

**Kosciusko County Parks & Recreation Board**  
**Courthouse, Old Courtroom**  
**Thursday, January 18, 2024**

The Kosciusko County Parks & Recreation Board met at 1:00 p.m. on Thursday, January 18, 2024, in the Old Courtroom, Kosciusko County Courthouse. Members present included: Rob Bishop, Mike Cusick, Matt Metzger, Aggie Sweeney, and Troy Turley.

President Rob Bishop called the meeting to order.

**IN THE MATTER OF SWEARING IN OF MEMBERS:**

Rob Bishop, Mike Cusick, Matt Metzger, Aggie Sweeney, and Troy Turley were sworn in as 2024 board members.

**IN THE MATTER OF 2024 ELECTION OF PRESIDENT:**

President Rob Bishop called for nominations; Mike Cusick renominated Rob Bishop for President.

Motion: Mike Cusick  
Second: Aggie Sweeney  
Ayes: 5      Nays: 0  
Motion Carried

To: Approve the nomination of Rob Bishop as President, as presented.

**IN THE MATTER OF 2024 ELECTION OF VICE PRESIDENT:**

President Rob Bishop called for nominations for Vice President; Mike Cusick nominated Aggie Sweeney for Vice President.

Motion: Mike Cusick  
Second: Matt Metzger  
Ayes: 5      Nays: 0  
Motion Carried

To: Approve the nomination of Aggie Sweeney as Vice President, as presented.

Rob Bishop thanked Troy Turley for his service as Vice President and his continued service on the Parks & Recreation Board.

**IN THE MATTER OF APPROVAL OF 11-02-23/11-16-23/11-30-23 MINUTES:**

Motion: Matt Metzger  
Second: Troy Turley  
Ayes: 5      Nays: 0  
Motion Carried

To: Approve the 11-02-23, 11-16-23, 11-30-23 minutes, as presented.

**IN THE MATTER OF CLARIFICATION OF BOARD APPOINTMENTS:**

It was confirmed that the term for board members Aggie Sweeney and Matt Metzger is a 4-year term versus a 2-year term per the Parks & Recreation Board Ordinance.

**IN THE MATTER OF TRAILS MASTER PLAN:**

Member Mike Cusick presented the progress for the Trails Master Plan stating Aggie and himself in previous discussion are representing the board for working with the vendor to develop a steering committee for the master Greenway and Blueway Plan. The intent was to reach out to 6-10 individuals to be part of that steering committee. The list for the steering committee so far includes Aggie Sweeney, Mike Cusick, Matt Sandy, Fred Helfrich, Rob Parker, Steve Moriarty, Tim Metzger, Ryan Martin, Amanda Plank, and Larry Plummer. Two additional committee members have not been confirmed. TSW Design Group advised they will put an invite out for an initial meeting within the next week for the steering committee. Mike advised there is awareness from our adjoining counties in what they're trying to do with the trails. Aggie brought up a concern of where the steering committee could meet that also would offer people to attend virtually. There was a brief discussion from several members and people in attendance on possible locations available to hold the meetings.

**IN THE MATTER OF GREENWAY/CHINWORTH EXTENSION:**

President Rob Bishop presented the Chinworth Extension progress update stating that they have the base agreement ready to submit at the 1-30-2024 Commissioners Meeting for their review and approval. The Parks & Recreation Board is continuing to work with Triad Associates as to the extension agreement and there is still a great desire to get at least the design and engineering done all the way up to the county line. Aggie stated they have been working with Triad Associates on their work, the design and engineering for the trails, and the base plus the two alternates. They provided preliminary cost estimates for the construction of the trail, and estimates for the base for each alternate. The total adds up to just under \$3 million, with about 90% of that being the preliminary construction cost with the chance it will change. There are some timeline issues with the allocation of ARPA dollars that were received from the county. Aggie expressed how do they want to allocate or invest the ARPA dollars they already have since it needs to be committed by the end of this calendar year and spent by the end of 2026. Mike stated because of the ARPA restrictions that they at least need to get the base design, engineering, and construction completed. There are some concerns that the construction estimates might be low and could take more of the ARPA funds than they realized. Mike stated if they were to do all of the design and engineering for base 1 and 2, plus the current construction estimate if that construction estimate is 50% of the total, then they won't have enough money to complete it. The group spoke about adding attractive features and making sure the trails go somewhere and connect. The 0.8 miles is the main focus. Aggie advised that they need to keep in mind if the trail crosses any waterways, they will need permits.

**IN THE MATTER OF 2024 GOALS:**

President Rob Bishop opened discussion about their 2024 goals starting with the Master Plan and the Chinworth Extension both need to stay as their top goals for 2024 because they are not complete. Rob advised the group they are in a good spot to set up a Friends of the Park Program and a county wide trail sign to get all of the trail holders together and discuss things. Aggie added on the boards 5-year master plan they completed in April of 2023 there were 8 primary

goals and some sub goals that she would like to discuss at the next meeting. The group held a discussion about priorities moving forward.

**IN THE MATTER OF FURTHER BUSINESS:**

Commissioner Cary Groninger voiced that the Parks & Recreation Board is right on point of what the county needs and to keep the main goal ahead with the objective of trying to finish out the HELP Program. Cary thanked the board for their efforts and stated he looks forward to what 2024 will bring.

Executive Director of the Syracuse-Wawasee Trails Amanda Plank mentioned a local subcommittee of these trail users and she would love to be a part of leading that discussion with more of a peer focus. Amanda advised the board of a DNR Trails Advisory Board has 2 spots open, one for Parks & Recreation and another for health if they have any members interested.

Being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

**Kosciusko County Parks & Recreation Board  
Courthouse, Old Courtroom  
Thursday, February 15, 2024**

The Kosciusko County Parks & Recreation Board met at 1:00 p.m. on Thursday, February 15, 2024, in the Old Courtroom, Kosciusko County Courthouse. Members present included: Rob Bishop, Mike Cusick, Matt Metzger, Aggie Sweeney, and Troy Turley.

President Rob Bishop called the meeting to order.

**IN THE MATTER OF APPROVAL OF 1-18-24 MINUTES:**

MOTION: Aggie Sweeney

TO: Approve the 1-18-24 minutes, as presented.

SECOND: Troy Turley

AYES: 5            NAYS: 0

UNANIMOUS

**IN THE MATTER OF GREENWAY/CHINWORTH TRAIL EXTENSION:**

Triad Associates Project Site Manager John Nelson presented an update for Chinworth Trail Extension stating that Lakewood Surveying has it on their schedule to start surveying this week or the beginning of next. Triad advised it will be 30 days before they receive the drawings so they can start their work. From the surveyor Triad will receive drawings of both sides of the road, topography and everything at grade, including driveways, street intersections, trees, power poles, property corners, and anything that would be in the way. Triad stated from what they have preliminary looked at for the 1<sup>st</sup> phase they would like to stay on the south side of the right of way of Old 30. Rob stated Aggie and he met with Highway Department Superintendent Steve

Moriarty and he told them that crossing Old 30 would not be pleasant in terms of everything they would have to do to get permission to do.

**IN THE MATTER OF TRAILS MASTER PLAN:**

Vice President Aggie Sweeney presented an update on the Trails Master Plan stating the first meeting for the steering committee has been set for Monday, February 26, 2024 from 10 a.m. to 12 noon in the video conference room in the Justice Building lower level. The first meeting is to do an overview of what is the Trails Blueway Greenway Master Plan all about and where is it going. The meeting will be open to the public. Aggie advised Amy Roe and Craig Allebach have confirmed their participation on the steering committee. Aggie mentioned that Winona Lake did provide some of the funding for this plan along with ARPA funds. Troy and Matt let the board know they would like to be a big part of the blueways when that time comes.

**IN THE MATTER OF REVIEW OF GOALS:**

President Rob Bishop opened the discussion about their review of goals starting with the Priority Action Schedule. Rob stated some of it they have been working on and some of it is a part of the Trails Master Plan that needs to be completed first. The first priority goal was to add trail connections between communities. In regard to that Rob and Mike were approached by Amy Roe who is on the Rochester City Council and is the Kosciusko County Community Coordinator, she stated there is a meeting with the Rochester City Parks Department on March 11, 2024 that Mike is going to attend. There is discussion in Rochester about extending the Nickel Plate Trail northward into Marshall County and there are some route decisions they have to make about their master plan to update it so if it ever got to the point were a number of counties all get together and got a grant from the state it would need to be updated.

Mike discussed that Peter Hru from Elkhart County stated he wanted to discuss how to connect the Pumpkinvine into Kosciusko County.

Georgia Tenney of Pierceton told the board it is her passion to get the trail from Winona Lake to Pierceton. Rob agreed there are not a lot of miles between Pierceton and the trail in Winona Lake to Pierceton will not be forgotten. Matt agreed and stated there is the new KCV bike park that's going to be there, and potentially a multi-use building that's going to be happening at Grace College.

Aggie stated with the Trails Master Plan they think the trails master plan process will take at least eight months and while there is a steering committee to help guide, there will be multiple opportunities for public input. TSW will have information available through a website so the public can learn more and stay updated.

Mike suggested Chinworth is a more ready opportunity and should be taken advantage of due to the interest Marshall County has with connecting to Nickel Plate Trail

Matt spoke of the Tippecanoe River and if it is navigable or not, Rob stated they have discussed this with TSW. Aggie contacted Kyle Quandt with Northeast Indiana Water Trails and asked Kyle about navigable waters. Kyle stated most of the rivers in their network of blueways are not designated navigable, however they are careful with their signage so that way people on the rivers are aware of trespassing. Kyle felt it wasn't needed for the board to move forward.

Mike referenced phase 1 and 2 of the Greenway/Chinworth Trail Extension to determine the cost of engineering and design and funding for construction is still an open item that needs to be closed, however Triad did provide estimates for that.

Aggie discussed after construction of the trails and parks having a friend of the park volunteer group in place as early as next year should be a goal to review.

Commissioner Cary Groninger stated envisioning most of the pocket parks would probably be in cities and towns in our county and that it would be beneficial to get in touch with who is in charge of the parks department and find out if there is acreage that the pocket parks can be developed on.

Rob suggested creating a mailing list so as people come in and come to these community events there will be a sign-up list that can be maintained through the parks and recreation email. Cary advised getting a list of the lake association's emails and contacts as well for the blueways.

Being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

**Kosciusko County Parks & Recreation Board  
Courthouse, Old Courtroom  
Thursday, March 21, 2024**

The Kosciusko County Parks & Recreation Board met at 1:00 p.m. on Thursday, March 21, 2024, in the Old Courtroom, Kosciusko County Courthouse. Members present included: Matt Metzger, Aggie Sweeney, and Troy Turley.

Aggie Sweeney called the meeting to order.

**IN THE MATTER OF APPROVAL OF 2-15-24 MINUTES:**

Aggie Sweeney presented the minutes for approval.

Motion: Troy Turley

Second: Matt Metzger

Ayes: 3            Nays: 0

Motion Carried

To: Approve the 2-15-24 minutes as presented.

**IN THE MATTER OF GREENWAY/CHINWORTH EXTENSION PHASE 1 & 2:**

Lou Savka-Triad Associates, Inc. presented an update on the Greenway/Chinworth Trail Extension. He stated that the survey crew had a mishap with their drone during the process and

added that they had instructed them to use the old fashioned way of surveying. Plans will be forthcoming, the trail is set and we have what is needed.

Matt Metzger asked if the survey crew had been approached as to what they were doing in the area. Stu recommended that the board may want to publish a notice of the activities.

Aggie Sweeney said she had been contacted by an associate of the Kosciusko Board of Realtors and that they could request grant funds of up to \$7500 for amenities along the trail. She made references to bike racks, benches, picnic tables and wayfinding. Aggie would like more clarity on a timeline from Triad at the April meeting and include how they are communicating with the land owners along the trail.

**IN THE MATTER OF PROGRESS UPDATE TRAILS MASTER PLAN:**

Aggie presented a progress update email on the Trails Master Plan from Katie Clark-TSW Design Group as follows:

- Physical condition mapping and analysis have begun-all team members are focused on a specific portion of the assessment.
- Discussions with Donny Ritesma of MACOG to better understand the park planning effort, intended goals, and available mapping data. Donny is providing data and will serve as a resource throughout our effort.
- The week of 3/25 we will be launching the public-facing tools including website updates, social media posting, and digital map tool. When these are ready we will coordinate with the parks board for a press release and/ or social media updates.
- Members of our team will be reaching out to coordinate a public information display at the Fat & Skinny Tire Festival.
- Next steering committee meeting in late April will be focused on reviewing an updated route map and an initial set of design guidelines.

Aggie added that the Trails Master plan is slated to be completed in late October.

**IN THE MATTER OF FURTHER DISCUSSION:**

Troy stated that he would be able to attend the Kiwanis meeting Thursday March 28, 2024 to give them an update on the projects they are working on.

Matt added that he would like to look at what other projects are slated to start next and that we should keep moving to get things done.

Aggie related that the Greenway/Chinworth Trail Extension project phases 2 & 3 will need additional fundraising for continuing.

Being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

**Kosciusko County Parks & Recreation Board  
Courthouse, Old Courtroom  
Thursday, April 18, 2024**

The Kosciusko County Parks & Recreation Board met at 1:00 p.m. on Thursday, April 18, 2024, in the Old Courtroom, Kosciusko County Courthouse. Members present included: Rob Bishop, Mike Cusick, Aggie Sweeney and Troy Turley. Matt Metzger participated electronically.

Rob Bishop called the meeting to order.

Minutes of 3-21-2024 were approved as presented.

**IN THE MATTER OF GREENWAY/CHINWORTH EXTENSION:**

John Nelson, Triad Associates, Inc. presented an update on the Greenway/Chinworth Trail Extension. He stated that he met with Superintendent Steve Moriarty from the Highway, and they agreed the trail needs to start at the bridge and continue westward along the south side of the right-a-way. He stated they would hold 5 foot inside the right-a-way with a 10-foot-wide trail. The ditch alongside the road would need to be reestablished because right now it is about 15 feet. The ending point for this trail will need to stop at Crazy Egg's parking lot, for phase 1. He stated the material they would be using is called Pug Mill. He also stated he is wanting to have a property owners' meeting at Crazy Egg to go over the drawings, and to discuss any issues they might have.

Jonathan Moen, Triad Associates, Inc. stated the survey should be done this week. He stated there will be a bid opening in mid-July with construction starting mid-August. This should be able to be completed this year. Late May is when they are looking to have the meeting with the property owners'. Moen also stated the cost will not exceed what they were expecting it to be, especially with the Pug Mill ingredient for the surface.

Moen stated a new drone has been purchased.

John Nelson, stated to go out and drive East 300 North, on the North side of the airport, as this is a Pugged paved road from last year.

**IN THE MATTER OF PROGRESS UPDATE TRAILS MASTER PLAN:**

Katie Clark, TSW Design Group presented an update:

- Updated route maps and an initial set of cross sections for each type of trail that will be discussed at the Steering Committee meeting May 1<sup>st</sup>.
- Updated the formal Comprehensive Plan website Forward Kosciusko.com with Greenways and Blueways.
- Created a Digital Map on ForwardKosciusko.com. This will allow you to access the map via input.
- Will do a slow push on using their social media page.

- Planning to have some information about the project and the process to start collecting some input at The Fat and Skinny Tire Festival.

Katie stated she is coordinating with Lisa Dunway to see what kind of help they need manning the booth at the festival.

Mike stated that the Ride Walk Committee would like social media links when they become available.

**IN THE MATTER OF FURTHER BUSINESS:**

Mike stated he is a part of the Steering Committee for the Propel US 30 project. They have created updated intersections on their website. He stated they should look to see where this will direct them for the Greenway plan. He also stated working with INDOT is important to understand where all the crossings are.

Mike added that he has met with some people from the Nickleplate Trail. They are looking to expand north from Rochester to continue the trail towards Marshall County and Plymouth. There is a meeting on April 30<sup>th</sup> that he was invited to attend.

Aggie stated she attended the afterhours meeting for the Propel US 30 at the Warsaw Library. The public input will be late August. She stated by the end of the calendar year the Propel US 30 Project, needs to be completed.

Aggie added that she will not be able to attend the May meeting.

Troy stated at the end of March he attended the Kiwanis meeting and it went really well.

Being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

**Kosciusko County Parks & Recreation Board  
Courthouse, Old Courtroom  
Thursday, May 16, 2024**

The Kosciusko County Parks & Recreation Board met at 1:00 p.m. on Thursday, May 16, 2024, in the Old Courtroom, Kosciusko County Courthouse. Members present included: Rob Bishop, Mike Cusick, Troy Turley, and Matt Metzger. Aggie Sweeney was absent.

Rob Bishop called the meeting to order.

**IN THE MATTER OF APPROVAL OF 4-18-2024 MINUTES:**

Motion: Mike Cusick

Second: Troy Turley

Ayes: 3                      Nays: 0

Motion Carried

To: Approve the 4-18-24 minutes, as presented.



**IN THE MATTER OF GREENWAY/CHINWORTH EXTENSION:**

Triad Associates, John Nelson presented an update on the Greenway/Chinworth Trail Extension:

- Ready to meet with the land owners.
- By July, they should be at bidding point.
- Ready to send invites to the property owners for the meet and greet at the Crazy Egg.

**IN THE MATTER OF TRAILS MASTER PLAN:**

TSW Design Group, Katie Clark presented an update:

- The meeting packet along with the maps are posted on the website.
- Web tools are still being used. 115 users have logged onto the Digital Map.
- A mobile display will be out at the Fat and Skinny Tire Festival.
- The mobile display will be up at other events as well.

**IN THE MATTER OF CLAIMS:**

Rob Bishop presented a claim from TSWDG for Greenways and Blueways Plan in the amount of \$7,500.00 for the months of 1/1/24-4/30/24. The total contract was \$100,000.00 approved on 12/19/23. The Parks & Recreation board will send a memo to Winona Lake to pay a portion in the amount of \$30,000.00 from a Health Planning Grant and the balance will be paid by ARPA funds.

Motion: Troy Turley  
Second: Matt Metzger  
Ayes: 3      Nays: 0  
Motion Carried

To: Approve the TSWDG claim in the amount of \$7,500.00 with Winona Lake paying \$30,000.00 and the balance to be paid from ARPA funds.

**IN THE MATTER OF FURTHER BUSINESS:**

Troy stated that he attended the May 9<sup>th</sup> Watershed Foundation meeting. He talked about the Boards plans.

Rob stated he had a meeting with Commissioner Groninger. He stated that Groninger asked if the Board could start to push forward with the Friends of the Park Program. The Kosciusko County Foundation will help with funding Friends of the Park.

Matt stated that is he going to go ahead and spearhead signage for the Parks Board during events. Rob mentioned that the Board does have a small budget for such items.

Mike stated he plans on getting together with Highway Superintendent Steve Moriarty to discuss extending the Greeway/Chinworth trail extension out to the county line.

Being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

**Kosciusko County Parks & Recreation Board**  
**Courthouse, Old Courtroom**  
**Thursday, June 20, 2024**

The Kosciusko County Parks & Recreation Board met at 1:00 p.m. on Thursday, June 20, 2024, in the Old Courtroom, Kosciusko County Courthouse. Members present included: Rob Bishop, Mike Cusick-Absent, Matt Metzger, Aggie Sweeney, and Troy Turley.

Rob Bishop called the meeting to order.

**IN THE MATTER OF APPROVAL OF 5-16-24 MINUTES:**

Motion: Matt Metzger

Second: Troy Turley

Ayes: 4                      Nays: 0

Motion Carried

To: Approve the 5-16-24 minutes as presented.

**IN THE MATTER OF GREENWAY/CHINWORTH EXTENSION UPDATE:**

Triad Associates Project Site Manager John Nelson provided the board members with 75% of the plans for the Greenway/Chinworth Extension. Nelson stated they are on the north side right now, starting at the Chinworth Bridge and going to the west down to the Crazy Egg. Nelson stated he thinks they need to extend further west, just to get that turnaround past the two entrances that Crazy Egg has on the north right-of-way. Nelson stated he needed the board's direction on what type of crossing they wanted at the start of the extension. They are going to put in the plans for a bid item as an alternate to put up the flashing light that the Indiana Department of Transportation requires on state roads. Nelson stated the estimated cost would at least be \$10,000.00 to add one. Nelson stated at minimum he is thinking there needs to be a crosswalk and some signage stopping people before they step out into the pavement. Nelson stated Highway Department Superintendent Steve Moriarty would like to see the flashing light, if they can afford it, though it is not required. President Rob Bishop said he liked the idea of having a crosswalk that was consistent with what is done across the county as it would create less confusion with drivers. Nelson stated by pushing it to the north side, it resolves the complaint that we are getting from the Crazy Egg not wanting their parking lot turned into a trailhead. The speed limit on Old 30 is currently 50 mph. Nelson stated if we can get the Commissioners to look at reducing that, it improves their situation at our crossing.

Steve Foegley, a 42-year resident west of the Chinworth Bridge, stated he was looking forward to the extension of the trail going west through his neighborhood, as were several of his neighbors. Foegley stated he is strongly in favor of the extension, regardless of which side of the road it will be on. Foegley stated there are some things he wanted to make sure he had the chance to communicate about keeping the trail as it was presented last month, which was on the south side of the road. Foegley stated the main thing was that the trail would stay on the same side of the road as the trailhead. Your parking, your bridge, all those facilities are on the south side.

Foegley stated an extension that would cross at CR 350 West or go to the north side would require all the trail itself to go to the north side of U.S. 30.

Nelson stated the different reasons why the trail extension had to go on the north side, including limited space on the south side while the north side had more.

Matt Metzger stated he thought the trail extension would ultimately benefit Creighton's and Crazy Egg.

Creighton Bros. chairman of the board Ron Truex and President of Creighton Bros. Mindy Truex stated, "We built (Crazy Egg) to be a community service. We wanted that restaurant to represent our company in the community. And then they go in and have breakfast, and it is such a nice day, they just leave their car parked and go for a walk. Or they go down there and walk down to the bridge and back. You can say that will not happen, or they're just going to get that far, go across, use the restroom and leave. It could be a great deal for us or it could not be a great deal for us. So, our position is, why do we have to choose? I agree that crossing 30 is dangerous."

Convention and Visitors Bureau Director Cori Humes, stated she travels Old 30 every day and people are going 70 mph. Humes stated if the county decides to reduce the speed limit on Old 30, she suggested they need to start talking about it now so people know they need to be slowing down.

Motion: Matt Metzger

Second: Troy Turley

Ayes: 4 Nays: 0

Motion Carried

To: Approve the Greenway/Chinworth Bridge Extension to go along the north side of Old 30 with the caveat that they attempt to have the speed limit reduced to a level that will make it safe for people to cross Old 30, as presented.

#### **IN THE MATTER OF TRAILS MASTER PLAN UPDATE:**

Bob Bishop presented an update on behalf of TSW Design Group Katie Clark as follows:

- The Trails Master Plan board has been out at several events.
- Third meeting of the Steering Committee is Tuesday July 9<sup>th</sup> from 10:00am-12:00. A location will need to be sought.
- Troy Turley stated that he and Sweeney participated in a kayak trip down the Tippecanoe River. It was very enjoyable.

**IN THE MATTER OF FURTHER BUSINESS:**

Sweeney recommended that they need to make a decision for phase 2 and 3 of the Greenway/Chinworth Extension. She feels that they need to keep to a timeline of being able to encumber the ARPA money by the end of this year. Sweeney stated with permission from the Commissioners, they could put out another request for proposal for Phase 2 and 3 for the design and engineering work of the Greenway/Chinworth Extension out to the county line.

Motion: Aggie Sweeney  
Second: Troy Turley  
Ayes: 4      Nays: 0  
Motion Carried

To: Approve with permission from the Commissioners, to prepare a request for proposal for Phase 2 and 3 for design and engineering work of the Greenway/Chinworth Extension out to the county line.

**IN THE MATTER OF FURTHER BUSINESS:**

Matt Metzger stated he is looking into designing t-shirts for summer or fleece/sweatshirts for the fall. Matt stated it would like nice if their board were all cohesive when they are out and about in the community.

Aggie Sweeney stated that they are looking into talking with the Kosciusko County Community Foundation about setting up a donation fund to help with materials and amenities.

Bob Bishop stated he has had some discussion with Commissioner Cary Groninger about what it would mean to take over the Chinworth Bridge and what the maintenance would look like. Bishop stated K21 is willing to meet with them about potentially giving them grant money.

Being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

**Kosciusko County Parks & Recreation Board  
Courthouse, Old Courtroom  
Thursday, July 18, 2024**

The Kosciusko County Parks & Recreation Board met at 1:00 p.m. on Thursday, July 18, 2024, in the Old Courtroom, Kosciusko County Courthouse. Members present included: Rob Bishop, Mike Cusick, Aggie Sweeney, Troy Turley-Absent and Matt Metzger-Absent.

Rob Bishop called the meeting to order.

**IN THE MATTER OF APPROVAL OF 6-20-2024 MINUTES:**

Motion: Aggie Sweeney

Second: Mike Cusick

Ayes: 3            Nays: 0

Motion Carried

To: Approve the 6-20-2024 minutes as presented.

**IN THE MATTER OF TRIAD ASSOCIATES-GREENWAY/CHINWORTH  
EXTENSION UPDATE:**

Triad Associates Project Site Manager John Nelson provided the board members with an update on the Greenway/Chinworth Extension. Nelson stated over 30 letters went out about the extension project. There is a meeting scheduled with the neighbors on August 1<sup>st</sup> from 5-7 p.m. at the Crazy Egg Cafe. Nelson stated the agenda is to go through the design plan with the homeowners. Nelson stated Triad is still working through the utility coordination issues it has seen with utilities.

Ron Truex property owner, stated after June's meeting, he thought going along the southside of Old 30 was a bad idea and going along the north side of the road was a better idea. There are five less driveways on the north side than the south and two of those driveways go into the mobile home park with hundreds of cars. The other part that concerned Truex is about safety in the crossing the trail over Old 30. Truex stated we do not know how many people are going to use this trail. There's only a handful of people using the existing trail. Truex also thought the more people that use the Chinworth Trail, the higher the risk in crossing Old 30. Truex stated you can put in flashing lights and all the things you want to do, but you cannot tell me people do not have accidents at stop lights. Truex also stated he thinks they really need to look at the safety factor and the cost factor. Just because there is money to use for the extension, does not mean something has to be done. Truex brought up concerns with cars possibly passing semis that slowed down for people crossing Old 30 and causing issues.

Phil Routh property owner, stated he has two properties on the north side of Old 30 and has lived in the location for 60-plus years. Routh wants to make the parks board aware there is a 12-inch tile that runs in front of his property, as well as others. Routh stated for 50-years his basement has been dry. In 2014, there were three basements and one crawlspace that flooded. Routh stated his basement flooded and caused several thousand dollars worth of damage. The county was contacted and it was found the tile was crushed by things like a utilities truck. Routh stated when he bought the property, he wanted a dry basement and had extra costs to ensure it stayed dry. Routh also brought up concerns about an 18-inch tile. Routh stated he talked to a neighbor who said he planned on plugging the tile. Routh stated drainage issues need to be addressed.

Board President Rob Bishop suggested Routh contact DNR about the tile being plugged because Bishop does not know if that resident can do that. Bishop stated the board is also working with the Highway Department Superintendent Steve Moriarty and the drainage issue is going to be fixed.

**IN THE MATTER OF TSW-TRAILS MASTER PLAN UPDATE:**

TSW Design Group Katie Clark provided the board members with an update as follows:

- There were three public workshops on July 9<sup>th</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup>, and 11<sup>th</sup> in Warsaw, Syracuse and Silver Lake. The summary of those exercises and input will be available in the first part of next week.
- There are five proposed routes for the trails. The first proposed route is the paddle and float, which is the Tippecanoe River blueway. The proposed route allows users to experience the Tippecanoe River blueway.
- The second is the meander and explore route, which is the Tippecanoe River greenway. The proposed corridor type allows users to experience the Tippecanoe River corridor in a way that allows for exploration, education, and active and passive education.
- The third proposed route is called connections and culture, which is community-to-community routes. This proposed corridor type provides for the most direct connection between communities. The proposed route utilized the former Interurban Rail Line, which in some cases travels parallel to state routes and in others through primarily agricultural areas.
- The fourth proposed route is tour and discover, which are recreational shared-routes. This proposed corridor type establishes loops throughout the county to provide multiple route options at varying lengths. These routes connect users to local destinations, open spaces, and recreational opportunities. It is designed to accommodate users of all types and generally follow county roads, but utilize a shared-use path separate from the roadway.
- The last proposed route is called commute and travel, which has on-street signed routes. This proposed corridor type allows users to experience the Tippecanoe River corridor in a way that allows for exploration, education, and active and passive recreation. This corridor type largely travels adjacent to the Tippecanoe River and would be constructed in such a way that is protected existing vegetation and wetland habitats.
- The end goal is to have everything pulled together at the end of September for draft documents.

**IN THE MATTER OF REVIEW BIDDING FOR DESIGN/ENGINEERING CHINWORTH EXTENSION:**

Board Member Aggie Sweeney stated the board is still interested in moving ahead to ask for bids for design and engineering of the final two phases of the Lake City Greenway/Chinworth Trail extension, however since they are not sure what the constructions costs of the first phase will be they are not ready to put out the RFP.

Being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

**Kosciusko County Parks & Recreation Board  
Courthouse, Old Courtroom  
Thursday, August 15, 2024**

The Kosciusko County Parks & Recreation Board met at 1:00 p.m. on Thursday, August 15, 2024, in the Kosciusko County Justice Building Basement. Members present included: Rob Bishop, Mike Cusick, Matt Metzger, Aggie Sweeney, and Troy Turley.

Rob Bishop called the meeting to order.

**IN THE MATTER OF APPROVAL OF 7-18-2024 MINUTES:**

Motion: Aggie Sweeney

Second: Mike Cusick

Ayes: 4      Nays: 0

Motion Carried

To: Approve the 7-18-2024 minutes as presented.

**IN THE MATTER OF TRIAD ASSOCIATES-GREENWAY/CHINWORTH  
EXTENSION UPDATE:**

Triad Associates Project Site Manager John Nelson updated the board on drainage plans and provided a revised cost estimate for the project. Nelson stated they have moved the cul-de-sac and added sound to the pedestrian crossing warning system. Nelson stated the new cost estimate would be \$369,500.00. Most of the driveway culverts will go away. Nelson told affected citizens in the attendance that county government asked Triad to take the drainage system further east. Nelson stated they need an 18-inch pipe, but there is a 15-inch pipe, which is probably what is causing all the drainage problems. Now what they are looking at is bringing the piped system further east toward the intersection where they have more room to put a structure on the north, more room to put a structure on the south, all within the right-of-way, and then branch out into the Chinworth trailhead park with a drainage outlet that will go to the river. Nelson stated there would be a decrease in the amount of water going into nearby ponds.

Board President Rob Bishop stated the engineering of the drainage exceeded the scope of what the board gave to Triad. As a result, Triad proposed a change order in the amount of \$11,250.00.

The board members stated the Kosciusko County Historical Society owns the Chinworth park area, but the Society has stated they would not mind no longer being involved with it. Bishop stated we do not think the historical society has a problem with the direction we are going, but there is no formal agreement at this point. Bishop asked stated he asked the Kosciusko County Sheriff's Office to set up speed cameras on West Old Road 30 in the park's vicinity. Cameras were set up during two weeks in July. Bishop stated the cameras' data showed motorists' average speeds were between 45 to 53 mph. Over 100 vehicles traveled between 60 to 65 mph, but there were no recorded speeds higher than that.

Motion: Mike Cusick

Second: Matt Metzger

Ayes: 4      Nays: 0

Motion Carried

To: Approve the change order for Triad in the amount of \$11,250.00, with the Commissioners approval at the 8-27-24 meeting, as presented.

**IN THE MATTER OF TRAILS MASTER PLAN UPDATE:**

TSW Design Group Katie Clark provided the board members with an update on the trails master plan. Clark stated the group is working on a draft for design guidelines and hopes to have that completed by the end of August. Clark stated the proposed trial routes have been digitized and

added to an interactive mapping tool. Clark also stated they are facilitating online conversations through that tool and continue to push that out to different groups. They are getting good feedback through that in terms of what questions people have and different ideas.

Being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

**Kosciusko County Parks & Recreation Board  
Courthouse, Old Courtroom  
Thursday, September 19, 2024**

The Kosciusko County Parks & Recreation Board met at 1:00 p.m. on Thursday, September 19, 2024, in the Old Courtroom, Kosciusko County Courthouse. Members present included: Rob Bishop, Mike Cusick, Matt Metzger, Aggie Sweeney, and Troy Turley.

Rob Bishop called the meeting to order.

**IN THE MATTER OF APPROVAL OF 9/19/2024 MINUTES:**

Motion: Matt Metzger	To: Approve the 9/19/2024 minutes as presented.
Second: Mike Cusick	

Ayes: 5      Nays: 0

Motion Carried

**IN THE MATTER OF CHINWORTH TRAIL PROJECT-** The Chinworth Trail Extension Phase One plan was presented by John Nelson of Triad Associates, Inc. The presentation included blueprints and specifications for the trail, which the board and the public reviewed during a 10-minute break. As part of the presentation, Nelson provided an aerial view of the intersection and outlined where pedestrian signage would be placed at each road of the four-way stop. He also discussed potential upgrades to improve accessibility. It is planned to have a video conference with Kosciusko County Highway Superintendent Steve Moriarty to review different power source options for the flashing lights. Traid needs to talk with Steve Moriarty and Tapco about the power source for the crosswalk. The county has several of these types of lights throughout the county and Tapco wants to be the supplier. John Nelson recommends electric. The maintenance of the trail was also discussed.

Questions were raised about whether the trail would meet standards set by another concurrent trail project and how to handle overlapping timelines if both projects remain unapproved. The example mentioned was the different approaches to using gravel to transition between asphalt surfaces and grass. Board Member Mike Cusick said they will “have to make decisions along the way.”

Nelson presented updated cost sheets, which reflected a price increase. He attributed the higher costs to additional project details, quotes from various contractors and complications with ditch work.

The board informally addressed homeowners in attendance, asking for their reaction to the proposals. One homeowner stated he was satisfied with the plans addressing the drainage



concerns. Another homeowner inquired whether the trail would be leveled with his neighbor's property. Cusick explained that the trail would "flow with the topography" of the land rather than being raised or leveled.

Nelson added, "The goal of this project is to improve drainage. So, all the yards are going to drain across the trail, into the ditch to the river. That's the goal."

The board inquired about the next steps for releasing the bid request. After reviewing corrections to the advertisement, Nelson confirmed it would be ready the following week. The board tentatively adjusted its meeting schedule to accommodate 30 days for bid openings before presenting the project to the county commissioners. The board decided that any two board members could approve the plan prior to it being advertised.

Motion: Matt Metzger

Second: Mike Cusick

Ayes: 5 Nays: 0

Motion Carried

That any two board members can approve the plan prior to the advertising for bids.

The timeline of reviewing the project plans and presenting recommendations to the County Commissioners is as follows, the Commissions October 17th Meeting will be cancelled and rescheduled for Wednesday, October 30th at 1pm in the courthouse courtroom. The bids received will be opened and reviewed. A special meeting will be held on Thursday, November 7th at 1pm in the video conference room located in the Kosciusko County Justice Center. On Tuesday, November 19th the board will present the bid recommendations to the Kosciusko County Commissioners during their regular meeting. The board will then meet on Thursday November 21st in the Courthouse Courtroom for a regular board meeting.

Matt Metzger asked the question if the Parks & Recreation Board would be held responsible if any type of accident would occur on the trail. This will be researched.

The master plan was reviewed with the board by Mike Cusick. Katie Clark from TSW Designs will attend the October 30th meeting to talk more about the master trails plan. The plan could then be approved at the November 21st meeting. This could then be reviewed by Matt Sandy from the APC and added to the County Comprehensive Plan

Aggie talked about funding and had a few questions that will need to be discussed with Marsha McSherry.

Rob Bishop mentioned that he will be meeting with MACOG about a Regional Safety Action Plan and they would like the board to be involved. He will keep the board informed on the conversations that take place.

Mike Cusick informed the board the annual trails gathering is next week.

Aggie again talked about funding and mentioned that they had conversation with Amy Roe about if there were funds left over if those could be used for other things. They had no response from Amy. John Nelson had a new cost sheet based on their engineers' recommendations. This information eliminated the need for an answer to the question that had been asked of Amy Roe.

**Kosciusko County Parks & Recreation Board  
Courthouse, Old Courtroom  
Wednesday, October 30, 2024**

The Kosciusko County Parks & Recreation Board met at 1:00 p.m. on Wednesday, October 30, 2024, in the Old Courtroom, Kosciusko County Courthouse. Members present included: Rob Bishop, Mike Cusick, Matt Metzger, Aggie Sweeney. Troy Turley was absent.

Rob Bishop called the meeting to order.

**IN THE MATTER OF APPROVAL OF 9-19-24 MEETING MINUTES:**

Motion: Aggie Sweeney

To: Approve the 9-19-24 meeting minutes as presented.

Second: Mike Cusick

Ayes: 5                      Nays: 0

Motion Carried

**IN THE MATTER OF OPENING BIDS FOR CHINWORTH TRAIL EXTENSION**

**PHASE 1:**

**Rob Bishop mentioned that there were 3 different addresses provided to respond to the original request for bids, resulting in a recommendation to return the bids and re-bid it. After a brief discussion, a motion was given by Mike Cusick to advertise on November 6, 2024 for new bids and the deadline for the new bids would be November 20, 2024 at 2pm to be delivered to the Kosciusko County Auditor's Office at 100 W Center Street, Warsaw, IN 46580. The Board will have their regularly scheduled meeting on November 21, 2024 @ 1pm to open the bids. A special meeting will then be held on November 27, 2024 @ 9:30am to select a bid and make a recommendation for the Commissioners. The recommendation will be presented to the Commissioners on their regularly scheduled meeting December 3, 2024 @ 9am. John Nelson from Triad Associates, Inc., took a moment to apologize for the confusion that happened with the original requests for bids.**

Motion: Mike Cusick

To: Return current bids and rebid them. Advertising November 6<sup>th</sup> deadline November 20<sup>th</sup> @ 2pm to the Kosciusko County Auditor's Office, opening the bids during the regularly scheduled Board meeting on November 21<sup>st</sup> and a special meeting to be held on November 27<sup>th</sup> @ 930am to select a bid to be presented to the Commissioners during their regularly scheduled meeting on December 3<sup>rd</sup> @ 9am.

Second: Matt Metzger

Ayes: 5                      Nays: 0

Motion Carried

**IN THE MATTER OF MASTER PLAN UPDATE:**

Katie Clark from TSW (Taylor Siefker Williams) Design Group gave an update on the master plan that will connect to the States Visionary Trail System connecting towns in Kosciusko County and giving safe access to the Tippecanoe River and lakes within the County. The Board asked for Katie to email a draft of the master plan so that notes and/or corrections could be added to it and placed in a shared folder for everyone to review. At the end of her update, John Nelson from Triad Associates, Inc. asked about compliance with the master plan's design standards and the Chinworth Trail project. Rob Bishop stated that the Chinworth project bidder does not have to comply with the master plan.

**IN THE MATTER OF FURTHER BUSINESS**

- The November 7<sup>th</sup> meeting was cancelled.
- Mike Cusick discussed that he had been approached by the K-21 Foundation for help with making a Greenway loop/thoroughfare around Winona Lake. The need to define jurisdictions is a concern, but it was also mentioned by Rob Bishop that the master plan includes a portion of this route. A brief discussion was had and Mike stated he would keep the Board updated on the status.

Being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

**Kosciusko County Parks & Recreation Board  
Courthouse, Old Courtroom  
Thursday, November 21, 2024**

The Kosciusko County Parks & Recreation Board met at 1:00pm. on Thursday, November 21, 2024, in the Old Courtroom, Kosciusko County Courthouse for a Special Meeting. Members present included: Rob Bishop, Mike Cusick, Matt Metzger, Aggie Sweeney, and Troy Turley.

Rob Bishop called the meeting to order.

**IN THE MATTER OF APPROVAL OF 10-30-2024 MEETING MINUTES:**

Motion: Aggie Sweeney

Second: Troy Turley

Ayes: 5          Nays: 0

Motion Carried

To: Approve the 10/30/24 meeting minutes  
as presented.

**In the Matter of Bids for Chinworth Trail**

The board reviewed five bids for the Chinworth Trail extension. The bids submitted were as follows:

1. R. Yoder Construction: \$1,010,157.00

## 2024 Complete Parks & Recreation Minutes

2. Phend Brown: \$1,287,617.00
3. Pulver Asphalt Paving: \$1,059,941.00
4. G Squared Development: \$978,971.62
5. Niblock Excavating: \$970,247.00

The board and Triad will assess the bids further, ensuring all forms, bonds and alternates are reviewed before making a recommendation at the next meeting on 11/27/2024 at 9:30am. The recommended bid will then be presented to the Commissioners on 12/3/2024.

The board discussed the need for safe pedestrian and cyclist crossings on US 30 as part of the project. A current, ongoing study, [ProPEL US 30](#), aims to identify segments of US 30 that require crossings and evaluate recommendations for safe passageways, particularly in high-traffic areas, which will be important when creating safe trails.

The board encouraged the community to [leave comments](#) on the study stating the need for safe non-vehicle crossing. The board said the county is divided into multiple [segments](#) and each segment would have multiple crossings. Board recommended looking at the proposals for crossings because in some places there are long stretches with no crossings.

The deadline to provide comments is Friday, Dec. 13.

Board members also mentioned the ongoing draft of the Trails Master Plan, which will include digital updates to be reviewed in December. Board Vice President Aggie Sweeney recommended seeking community input in the trail development process before updating the plan. She suggested meeting with community leaders, such as K21 Health Foundation, the Community Foundation and local elected officials, to review plans and gather feedback before final decisions are made.

In other business, the board:

Approved the 2025 meeting schedule with a correction to the June date from June 29 to June 19.

- Was reminded by John Nelson with Triad Associates Inc. of a document he sent about an idea for “railroad banking,” buying railroad in advance.
- Heard about a recent DNR Next Level Trails meeting that discussed its vision for a 10-year plan.

Being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

**Kosciusko County Parks & Recreation Board  
Courthouse, Old Courtroom  
Wednesday, November 27, 2024**

The Kosciusko County Parks & Recreation Board met at 9:30 am. On Wednesday, November 27, 2024, in the Old Courtroom, Kosciusko County Courthouse for a Special Meeting. Members present included: Rob Bishop, Mike Cusick, Matt Metzger, Aggie Sweeney, and Troy Turley.

Rob Bishop called the meeting to order.

**IN THE MATTER OF APPROVAL OF 11-21-2024 MEETING MINUTES:**

Motion: Troy Turley

To: Approve the 11/21/24 meeting minutes  
as presented.

Second: Aggie Sweeney

Ayes: 5            Nays: 0

Motion Carried

**IN THE MATTER OF BID RECOMMENDATION FOR CHINWORTH TRAIL  
EXTENSION PHASE 1:**

John Nelson from Triad recommended the lowest bid from Niblock Excavating in the amount of \$970,247.00. Mike Cusick asked questions about the contract and Aggie Sweeney asked questions about the timeline and payment process. John Nelson stated that they have anticipated 205 days to complete the project. However, you have to keep in mind the rainy season in April/May as well as when the asphalt plant opens for the season. Payments would be made on a monthly basis and Triad would review the invoices and work completed to approve those payments.

Motion: Mike Cusick

To: Approve the recommendation for the  
Niblock Excavating bid in the amount of  
\$970,247.00.

Second: Aggie Sweeney

Ayes: 5            Nays: 0

Motion Carried

In other business, the board:

- Rob Bishop stated that he was notified that Katie Clark is leaving TSW. She has been the lead for the Master Trail Project. It is possible that she will remain the lead between her new firm and the old firm. A definitive answer should be known by the end of next week.
- Mike Cusick shared an email about the Propel US 30 meeting and the different types of crossings and where Greenways should or shouldn't cross. It was mentioned about the possibility of putting a non-motorized crossing at the State Road 19 crossing in Etna Green to allow safe access for the horse and buggies. Also, a possible crossing along the Tippy River, Fox Farm or 150. Springhill Road was also mentioned to join across 30 to the YMCA, connecting to the Beyer Farm Greenway. 250E was mentioned, however there are already bike paths on 250E. State Road 13 in Pierceton would also be a great location. Mike stated that with the ProPel US 30 plan that it could be in the best interest to have these crossings

reflected in the Master Plan. It was suggested that the board individually make recommendations online to the ProPel US 30 committee making these crossings known as well as something official by paper.

- Rob Bishop stated that Friday December 6<sup>th</sup> is the Warsaw's Light Up the Night Event and it includes a Twinkle parade. KCV is having a bicycle float and asked for those to participate if available. There will be a pre-ride from Winona Lake to Old Owens lot at 5:15pm.
- Mike Cusick will not be attending the December 19, 2024 meeting as he is out of town.

Being no further business, the meeting was adjourned

**Kosciusko County Parks & Recreation Board  
Courthouse, Old Courtroom  
Thursday, December 19, 2024**

The Kosciusko County Parks & Recreation Board met at 1:00 pm. on Thursday, December 19, 2024, in the Old Courtroom, Kosciusko County Courthouse present included: Rob Bishop, Matt Metzger, Aggie Sweeney, and Troy Turley. Mike Cusick was absent.

Rob Bishop called the meeting to order.

**IN THE MATTER OF APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES FROM NOVEMBER 27, 2024 MEETING:**

Motion: Aggie Sweeney

Second: Troy Turley

Ayes: 4                Nays: 0

Motion Carried

To: Approve the minutes from November 27, 2024 meeting as presented.

**IN THE MATTER OF CHINWORTH TRAIL EXTENSION PHASE 1:**

John Nelson from Triad stated all the contracts were signed by Niblock Excavating and they are just waiting for the paperwork submittals and schedules to be presented. This information will be given to the board at their next meeting. Aggie Sweeney asked questions about needing permits and John stated no permits were required as this was all on County property. Rob Bishop asked about the ground breaking ceremony timeline and John restated about waiting for the schedule, but would let everyone know in plenty of time.

**IN THE MATTER OF TRAILS MASTER PLAN REVIEW – KATIE CLARK:**

Katie Clark from TSW (Taylor Siefker Williams) Design Group gave an update on the trails master plan. She presented a PDF presentation and is going to send a link to the board for review by tomorrow. Katie is willing to help with presentations to K-21 Foundation, Commissioners and Council as well as any other organizations that are necessary. Katie will be joining the meeting on January 16, 2025.

**IN THE MATTER OF PRIORITIES FOR 2025- ROB BISHOP:**

Rob Bishop stated that the following trails are priority for 2025:

- Syracuse – Wawasee trails – will be requesting a grant and would like to building to the middle school. Board to support as needed. Beth Johnson spoke on behalf of the Stage 1 design to Sleepy Owl and that they currently have funding to complete this stage. (Beth Johnson-USI representative)
- North Webster Trail – to middle school has not been started yet.
- Pierceton to Winona Lake – Glenn Hall is very interested in getting this done.
- Winona Lake – Getting around the lake is a priority, but maybe reaching out to other organizations to get help in making this happen.
- Friends of the Trails – Make an independent organization or a county.
- Tippecanoe Green way.
- Atwood extension.

**IN THE MATTER OF ELECTION OF OFFICERS VICE PRESIDENT AND PRESIDENT:**

Motion: Matt Metzger

Second: Troy Turley

Ayes: 3 Nays: 1

OPPOSED: Rob Bishop

Motion Carried

To: Approve Rob Bishop as President and  
Aggie Sweeney as Vice President of the  
Parks and Recreation Board for 2025.

Being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.