

## NORTHERN HILLS TRAILS GROUP MEETING

Date: 10-20-16  
Time: 9:00 AM  
Location: Deadwood City Hall  
Attendees: Tony Ortiz                      John Kelley                      Dave Koch  
                  Thad Fuller                      Mike Stahl                      Kevin Kuchenbecker  
                  Chris Huhnerkoch                      Doug Bechen                      TJ Larson  
                  Jan Burshek

### Notes:

- The focus of the group was the establishment of a trail between Lead and Deadwood. While this has been the stated goal, the group did not make any inroads over the summer. That being said the following was discussed:
  - The Trail Group is a committee of the Northern Hills Recreation Association, which is a 501(c)3 organization; this will assist with grants and other funding.
  - The trail that was strongly recommended and supported was the Homestake RR grade between Lead and Deadwood, extending one end into the community of Lead and the other end into Deadwood near the Deadwood Mountain Grand Resort.
  - A release for use of this trail by members of the Northern Hills Recreation Association was received in May, 2016.
  - Parking in Lead for this trail could be an issue. The group needs to explore the option of extending the trail into Lead, making the "trailhead" near the Lead Dog Park and its attendant parking area.
  - It was the consensus to limit this trail to non-motorized use.
  - It was also agreed to pursue several grants to establish the needed amenities that trails require: trailhead kiosks, interpretive signs on the trail, allowed uses, mapping/GPS, trail blazes, directional signage and restrictive signage.
  - The initial thoughts were to pursue:
    - Outside of Deadwood Grant
    - Wharf Resources Grants
    - Resource Advisory Council (RAC) monies available thru Lawrence County
  - One issue with this proposed trail is that a section of the trail is on private land (not Homestake land) and the owner may not be responsive to public use.
  - Homestake Mining Company is planning on logging this area in 2016-17. This may provide the opportunity to build a new trail section around the private property owner to remove that conflict.
  - A well-received recommendation is to establish the use of electronic media along the trail. New inroads with applications and their use will be researched with students from the Lead-Deadwood Schools.

- It was also agreed that signage for both the user and non-user of electronic must be installed.
- The following assignments were volunteered:
  - Homestake Interface—Mike Stahl
    - Will discuss existing mapping/surveying of the railroad bed and determine if additional data is needed.
    - Also will determine if, during the logging operation, needed trails could be established and/or improved.
    - Visit with Homestake about the land status and if they wish to transfer ownership to the NH Recreation Board.
  - Grant Writing—Mike Stahl & TJ Larson
    - Outside of Deadwood Grant: will work with Kevin Kuchenbecker on signage estimates. Grant is due January 1, 2017
    - Wharf Resources Grant
    - RAC monies—will visit with Bruce Outka (Lawrence County) and find out requirement and details
  - Fund Raising--Jan Burshek
    - Visit with local businesses to determine level of support
  - Resources
    - Unusable bridge timber is available through Wheeler Lumber in Whitewood
    - The logging company on Homestake land—what can they do? Develop trail into Central City as a post use of skidder trails?
- The group agreed that we need to become more organized, hence an agenda will be developed for the next meeting by Stahl
- Next meeting is Friday, November 18, 2016 10:00 AM, Deadwood City Hall, Century Room.