May 19, 2016 Agenda

1. Call to Order
2. VOTE: Approval of Agenda
3. VOTE: Approval of Meeting Minutes
4. Introductions
5. Presentation & Discussion: Draft Greater Des Moines Water Trails & Greenways Plan
6. Presentation & Discussion: Public Engagement
7. Discussion: Next Steps
8. Other Non-Action Items of Interest to the Committee
9. Next Meeting Date - TBD
10. Adjournment
DRAFT WATER TRAILS & GREENWAYS PLAN!
Greater Des Moines Water Trails & Greenways Plan

150 miles of waterways
36% of floodplain protected
13 paddle carry down accesses
23 soft trails
15 fishing nodes
22 govts.
18 wading areas
Organization

Booklets
• Goals/Strategies/Policies
• 7 river and creek segments
  – High level recommendations
  – Maps
  – Project lists
  – Creative writing
Beaver Creek

- Only 1 of 2 beginner level water trail locations
- Recommend 2 carry down access
- Terra Lake Park Master Plan
- Improve fishing and birding
- Economic Hub: Merle Hay
- Protect the floodplain
- Restore the quarries
Walnut Creek

- Paddling during high water levels only
- Recommend 2 carry down access
- Biggest opportunity: wading and interpretation
- Lack of trail access from south/WDSM
- Connecting plans: watershed plan, Clive greenbelt, Windsor Heights comp plan
Mud and Fourmile Creeks

- Not recommended as a water trail, creek is too volatile
- Wading, fishing
- Floodplain protection
- Watershed plan
- Greenbelt planning
- Shoreline restoration
North & Middle Rivers

- Water trail recommended only for Middle River
- Support watershed improvements, shoreline restoration, channel restoration
- Fishing, play hubs – Carlisle
South Skunk River & Chichaqua Bottoms Greenbelt

Chichaqua
  - Wild level experience
  - Family friendly
  - Rentals
  - Platform camping
  - Navigation

Skunk River
  - Restoration
  - Re-meander
Skunk River & Chichaqua Bottoms Greenbelt
Raccoon River - west

- Van Meter & Booneville – hubs
- Preservation of the floodplain
- Trail network
Raccoon River - west

• Raccoon River Regional Park
• Connecting parks to the river
• Quarry restoration
• Water Works Master Plan
• Water Works to downtown key location
• Stream bank restoration
Raccoon River (east)
Des Moines River

- Ding Darling & Des Moines River Regional Parks
- Master Plans: Saylorville, Red Rock, DSM Parks (proposed)
- Urban Partnership
Des Moines River

• Little in-stream recommendations, currently crowded section upstream from downtown to Saylorville
• Hub recommended at River Point Place (carry down access, fishing hub, etc.)
• Prospect and Birdland improvements
• Botanical Garden
Des Moines River

- Harriet St. to Yellow Banks – 2\textsuperscript{nd} beginner level experience in the metro
- Improve existing accesses
- Trail connections
- Soft trails
- Fishing improvements
- Visual screens
Des Moines River
DOWNTOWN DES MOINES
Downtown Considerations

• Water levels: low-flow pool need to match flash board water levels
• Consensus: dams should be mitigated
• Edge treatment: more habitat, less formal
• Channel treatment: full spectrum of experiences
• Historic nature of balustrades
• Below dams: fishing/birding important
Public Engagement

June
• Nadas Nitefall on the River Concert – June 10
• Jim Pease – June 14
• 3 public open houses
• 4 paddling outings

July/August – presentations to jurisdictions
Next steps with the plan

Summer – continue to get feedback
Fall – approve the plan
2017 – Phase I Implementation
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