**Mills County Water Trails Stakeholder Meeting**

**Tuesday, March 12th 2012**

**Macedonia City Hall; 5:30 p.m.**

Those in attendance (16): Zach Kopriva (Iowa DNR River Programs/CCI), Dan Lajko & Laura Lajko (Stakeholders), Suzann Duede (City of Macedonia), Greg Miller (Stakeholder), Corey Hackett (Stakeholder), Brian Leaders (Rubber Duck Outfitters), Jon Fenner (Pott County Conservation Board), Eric McCready (Stakeholder), Will Thompson (Indian Creek Museum, Mills County Museum, and Mills County Tourism), Terry Meinders (Stakeholder), Bob Hassler (Stakeholder), Jerad Getter (Mills County Conservation), Lana White (Mills County Tourism, Indian Creek Museum, and Mills County Conservation Board), Liz Birkel-Leddy (Golden Hills RC&D), and Emily Haase (Golden Hills RC&D),.

1. Introductions:
   * Name, where you are from, favorite Iowa animal.
2. Overview
3. Zach Kopriva – Iowa DNR River Programs/CCI
   * Zach will be designing the 2 public river accesses for Mills County.
   * He estimates they will be completed mid-September to early October.
   * Must have a minimum 50’ buffer from parking to river. Infiltration and native plantings will also be used.
   * Parking lots will be large enough to hold 8 vehicles or 4 vehicles and trailers. 2 stalls will be designed to ADA requirements. Stalls will allow for trailer pull through.
   * 10’x10’ staging area.
   * Paved ramps to bankfull elevation. Gravel will be used for remaining trails and parking.
   * 6’x8’ wide ramps depending upon available county equipment to maintain.
   * Survey work still needs to be conducted before final plans can be completed.
   * Suggestions from stakeholders:
     1. Rip-rap at bottom of ramps can be dangerous and sharp
     2. Possible hog slats at base of ramp instead.
     3. Fix Oakland access
     4. Research other stabilization methods other than rip rap (natural methods)
     5. Concerned with carry down distance from parking to ramp.
4. Other suggestions/Ideas
   * Create access on West Branch in Avoca
     1. Work with Scott Suhr.
     2. Landowner is willing to help out.
   * Mile markers are installed every 2 miles in Pott County but need some clearing and maintenance.
   * Avoca to Hancock trip is much harder than Hancock to Oakland due to many more bends in the river.
   * There is a public access to the river just a mile North of Oakland. This could be used for an emergency ramp and could be fixed up slightly.
   * Willow Slough in Mills County has an old metal trestle bridge buried in the water that is sharp and dangerous during low flows.
   * Is the Hancock USGS Water gauge correct? Seems to be off.
   * IDNR will no longer be installing a boat access at the Hwy 34 Bridge as it is not needed on the Nish, but if we would like to install an access there in the future we do have permission from the state.
5. Pottawattamie County Visioning Plan
   * Avoca
     1. Would like access on West branch.
     2. Telephone posts in water just south of access – have been cut down as much as possible, shouldn’t be a problem.
     3. Many issues with drainage on new ramp
     4. Very steep ramp
   * Hancock
     1. Needs designated river parking.
     2. Would like a closer hydrant to the river.
     3. Would like restroom facilities near river.
     4. Access could be re-designed for future if money becomes available.
     5. Small strainers between
     6. n Hancock and Oakland
   * Oakland
     1. Rip rap at bottom of access has proven to be a problem and has cut many people. Would like to see this redone with more sustainable methods or hog slats to eliminate having to walk over rock.
     2. Tree down in river south of access, requires a full portage across a sand bar. Needs to be cut out or removed.
     3. Needs a hydrant near river
     4. Informal tent camping south of access in open lawn.
   * Carson
     1. Needs formal parking other than just gravel laid on grass, more permanent.
     2. Restrooms need to be open year round and after hours.
     3. Could use a hydrant near the river, there is one available near restrooms.
     4. Larger tree snag at Hwy 92 Bridge.
   * Macedonia
     1. Needs a hydrant to clean off.
     2. Simple restroom needed.
     3. Camping hook-ups wanted.
     4. Old bridge pier in water near old town bridge.
     5. Tree down south of access.
6. Possible Future Events
   * River Critters & Wildlife (IDNR)
   * Freshwater Mussels (IDNR)
   * Classroom and River
   * Aquatic Insects (IDNR)
   * Earth Day Paddle (April 22nd)
   * Full Moon/Moonlight Paddle (GHRCD)
   * 4th of July Paddle (GHRCD)
   * Geology (Hungry Canyons)
   * Archaeology?
   * Mother’s Day Paddle & a Movie (May 12) (GHRCD)
   * Oakland to Carson
   * Botna Bend Pancake Feed & Paddle (GHRCD)
   * Twisted 27 (Stakeholders)
   * Poker Run (Stakeholders)
   * Annual River Clean-Up (GHRCD & Stakeholders)
   * **Top Suggestions from Stakeholders:**
     1. Moonlight Paddle
     2. Donia Days Paddle
     3. Mother’s Day/Father-Son Paddles
     4. Annual River Clean-Up
     5. Picnic Day
7. Future Meetings
   * Does not need to be regular but try to hit around 4/year.
   * Either 1st or 4th Tuesdays of the month would work best.
   * Before and after summer season.
8. Stay Connected and ‘Like’ the Water Trail!
   * Facebook: West Nishnabotna River Water Trail; [www.facebook.com/NishWaterTrail](http://www.facebook.com/NishWaterTrail)
   * Twitter: @NishWaterTrail
   * Pinterest: NishWaterTrail
   * Blog: westnishwatertrail.weebly.com
9. Other Business
   * Rubber Duck Outfitters is for sale. They will continue to be open for the 2013 season. Contact Brian Leaders if interested.