



**WRIGHTSVILLE
BEACH**
RECREATION DISTRICT

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Wrightsville Beach Recreation District Board of Directors Meeting Minutes
Draft
August 12, 2021

Representatives

Worcester - Carl Witke

Montpelier – Jon Copans (present)

Middlesex – Jane Dudley (present)

East Montpelier – Kim Kendall (present)

Central Vermont Regional Planning Commission – Claire Rock
Manager – Collin O’Neil (present)

The meeting was called to order at 5:30 PM at the park picnic area.

1. Public Comment

There were no public comments.

2. Adjustments to Agenda

There were no adjustments to the agenda.

3. Review of Minutes from the April Meeting and Approval

4. Brief season update

5. The Wrightsville Recreation District Plan

The creation of a doggie beach is part of the plan and is something that the community is interested in. Collin said that the old boat launch entrance across from Culver Road could be an ideal location.

The plan also includes taking over management of the boat launch by WBRD. The Department of Corrections currently maintains the boat launch, but there is constantly trash piling up and other issues that the Department is unable to keep up with. Collin had a group of volunteers pick up trash earlier this summer. Collin also noticed that after a work day by the Department of Corrections, they had left the gate arms open accidentally which is a serious safety issue. The State of Vermont may be in favor of WBRD taking over management of the boat launch. Collin feels that WBRD would do a better job. The state game warden is concerned about people swimming there as well. Signage is needed so users understand that the boat launch is for boating and fishing only. The WBRD could deal with the erecting and maintaining signage as well as providing adequate upkeep to the area.

The plan includes the opportunity to create an archery range that replaces the previous shooting range that had been part of the original developments of the Army Corps. A picnic area at the dam end of the reservoir is also considered.

Finally, the plan includes securing funding for future trail work to support the surrounding towns steward and maintain the various trail networks around Central Vermont. Collin used his crew this summer to improve the trail to the boat launch. Collin used some downtime when the weather was more gray earlier in the summer. In the future, a trails crew can also improve erosion controls so that trails can open earlier in the spring.

VOREC Grant Components of WBRD Plan

The Board spent some time gaining a clear understanding of the vision in the grant that Collin has put forward. The Board discussed the five pillars in Collin's summary:

- Grow outdoor recreation-related businesses.
- Increase participation in outdoor recreation activities among all demographics.
- Strengthen the quality and extent of outdoor recreation resources.
- Increase stewardship of outdoor recreation resources and environmental quality.
- Promote and enjoy the health and wellness benefits of outdoor recreation.

Collin pointed out that introducing more people to outdoor recreation by renting equipment will lead to more people eventually purchasing their own equipment. Collin also envisions a gear hut that will include fishing equipment, bikes and snowshoes among other items. This equipment can be used in various locations within the surrounding towns.

The Board also discussed the idea of removing physical and financial barriers to getting out on the reservoir and recreating in general. Affordability for recreation opportunities has been a key element of Wrightsville's pricing strategies. Accessible trails, picnic areas and facilities help remove physical barriers as well.

Another compelling component of the plan is parents learning how to use recreation equipment and then teaching their children.

Jon asked about the trailer (full of gear) envisioned. Collin said it was a movable resource to bolster events in multiple spaces in the surrounding member towns. Jon further asked about how the trailer is supported by staff particularly at other locations. Collin said that in the first few years it would be sustained by the grant.

There was a lot of discussion around how to share the vision in the grant to the member towns and gain their support for the grant. Part of the plan is also to request the member towns to increase the per capita rate from \$1.50 to \$3.

The board also discussed the need at the beach for a full-time manager. Collin is a highly skilled manager with experience running this park. In the future, the park will need a full-time manager. We need our member towns to support this need so that the park will remain sustainable in the future.

Collin made the point that sustainability is built into the plan in the grant. For example, by 2024 an assistant manager will provide extra support.

The Board agreed to allow Collin to submit a letter of intent for the VOREC opportunity. The letter is due at the end of August. And board members are planning to talk to their towns about the grant.

Jon will set up a google doc, so that we can begin to craft a summary with bullet points to communicate with our towns.

6. Manager's title to Director

7. Adjourn

The meeting adjourned by consensus at 8:11 PM.

Respectfully submitted by Jon Copans and Kim Kendall