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 Thielean 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 Canef (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 background, 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  Neebing 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  Neebing 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