

Equestrian Representation back on the Governor's State Trails Council

When Ken Carpenter moved away a few years ago, it left some big shoes to fill. Ken had been the equine representative on the State Trails Council for several terms, and was extremely knowledgeable on all things trail. Before he left several people applied with the council and were interviewed, and myself, Krickett Jewett and two other knowledgeable folks were recommended as a replacement for the position.

I've been attending the STC meetings as Ken's representative, but have been unable to vote on changes or issues. But on July 10th I received the official appointment! I look forward to fully participating in the business of the Trails Council! Over the past several years the council has been very generous with their time and information in catching me up on how the Council works, and issues around the state. No matter your sport, trail volunteers really are good people.

The job ahead is daunting, and varied with everything going on with in the state, and nationally.

The State Trails Council was created by statute 15.347(16) in 1989. The council provides advice and consultation to the Department of Natural Resources on the planning, acquisition, development and management of trails in Wisconsin. The council represents trail users in Wisconsin, which includes more than half of the state's residents. The council is also responsible for providing counsel in administering Federal Recreational Trails Program funds. The council serves as Wisconsin's state recreational trail advisory committee for Recreational Trails Program, necessary for Wisconsin to participate in the program.

The council is an independent forum for finding solutions to trail problems for both motorized and non-motorized groups and is a statewide advocate for public/private cooperation in funding and management of trail systems. Wisconsin is a national leader in creating partnerships that provide for state ownership coupled with county management of trails.

The State Trails Council is comprised of eleven voting members appointed by the governor to four-year terms who engage in one or more of the various recreational uses of trails. Non-voting council members are selected to the council as needed. All council members must be knowledgeable in various recreational uses of trails and serve as an advocate for trails.

A little about me, I've been lucky to have grown up around horses, and now as an adult have six horses at home to care for. Unfortunately my husband and kids have not gotten the horse bug, and are only involved when I coheres them!

I've been involved with the Tennessee Walking Horse for the last 20 years and active in the Wisconsin Walking Horse Association., most of that time. Currently I use them for trail riding, but in years past did some showing.

For about five years I also worked with the Whitewater Area Mounted Search Team and Rescue (WAMSTAR) and only had to resign as an active member because I did not have time to commit to staying certified.

My trail advocacy started accidentally with the Rock County Multi Use Trail Group when a local trail may have been closed to horses, and since 2005 I've been the president of the group working with the county to help improve and maintain the parks with in the county.

That later lead to becoming involved with the Wisconsin Horse Council, where I am currently the level three director for the WWHA, Co-Chair of the Trails Committee and Chair of the Sponsorship Committee. This past year I got involved with WDNR as they started developing the Recreational Opportunities Analysis (ROA) and needed an equine representative to help with planning the road map to what the future will look like state wide in the parks. Each of the eight regions in Wisconsin will go through an ROA process.

Volunteers are key to all of the groups I've listed above, and without help from many great people the successful projects that have been completed would never have even gotten off the ground. If we want to see trails in the future we need to step up now and be active. Be sure to join your local equine club, as well as a state level organization.

If you would like to be added to an email list and sent updates occasionally please email me your contact information to krocketj@gmail.com

Krocket Jewett
Gov. Walkers State Trails Council
Equine Representative