with grading sections of the trail system to eliminate “off camber” trail surfaces. Rodney Silvis and Jerry Leiterman agreed to present a priority list of trail improvements for the next meeting.

Special Events: Rodney Silvis - Winterfest 2026 was discussed at the committee level. No decision has been made on the date of the 2026 event. Topics discussed were budget, roles, advertising and sponsors

New Building: Tim Lutgen - Luppino Contractor has finished. Woodland Electric is scheduled to bring power to the building in the second week of July followed by Schmidt & Sons to install the boiler for the in-floor heating system. Garage doors will be installed after electricity is installed. Tim along with Hurley High School Students will construct a work bench; cabinets will be purchased. Added to the project is an outdoor light on the northside of the building for fueling equipment. The project is on budget. Volunteers will be needed for completing the landscaping around the building.

New Business: Board members should send FY 25-26 budget requests to Jon Olsen and copy Jerry Leiterman. A reminder of the election of Officers and Board

Members at the annual meeting in September. Jerry emphasised the fact MECCA has been without a Secretary for over two years and the need is great.

Next meeting: Tuesday, August 5th, 2025, Chalet, 5pm

Adjournment: 6:47pm

Minutes record by Mike Shouldice.