

# The Heart of the Continent

Ontario, Canada • Minnesota, U.S.A.

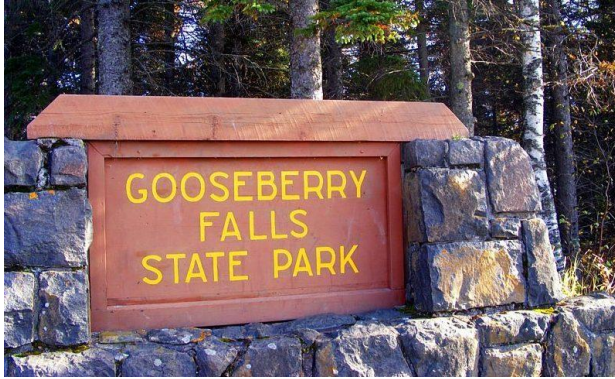


## HOCP Roundtable Meeting – Meeting Notes Two Harbors Minnesota - October 26-27 2017



**Thursday Morning - October 26 2017**

**Gooseberry Falls State Park – Joseph N. Alexander Visitor Center**



**Land Managers Meeting 9:00 am -12:00 noon**

Topics of discussion included:

- Proposed multi-agency Crane Lake Visitor Center
- International Dark Sky Association
- Planning cross border projects
- Recruiting volunteers/non – traditional volunteers
- Review tasks from Duluth meeting

**Thursday Afternoon**

**Patty Thielen** shared a presentation on the **Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (DNR)** and some of their work in the Heart of the Continent:

- Overview of DNR in the NE part of MN
- St. Louis River Estuary Restoration project near Duluth
- Moose Research and population trends
- Successful rehab of wild lake trout in Lake Superior (MN waters)
- Chambers' Grove Park restoration
- Good Neighbor Authority: Cooperative forest management projects with USFS
- New Lake Vermilion Soudan Underground Mine State Park



A presentation from **Lee Radzak** – 35 years as Site Manager for **Minnesota Historical Society’s Split Rock Lighthouse**. Lee’s energy is contagious and his presentation of the 104 year old Lighthouse on the shore of Lake Superior was filled with stories and history. Lee showed us works of restoration of the Lighthouse and talked of the on-going connections with visiting organizations. Over 150,000 tourists visit Split Rock Lighthouse each year.



#### **Heart of the Continent Mountain Biking – Andy Hubley**

Andy presented on the work being done by the Arrowhead Regional Development Commission proposing to develop and promote a plan for “enhancement and propagation of mountain bike and winter biking trails within the Heart of the Continent. Biking trails are expanding and Andy showcased the tourism opportunities and economic impact on the neighbouring communities. The collaboration would work to enhance/expand the entire region’s bike trails, promoting biking business, expand winter biking opportunities and internationally market the trails within the Heart of the Continent.

An interactive map website is being created to help explore biking opportunities in the **Heart of the Continent** on paved and mountain bike trails.



### Thursday Evening – Castle Danger Brewery

**Presentation from Pam Cain (Director of path of the Paddle Association)** on the exciting status of the newly official opening of the Path of the Paddle water trail section of “The Great Trail” (Trans-Canada-Trail) The Great Trail had its ribbon cutting in August 2017 during the Canada 150 celebrations.

**Presentation from Denny Caneff (Executive Director ) Superior Hiking Trail Association.** The Superior Hiking Trail, is a 310-mile long trail in northeastern Minnesota that follows and overlooks Lake Superior. Denny is the new director, is full of energy and should prove to be a great new ambassador for The Superior Hiking Trail a gem in The Heart of the Continent.

Evening continued with ideas and discussions of collaborations

### Friday Morning – October 27 2017 – Strategic Planning Discussions

**Clara Butikofer** took us through the purpose of the meeting, to review the work done by Brigitte Champaigne – Klassen – our intern that HOCP shared with Path of the Paddle since May 2017, through funding from Northern Ontario Heritage Fund. Brigitte has now moved on to a new position, but prior to that she completed a survey and plan for the Steering Committee and. Findings from the plan had been shared in advance of this meeting. Clara explained that the opportunity still exists to continue the funding for an intern from January till June. *(Recent updates are that we can hire an intern for an entire year and will be posting the job in January 2018)*

With a reminder of the back ground, the committee went on to discuss the results and especially the recommendations or next steps. HOCP is at a time for re-birth and re- engagement. The Steering committee was in agreement that HOCP needs to rise to the challenge



**Attendance**

Andy Hubley	Arrowhead Region Development Commission
Eric Johnson	International Falls/Rainy Lake CVB
Chris Stromberg	Coordinator HOCP
Clara Butikofer	Needing Economic Development
Robert DeGross	Voyageurs National Park
Pam Cain	Path of the Paddle Association
Ed Shields	Path of the Paddle Association
Denny Caneff	Superior Hiking Trail
Gary Davies	Needing Economic Development
Frank Jewell	St. Louis County
Trevor Gibb	Ont. Parks
Ann Schwaller	USFS
Holly Larson	NPS
Doug Franchot	Voyageur National Park Association
Lisa Radosevich- Craig	USFS
John Craig	Member HOCP
Patty Thielen	MNDNR
John Cameron	Thunder Bay Tourism
Lee Radzak	Split Rock Lighthouse