



## Record of Meeting

SRF No. 17185

**Location:** Glyndon City Hall  
**Client:** Fargo-Moorhead Metropolitan Council of Governments  
**Date:** May 23, 2024  
**Subject:** Heartland Trail Study in Clay County – Stakeholder Group Meetings

### Stakeholder Group One (11:00 am – 12:15 pm)

**Attendees:** Dan Farnsworth and Chelsea Levorsen, Metro COG; Zakcq Lockrem, Mend Collaborative; Stewart Crosby, SRF; Frank Gross, Clay County; Nathan Germolus, Cromwell Township; Matt Schlauderaff, Buffalo-Red River Watershed; Jerry Gee, Oakport Township; David Ebinger, Clay County; Fred Kuehl, Glyndon Township; Wayne Lepper, Highland Grove Township; Lee Alu, Riverton Township; Michael Astrup

#### Summary of Meeting:

- There will be a new bridge over the Buffalo River on 12<sup>th</sup> Avenue in Glyndon Township. It would be good to check to see if space for a trail can be included.
- The township would not want to re-align the road to make room for the trail. This would be costly.
- The snowmobile trail previously located on 12<sup>th</sup> Ave S has been moved several miles south. The reason for this is both due to the maintenance of 12<sup>th</sup> Ave S near the new Bison Estates development and also due to opposition of snowmobiles from the new homes in the Bison Estates development.
- It was asked about the possibility of placing a trail next to, or over existing drains. Matt from Buffalo-Red Watershed District noted that they typically don't allow trails within their right of way due to maintenance. However, Matt will provide .kmz and shapefiles of Buffalo-Red Watershed District-owned land and right-of-way.
- It was noted that there is concern about maintaining the township roads with impacts from snow drifting from a trail that is constructed adjacent to the roadway.
- Two attendees questioned the usefulness of the trail along CR 18 as this jogs one mile north and then back south two miles. One attendee was concerned about the distance that this would take users from their destinations, while the other was concerned about conflicts with farm equipment. It was noted that this alignment was carried from earlier trail analysis and noted that there are some advantages to a trail alignment along CR 18 due to the wider right-of-way as compared to township roads.

## Stakeholder Group Two (1:00 pm – 2:15 pm)

**Attendees:** Dan Farnsworth and Chelsea Levorsen, Metro COG; Zakcq Lockrem, Mend Collaborative; Stewart Crosby, SRF; Greg Strommen, Clay County Trails Alliance (Snowmobile Club); Brian Nelson, Buffalo River State Park; Tony Bormann, MSUM Science Center; Terry Steen, Flatlands Cycling Club

### Summary of Meeting:

- Consider looking into a spur toward Downer, parallel to Highway 9.
- Consider using the old railroad bed north out of Glyndon west of County Road 10.
- It might be worth including the railroad in Heartland Trail meeting discussions.
- Several comments were provided specific to Buffalo River State Park and adjacent areas:
  - The trail will be designed and developed by the DNR inside Buffalo River State Park utilizing the trails team out of Fergus Falls.
  - Concern was noted for incorporating a trail in the Bluestem Prairie Scientific and Natural Area.
  - The Science Center is on a unified front with the state park and maintains the same level of oversight and operations.
  - There are protected orchids located in the southeast area of the park, not too far south of the Buffalo River.
  - One option for trail alignment within Buffalo River State Park that might be acceptable by the park/MSUM could parallel to the roadway from the entrance of the park to the MSUM Science Center. Another route could be using the old park entrance road.
  - From a bicycling perspective, the prospect of entering Buffalo River State Park is very exciting.
- There are deer stands just east of Buffalo River State Park. Some people hunt deer leaving the park. It was noted that the homeowners east of Muskoda want their privacy.
- 
- The Snowmobile club has a contract with the county to groom trails. Presumably, they would be a part of the maintenance plan for the Heartland Trail as well. Snowmobile grooming equipment weighs up to 15 tons and provides a minimum 8.5 feet wide grooming path, but up to 12 feet wide.
- The Lee Lake area south of Hawley is a nice location for potential spur connections.

## Stakeholder Group Three (3:00 pm – 4:15 pm)

**Attendees:** Dan Farnsworth and Chelsea Levorsen, Metro COG; Zakcq Lockrem, Mend Collaborative; Stewart Crosby, SRF; Deb White, City of Moorhead; Amber Borah, City of Dilworth; Tracy Tollefson, City of Glyndon; Jim Joy, District 4B Representative

### Summary of Meeting:

- It was suggested we coordinate with MnDOT on future road and bridge improvements.
- Entering the park south of the railroad would be more desirable.

- The further the trail can be from the highway and railroad, the better from a user's perspective. Using vegetation for separation between the trail and highway could be considered to make for a more comfortable environment to trail users.
- There are new homes being built near the south side of Lake Maria.
- In the future, the river south of Hawley will get re-meandered.
- It will be best for communities to connect the trail to downtown.
- Discussion regarding engagement:
  - Send this group the social media language for their use in promoting the project.
  - Send information to the Moorhead Business Association.
  - Consider the National Night Out as an event to promote the trail (first Tuesday in august).
  - Consider Back to School as an engagement opportunity