



RTW CSO MEMBERS MEETING

Minutes for September 18, 2019
5:30pm, Lakes Regional Library

Open: The meeting was called to order at 5:40pm by President Al Cairns and thanked everyone for attending the quarterly membership meeting.

In attendance: Al Cairns-President, Rich Roussel-Vice President, Lyn Floyd-Treasurer, Mike Dolan-Secretary, Directors Jim McLean, Ken Spilios, Don Zutat, Dennis Reiland and Jerry Willert. Also attending were Dianne Drye, Jamie Roussel, Candace McLean and Linda Reiland along with several members.

Minutes: Mike reviewed the minutes of the last meeting. Jim moved to adopt the minutes, seconded by Ken. Al called for a vote and the motion passed unanimously.

Treasurer's Report: Lyn the organization is in good health financially with \$82,352.09 as follows:

Bank of America	\$35,781.49
EJ Investment	\$24,442.82
EJ Endowment	\$6,531.96

Maintenance and Repairs Expense to date: \$24,879.52

Jim moved adoption of the Treasurers report, seconded by Don, the motion passed unanimously.

Presidents Report: Al reported that the organization had been asked to participate in the 2019 Cooter Fest. With the park not being available and the venue being relocated, he respectfully declined.

Merchandise Update: Al showed the members the new jersey priced at \$70. Shipping upped to \$7 due to increased costs Designs are in the works and the bike shop in Floral City is interested in selling jerseys. We may order some without pockets.

Work Crew Update: Don reported that bad weather has hampered normal trail cleanup work; repairs to Kiosk roofs is underway; the old painted sign found on the caboose will be saved and re-attached; the storage shed has been cleaned up in preparation for the WST Ride on 10/06..

Birdhouse Project: Jerry noted we have 200 bluebird houses along the trail. A recent survey found approximately 69% were occupied. The trail has been broken into sections of 20 houses each and volunteers have been checking them every two weeks. Cleanouts and post replacements will start in October.

Tree Planting Report: Ken reported that the trees planted earlier this year have been watered regularly and they are doing well.

Presentation – MPO and Project Planning: Dennis and Jim reviewed how the MPO is structured with Citrus and Hernando County sharing efforts to plan transportation projects in the two counties. The current Director is Steve Diez. Dennis and Jim are on the Bike/Ped Advisory committee as



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citizens of Citrus County. They review bicycle and pedestrian projects, helping to prioritize them. Funding for projects primarily comes from the Federal Transportation Plan Alternatives budget which has a 3% set-aside for non-motorized projects. The committee also assists in identifying gaps in community sidewalks and pathways to improve connectivity. Projects are scored and ranked in order of priority. The top project is rehab of the WST. This is a multi-year project to be funded by DOT. As new projects are identified and scored they get added to the TIP (Transportation Improvement Plan). This can cause projects already on the list to move up or down. An example is "Safe Routes to Schools" is now a hot topic so several sidewalk projects are being looked at for inclusion on the list. After the project list is reviewed by the Bike/Ped Advisory Committee it is forwarded to other special committees for review and then sent to the MPO Board for acceptance.

Given the high priority of the WST project, the RTTWST Trail Maintenance committee is holding off on any major repair projects pending a 2020 DOT evaluation and the resulting plan for the trail. As noted previously, the entire 46 mile length is too much to do at one time, so the trail repairs will be done in sections to manage the cost (approx. \$13M in total). One of the big problems found during patching is that parts of the old rail bed weren't properly built with many of the old ties paved over. This gave the ants a new home and as they devour the ties, the paving sinks causing it to crack, forming potholes. The maintenance crew will do some patching based on a priority list Jim has developed.

Extensive discussions have been had since 2014 on the Dunnellon /connector, a beautiful 2 ½ mile section of high economic importance as it provides connections to commercial, recreational and other local communities. This is an important project and funding is available from the Florida Sun Trail fund for design and engineering. Several design options for crossing major thoroughfares have been looked at – overpass, underpass and crosswalks with no decision yet. RTTWST preference is for an overpass.

RTTWST has been selected for a "Bob the Builder" award in recognition of all the work we do on the WST. The award will be presented in Tampa on November 14

Last, we all need to make our voices heard. Please attend the Public Open House presentations and give your opinion. You can check the MPO Website:

<https://www.hernandocounty.us/departments/departments-f-m/metropolitan-planning-organization>

for schedules and locations.

The next Membership meeting is scheduled for 11/19/19, 5:30pm at the Lakes Regional Library.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:40pm.

Respectfully Submitted



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Mike Dolan

Mike Dolan, Secretary