

Vermillion Trails Alliance

Naming, Mission Statement Development, & Initial Action Plan

October 23, 2017

The Vision of the Vermillion Trails Alliance is a prosperous Vermillion County that values healthy lifestyles, embraces a conservation ethic and respects our cultural heritage. A place where people are connected with the outdoors, and communities are connected with each other.

Our mission is to grow and connect the people of Vermillion County by expanding our network of trail and recreation opportunities.

Facilitated by the Indiana Communities Institute at Ball State University in partnership with the Indiana Office of Community and Rural Affairs (OCRA).



This document represents the work of the Vermillion County trails group on October 23, 2017 as a follow-up to the work that the group did with the Indiana Communities Institute of Ball State University on September 26th. At the end of the first session group had developed a vision statement and agreed to meet soon to develop a mission statement and assign action steps.

The meeting began with a review of the September session, a review of the notes from the group's October 10th meeting, and a review of the actions taken since the last session.

During that meeting the group fine-tuned their new vision statement to read:

We envision a prosperous Vermillion County that values healthy lifestyles, embraces a conservation ethic and respects our cultural heritage. A place where people are connected with the outdoors, and communities are connected with each other.

It was agreed that the group needs an official name as it becomes a legal entity. There was a reading of roughly one dozen options proposed in earlier meetings. Through a voting and discussion process it was settled that the official name of the group would be the ***Vermillion Trails Alliance***.

Through a facilitated process the group developed a mission statement to compliment and operationalize their vision statement. ***Our mission is to grow and connect the people of Vermillion County by expanding our network of trail and recreation opportunities.***

In the 1st strategic planning session the group developed and agreed that their priority action items are:

- 1) **How might we incorporate as a 501(c)3?**
- 2) **How might we design the trailhead and related elements at the county farm?**
- 3) **How might we map our trail options?**
- 4) **How might we develop a communications strategy?**

These can be found on page two of the September 26 session report. The 'Why?/What's stopping us?' maps/flow charts as well as the group's listing of individual action items can also be found there. It was discussed that a great deal of these action had been taken or started in the interim, especially toward incorporation and the county farm project.

The group detailed and assigned the action charts on the following page.

Action	Who	By When
present county-farm docs to county commissioners	Eric	10/31/2017
Present by-laws draft to entire group	by-laws committee	11/14/2017
Give lists of existing trails to chad	everyone	12/1/2017
Name /slate officers	group	12/12/2017
Adopt by-laws	group	12/12/2017
Get land control around county farm project	group	1/1/2018
Concept/design/cost estimates county farm	Les, Laura	1/1/2018
Finance committee initial report	Dylan, Tom, Larry	1/9/2018
Create master map of existing trails	Chad	1/12/2018
Apply for 501c3 status	Dylan	1/15/2018
Develop County farm maintenance plan	Tom	3/31/2018
explore trail options	group	ongoing
communications plan	group	TBD
Group meet every 2nd Tuesday	group	ongoing

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