**Chapter Meeting Minutes – March 17, 2025**

**Attendees:** Vicki Christianson, John Stupak, Dave Caliebe, Dan Mastepole, JoAnn Parks, Ann Hansen, Norm Card, Dave Lundberg, Diane Harp, Sue Kolb, Tom Kolb.

The meeting was called to order at 5:30. Dave Caliebe was welcomed to the meeting.

The Minutes of the November 18th meeting were presented and discussed. Tom Kolb made a motion to approve the minutes. Sue Kolb seconded. The motion passed.

Tom Kolb presented the Treasurer’s Report. The starting balance from October 31, 2024 was $13,222.53. The ending balance from February 28, 2025 was $12, 790.92, which is down $431.61. Over the winter, there is less shuttle income and fewer sales of merchandise. Merchandise was purchased from the Alliance to restock IATA items. Ann Hansen made a motion to approve the Treasurer’s Report. JoAnn Parks seconded. The motion passed.

Ann Hansen, our new Trail Coordinator, gave the trail report. The reroute at Kim’s Crossing on the Harwood segment has been cleared. The proposed trail at the Otter Lake Preserve has been flagged. Both are on the calendar in May for compliance. The Otter Lake Preserve trail will include a 100’ boardwalk at the west end and at a creek crossing. A DCA will be built on this segment which will provide a much needed camping spot on the long 44 mile suggested route.

A team of volunteers will use Survey123 to create a record of all signage and structures on our 4 trail segments for the Alliance. They will be divided into teams of 3 on each section of trail. In addition, they will do trail clean up while they are out there.

Dave Caliebe reported that Cross Plains has a focus on trail maintenance, particularly on tread. There will be 3 trainings offered on tread work: Springfield Hill (central), Clover Valley (southeast), and Straight River (west).

Dan Masterpole reported on his interim report for the Corridor Committee.

**Old Business:**

Kiosks: Trailhead kiosks have been built and installed at the Cornell Segment trailheads at the Mill Yard Park and the Wisconsin Veteran Farm and Winery. Signs will be added in the spring. The Alliance has been creating trailwide signage for the kiosks. This will be available in the spring. Space will be allowed for chapter specific information.

Conference Volunteer Awards:

* 100 Volunteer Hours: Molly Jennerman, Brian McAlister, Julie Mitchell, Denyse Schroeder, Beth Williamson
* 250 Volunteer Hours: Ann Hansen, Julie Kosher, Pat Kosher, Bob Mitchell
* 500 Volunteer Hours: Pam Bowe + New Crew Leader Recognition
* 1000 Volunteer Hours: Dave Lundberg
* 3000 Volunteer Hours: Diane Harp, Steve White
* Bedrock Volunteer: 20 years of Service: Diane Harp David Rasmussen
* In the Mud: Ann Hansen

Our Nawakwa: The Snowshoe Hike on Feb. 22 was a big success. It was a beautiful day and we had snow. There were 25 participants on our snowshoe hike around Picnic Lake. Our Nawakwa is holding an Earth Day Cleanup on April 22. Our volunteers will lead the volunteers in a trail building project.

**New Business:**

Logging: There will be a select cut logging project in the vicinity of DCA #3 at the west end of the Firth Lake segment. The bids go out this spring. They plan to leave some trees around the DCA.

Survey 123 project: Survey 123 is an app used for trail evaluation. We will look at structures and signage throughout our segments. The crew will be able to fill in a questionnaire on conditions, take pictures and record GPS location for each item. The Alliance will take our data and come up with a grant proposal for materials to replace old structures.

Courier Article: The County was going to try to purchase the Strzok Property for logging and recreational use such as the Ice Age Trail. This large property just south of Cornell would have provided trail for much of the route along County EE down to 155th Ave. Funding would have been through Forest Legacy Funds (federal) and Knowles-Nelson (state). The Towns (Estella and Arnold) and the City of Cornell did not support the purchase because of property tax concerns, and Federal and State Funds are locked up at this time, so this purchase is off the table. The Corridor Committee will continue to work towards smaller easement projects.

Federal Funds Lockdown Repercussions:

Federal Funds for the NPS have been locked down. NPS staff in Cross Plains is down to 4 people. They lost 3.3 employees. Chainsaw recertification, First Aid/CPR certification, Think Outside, and the 2025 Ice Age Trail Crew have been up in the air. The Alliance is working on this. Compliance is scheduled for our projects. The Budget Agreement passed, so Volunteers in Parks is being funded.

Knowles-Nelson Fund is up for renewal.

We have 32 miles of connecting road left in Chippewa County. Money from K-N pays for purchase of property and for easements.

Contacting Federal and State Representatives:

Use this website to find contact information for your state and federal representatives:

<https://www.usa.gov/elected-officials>

The Alliance is asking us to Speak up for the Trail. Contact your elected officials to let them know that you care about the Ice Age National Scenic Trail and the National Park Service. Ask for previously approved funding to be restored. Share your support for the trail. It is an asset to the state and it has a positive economic impact all along its 1200 miles.

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Upcoming Dates:**

(April 2: Stout Wellness Fair)

April 10-13: IATA Conference in Stevens Point

April 22: Nawakwa Earth Day Clean-up – requesting @4 experienced trail maintenance volunteers to lead teams.

May 4: First Sunday/Spring Ephemerals Hike 1:00 Chippewa River Segment

**Current Memberships:** **269 memberships**

**Website/email:** www.iatchippewa.org, chippewamorainechapter@iceagetrail.org

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Ann Hansen made a motion to adjourn the meeting. JoAnn Parks seconded. Meeting adjourned at 7:30.