



State of Delaware  
Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Control  
**Delaware Division of Parks and Recreation**  
89 Kings Highway  
Dover, Delaware 19901

**Council on Greenways & Trails**  
**Kent County Levy Court, Dover, DE**  
**August 10, 2011**  
**9:30 am to noon**

**Welcome & Introductions**

Ms. Diane Wilson, acting Chairperson and Sussex County Council Representative, called the Council meeting to order at 9:33 a.m. She invited members and visitors to introduce themselves and identify their group affiliation or agency.

**Approval Meeting Minutes**

Ms. Wilson asked for a motion to approve the April 27, 2011 minutes as written. Charlie Emerson moved to approve and Peggy Koster seconded, motion passed.

**Trail Updates**

White Clay Creek State Park (WCCSP) Trail Plan – Dave Bartoo, State Parks Trail Planner

David Bartoo presented the final draft of the WCCSP Trail Plan. The planning effort, which began in 2009, with collaboration of the Division Trail Committee, was comprehensive and thorough. Public input and stakeholders meetings helped to shape the plan. The Trail Committee designed the system to meet environmentally and socially sustainable trail standards; reduce soil erosion; avoid important natural and cultural resource areas; connect park management units; and create community connections.

After discussion, Diane Wilson asked for a motion to accept the Trail Plan. Wendel Cassel moved to endorse the WCCSP Trail plan and encourage the Division to begin implementation that creates connections between the management units, makes community connections, and recommended that the Division conduct additional resource assessments that provide valuable information for the final layout of the design of the trails. Jim Ireland seconded, motion passed.

Cape Henlopen State Park Gordons Pond Trail Plan – Lee Ann Walling, Principal Planner, DNREC

Lee Ann Walling presented a second overview [the first presentation to the Council was April 27, 2011] of the proposed extension of the Gordons Pond Trail. The 2-miles currently link the northern and southern sections of Cape Henlopen State Park – approximately 1-mile is accessible, while another 1-mile segment is predominately sand. This proposal calls for surfacing the trail and creating boardwalk segments over wetlands. If constructed, this trail will be part of a 15.5-mile loop through the State Park, Lewes, and Rehoboth – portions fall on the Junction & Breakwater Trail. The area through which the trail is proposed is a highly sensitive resource area with dune fields, wetlands, and archaeological sites. The Working Group, comprised of Dave Bartoo, Mike Krumrine and others, scrutinized various issues to find the best optimal alignment and to implement a cost estimate to develop and review the route. The project will go through public process, public opinion, and input. It will cost roughly \$2.2 million.

Diane Wilson truly appreciates all the work put into these first steps of the plan. Many people are interested in this area. Ms. Wilson asked Lee Ann if she would be willing to present a display on Coast Day in Lewes on October 2011. Lee Ann agreed.

After discussions, Diane Wilson asked for a motion to accept the Trail Plan as presented. Jim Ireland made a motion that the Council endorses the Gordons Pond Trail concept plan asking that DNREC be especially sensitive to the natural and cultural resources in the Park. Charlie Emerson seconded the motion; motion passed.

#### Assawoman Canal – Bob Ehemann

Bob Ehemann introduced Melvin Cusick, Town Manager of South Bethany and Conway Gregory, Town Manager of Ocean View and said these leaders began the process to develop a Trail Concept Plan for the Assawoman Canal about three years ago. Additional community members joined the Working Group that shaped the Plan. The Canal Trail is 3.9-miles long and approximately 210-feet wide between White Creek and Jefferson Creek. The Corps of Engineers owned the property until 1990 when they released the land to Division of Parks & Recreation, DNREC.

Conway Gregory commended the Division for the White Clay Creek State Park Trail plan, the proposed Gordons Pond Trail link in Cape Henlopen State Park, and First State Trails & Pathway Initiative [which includes Assawoman Canal] proposed by Governor Markell. He said when complete, the Assawoman Canal Trail would be a great asset to the community, region, and the State of Delaware. Mr. Gregory explained what the trail concept process accomplished and wished to see the trail complete by November 2012. Ocean View is constructing sidewalks throughout the town to create greater community connections. Sidewalks will increase access to the Assawoman Canal Trail encouraging walking and bike riding, and fewer car trips.

Melvin Cusick said his goal was to get people off Route 1 corridor because of serious bicycle accidents that have occurred. The community has accepted the concept that trails are for public use and see the value of having a trail. There are opportunities for this trail to provide access for bicyclists and walkers in South Bethany, Bethany and Ocean View and other resort area neighborhoods. He encouraged Council to make this project a priority.

Chazz Salkin - Since the Division acquired this property over 20 years, we have had a consistent history of notifying all of the neighbors where their property lines are, and what their rights are. We removed most of the docks and patios constructed without permits with a few legitimate structures remaining.

Bob Ehemann thanked Ms. Denise Husband who developed the plan renderings demonstrate how the trail and trail amenities will appear. He said there is an upcoming Public Workshop on September 30, 2011 to finalize public input on this concept plan.

Melvin Cusick thanked Bob Ehemann for making this project come to fruition.

After discussions, Diane Wilson asked for a motion to endorse the Assawoman Canal Trail Concept Plan as presented and for Council to encourage the Working Group to continue moving forward with the design and development of this project. Jim Ireland made that motion and Diane Wilson seconded. Motion passed.

#### Pomeroy Trail – Charles Emerson, Council Member

The City of Newark awarded the Pomeroy Trail contract to Merit Construction, a superb firm that has completed several State Park projects. The City of Newark began working on the Pomeroy Trail project since 2005. The Pomeroy Trail will connect into White Clay Creek State Park and have all night lighting. This is a federally funded project and is “shovel ready” with construction completion expected in 2012. These trails bring real economic benefits to the City of Newark and make the town a mountain bike mecca.

#### First State Trails & Pathways Initiative – Charles Salkin, Director, Division of Parks & Recreation

Chazz Salkin appreciated and thanked Diane Wilson for acting chair. He said Council is pleased and excited to receive trail financial resources for the first time in a long time. Credit goes to Governor Markell and DNREC Secretary, Collin O'Mara, both avid bikers, who used this one-time windfall to commit \$7million to trails. The Governor recommended one-time expenditures on a number of areas and our Secretary capitalized on investment in trails. Some of those dollars will generate public and private matches and we may be looking at projects that could potentially raise \$10million to \$15million.

Funds received in two categories: (1) \$2million appropriated to DNREC for Park trails, i.e., trail and bike paths in State Parks and considered under Division jurisdiction and responsibility. (2) \$5million allocated for community connectors and pathway projects outside State Parks. The Governor appropriated all monies to DNREC who is collaborating with DelDOT. This money is in our hands, in our budget, and the Governor has challenged us to take the lead in working with our partners at DelDOT to determine where we should be spend this money and what the statewide priorities are. In particular, investing these dollars in projects that would begin to create a statewide trail network/missing links, and new initiatives to start to fill the gaps in the statewide network of trails. We have already had initial discussions with DelDOT at the Secretary and staff level. In two weeks, we have scheduled a joint staff meeting to begin to put action and plans to this project to define how we invest this \$5million. We are not just looking at how the \$5million will be spent but looking, for the first time, to achieve very intense joint planning between the two agencies so that every dollar that might come our way, be it federal money, private money, municipal projects, etc., gets invested as strategically and efficiently as possible. We do not have final commitments at this point, although we have some clear guidance on some projects [such as those that complete systems or close gaps].

Mr. Salkin handed out and discussed a list of projects under consideration for trail financial investment. He welcomes ideas and comments with hopes that at the next Council meeting, it should have specific recommendations and plans for the initial investments and priorities.

Mr. Salkin will formerly share this list with the Secretary with the objective to get all projects started concurrently, a quickly as possible and have all of these projects underway by early next year. The idea is to spend these funds as quickly as possible.

Mr. Salkin asked Council to give him a list of trail requests not mentioned in his list to the Secretary. Council and staff had several to add.

#### C&D Canal Update – Susan Moerschel, Chief, Park Resource Office

- Full plans and specifications were developed for the Canal Trail in compliance with the American Corps of Engineers standards. It is understood this project, on Corps land would be built and managed by them.
- After a few years of no progress to construct the trail, Senator Coons called a meeting of the Corps of Engineers, DNREC, DelDOT, and others. It was learned of a Corps policy that prohibited the agency from building any new recreational facilities; the policy does allow other agencies/organizations to build and maintain recreational facilities without the Corps agreement.
- Senator Coons followed up with a meeting with trail advocates.
- DelDOT agreed to construct the trail and format the design and engineering plans and specifications to State Park standards. Plans completed by mid-September.
- It is assumed the Division of Parks & Recreation will operate and manage the trail. The first segment is expected to be approximately 9-miles long. A future extension to Chesapeake City, Maryland would add six more miles of trail.

- Delaware City is designing an extension of Canal front Promenade, the gateway to the C&D Trail. Delaware City has received a Delaware Land & Water Trust Fund grant and other state funding to complete this segment.
- Public Lands Highway Funds will use \$2.2million to construct the trail between Delaware City and Lums Pond State Park.

#### Education & Outreach – Diane Wilson, Council Member

- At the April 27, 2011 Council meeting, State Parks, Nemours Health & Prevention Services, and Seaford area pediatricians formed a partnership whose goal was to create healthy, active children. The project targets mainly obese children who will receive a prescription to become active and play outdoors. This week, the News Journal had an article that the project was to begin at Trap Pond and Seaford area parks. Families and children will receive day-passes and literature promoting healthy diet and exercise.
- AmericanTrails.org to host a Webinar entitled *Making the Case for Trails in Tight Economic Times* on Thursday, 9/22/2011 starting 10:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. Cost: \$25 for American Trail members and \$45 for non-members. Parks & Recreation Trails will cover the cost for interested Council members wishing to participate.
- Coast Day: October 2, 2011 – Lee Ann Walling agreed to participate in educating and answering questions from the public about the Gordons Pond Trail.

#### Equestrian Community – Peggy Koster, Council Member

- The Equine Council's mission is to promote, protect, and enhance the keeping of equine in Delaware.
- The heat kept many equestrian enthusiasts inside. Riding is limited this summer.
- Thanks to Trap Pond staff and Trails Committee for putting the equine signage up.
- Attendance at the State Fair in Harrington was low this year.
- The Council requested the Nanticoke Wildlife Area reopen one trail - request was denied.

#### Mountain Biking – Jim Ireland, Council Member

- There is a 146th General Assembly - Senate Concurrent Resolution # 20 – Expressing support for Nemours work regarding No Child Left Inside. Which reads: This Resolution expresses support for outdoor activities for children to experience nature. Specifically, the Resolution supports the Delaware No Child left Inside/Children in Nature Initiative.
- On June 15, 2011, the Trail Spinners received an award from the Coalition of Recreational Trails for the bridge project completed at Middle Run Valley Natural Area. New Castle County Special Services Department and Delaware State Parks collaborated in this project.
- On September 1, 2011 Senator Carper, Senator Coons, and Representative Carney will give a presentation at the C&D Canal under the St. Georges Bridge – Council is invited.
- Sunday, October 2, 2011 the Trail Spinners will hold their sixth Annual Mountain Bike Jamboree at Fair Hill Natural Resource area. Many activities planned with introduction to Mountain Biking for the kids - more information website <http://trailspinners.org/>.
- The Trail Spinners held their Fair Hill Race this year with over 748 adult racers and 80 children from 5 years old to 12 years old participating in the children's race.
- The organization is currently working on Newark's Redd Park trail project to connect it with White Clay Creek State Park trails. Over 600 volunteer hours to date are in the project. Mr. Emerson said Redd Park initially crisscrossed with deer trails and would still be in that condition without support from the Trail Spinners and Delaware State Parks. The City of Newark lacks the resources to make necessary trail changes in Redd Park. Redd Park trails are going to be an incredible addition to promote hiking and biking in the City of Newark. He thanked the group and was sincerely grateful for all they have done.

- Mr. Ireland said Bob Gaston, a member of the Trail Spinners, and Carolyn White Bartoo, attended a meeting with Senator Carper's Transportation Aide Colin Peppard who was invited to visit the Delaware trails projects. They discussed the value and importance of Recreational Trail Programs. Senator Carper sat in on part of the meeting.

#### Bicycle Council – Mike Krumrine, Park Resource Office

- The Bike Council holds meetings every first Wednesday of alternate months from 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m., Administration Building, DelDOT Dover, DE.
- On Friday, October 14, 2011, the Bicycle Council will hold its third Annual Delaware Bicycle Summit in Lewes, at the Virden Center, Sussex County. The Bike Council is continuing to work and plan several activities including an organized bicycle ride.
- Senate Bill No. 38, authored by Senator Sokola, requiring motorists to give a 3-foot safe passing buffer to bicyclists was passed and signed into law July 25, 2011.
- Senate Bill 120, concerns using right turn only lanes, to make it legal for bicyclists to use the shoulder. The law at this time states that bicyclist struck in a right turn only lane the bicyclist is at fault. Council is trying to work out a way to incorporate bike lanes into those right turn lanes.

#### Wilmington Trail Club - Wendel Cassel [www.wilmingtontrailclub.org](http://www.wilmingtontrailclub.org).

- The Wilmington Trail Club offers hiking, paddling, biking, kayaking, and skiing outings.
- The Club is sponsoring a 14-mile hike across Delaware on Saturday, 11/5, 2011.
- The Club is interested in the implementation of the White Clay Creek State Park Trail Plan and volunteering in trail construction.
- The "Hike across Delaware," event needs registration & fee - more information. website

#### **Updates**

##### **Announcements**

Ms. Wilson officially welcomed Representative Lincoln Willis and said she had the pleasure of serving this Council along with his father.

Next Council meeting is Wednesday, October 26, 2011 at the Department of Agriculture, S. DuPont Highway, Dover, starting 9:30 a.m.

##### **Adjourn**

Ms. Wilson asked for a motion to adjourn. Charles Emerson motioned and Ms. Wilson seconded. Meeting adjourned at 12:06PM.

## **Meeting Attendance**

### **Appointed Members**

Wendel Cassel  
Charles Emerson  
James Ireland  
Peggy Koster  
Gail Van Gilder  
Diane Wilson, Acting Chair

### **Legislative Members**

Representative Lincoln Willis

### **Agency Members**

Marco Boyce, Planning, DelDOT  
Charles A. Salkin, DNREC

### **Guests**

Lee Ann Walling, DNREC  
Melvin Cusick, Town Manager, South  
Bethany  
Conway Gregory, Town Manager, Ocean  
View  
Denise Husband, Environmental Design  
March Chura, Delaware Greenways, Inc.  
William H. Daisey

### **Division of Parks and Recreation Staff**

David Bartoo  
Bob Ehemann  
Mike Krumrine  
Susan Moerschel  
Rich Phifer  
Kendall Sommers  
Rose Ryödi