RESOURCES

Books, Articles & Other Printed Material:


Members of the Zeletic Club. Morgan’s Roots Reach 100 Years 1878-1978: A History of the City of Morgan.


“Pioneer Days in Renville County.” Olivia, MN: Olivia Times, 1913. Print


Data:


“AutoCAD base map.” City of New Ulm. 2006.


Web Sites:


Presentations:
Renville County Trail Planning
A Coordinated Effort to Connect Our Communities

August 6th, 2009

6:30-8:00 PM
Renville County
Government Service Center
Lower Level Room 117

Funding in Renville County for this project was provided by the Legislative Citizen Commission on Minnesota Resources (LCCMR), Renville County, West Central Sustainable Development Partnership, Renville County Housing and Economic Development Authority (HRA/EDA) and Olivia Kiwanis.

We are fortunate to have great county parks and will soon commence working with the University of Minnesota Center for Changing Landscapes to develop a trail plan for the county. A similar process is taking place in Redwood County. Once complete, the two trail plans will connect making up the Tatanka Bluffs Regional Trail Plan. As most of you already know, the FairRidge Trail that connects the community of Fairfax with Fort Ridgely State Park on the county’s southeast border near the beautiful Minnesota River. In addition, meetings were held in the past to discuss the development of the Prairie View Recreation Trail initially connecting Bird Island and Olivia, then expanding west to connect to Danube, Renville and Sacred Heart, tying into the Minnesota River Valley State Trail south of Sacred Heart. From Bird Island the trail would head east to connect to Hector and Buffalo Lake, where it would head north, connecting to the Luce Line near Hutchinson. The Minnesota River Valley State Trail is designated in legislation but presently not constructed in our area. Individual communities within the county have ideas about where they would like to see trails developed in and around their community. The ultimate goal is to plan how we can connect our communities in healthy recreational ways and have fun at the same time. Last year Minnesota voters passed the “Clean Water Land and Legacy” act which created additional tax revenue to be used for parks and trail development, among other things. It is anticipated that perhaps $42,000,000 a year for the next 25 years could be available for the development of parks and trails, so this is great timing for Renville County to develop a comprehensive trail plan.

For more information please contact the Renville County Housing & Economic Development office (HRA/EDA) at 320-523-3656 or visit www.renville.com

Do you have an interest in being part of the trail planning process?
Renville County is fortunate to have scenic county parks and natural attractions, as well as interesting historic sites. Connecting these attractions through the development of a trail system is a way to promote the health of residents and increase tourism in our communities.

For that reason, we have begun working with the University of Minnesota Center for Changing Landscapes to explore the possibilities for trail development in our county. A similar process is taking place in Redwood County. Once complete, the two trail plans will connect, making up the Tatanka Bluffs Regional Trail Plan. Individual communities within the county have ideas about where they would like to see trails developed. We want to hear those ideas!

The Minnesota River Valley State Trail is designated in legislation but presently has not been constructed in our area. Near the southeastern border of Renville County, the FairRidge Trail already connects the community of Fairfax with Fort Ridgely State Park near the Minnesota River. Plans are underway to develop a paved trail from Fort Ridgely State Park running west to Morton. At Morton, it would cross the Minnesota River, connecting to an alternative Minnesota River State Trail in Redwood County.

In the northern part of the county, meetings were held in the past to discuss the development of the Prairie View Recreation Trail. The trail would initially connect Bird Island and Olivia, and then expand west to connect to Danube, Renville and Sacred Heart. It would tie into the Minnesota River Valley State Trail south of Sacred Heart. From Bird Island the trail would head east to Hector and Buffalo Lake. From there it would head north, connecting with the popular Luce Line near Hutchinson.

Last year Minnesota voters passed the “Clean Water Land and Legacy” act which created additional tax revenue to be used for parks and trail development, among other things. It is anticipated that several million dollars a year will be available for the development of parks and trails. The development of a comprehensive trail plan will provide the framework for a successful application for “Legacy” funding to begin development of a trail system that will allow future generations of local residents and visitors to enjoy the natural beauty and history of Renville County.

Do you have an interest in being part of the trail planning process?
Minnesota Attorney General tells public beware of insurance scams with discounts on care and plans

- Citizens must beware of non-insurance products from unlicensed companies that offer little benefit. Page 11→

Public Beware:
Attorney General Lori Swanson tells public to beware of health care plans that offer great deals but come up short

COordinated Effort to Connect Our Communities

Renville County Trail Planning

Leaking pipes run high cost during season

- Underground leaking water pipes during swimming season adds to chemical and water consumption

FAIRFAX (TEE) – In its regular monthly meeting of the Fairfax City Council on Tuesday, November 12, 2009, it was disclosed that the cracked and leaking underground water pipes for the city's swimming pool cost taxpayers a considerable amount of money for the 2009 swim season. Due to winter freezing damage to the city's pool last winter, the Fairfax Utility crew performed extensive water pipe repair on the south and west pool decks in the southwest corner of the pool. The repairs were completed just in time for summer air temperatures to reach 68 degrees or warmer, which is a Minnesota state law for public facilities. The total expense for the early-summer repairs totaled an unexpected and unbudgeted amount of approximately $4,000, of which $2,400 is actual materials, equipment rental and services, and $1,400 is Fairfax employee wages at the site.

The underground leaks, though proving to be elusive, were thought to be, for the most part, successfully repaired. It was soon realized that during its normal operation, the pool's water level could only be maintained by a constant replenishment of fresh water from the city's water main.

When the swimming season came to a close for the summer, the total gallons of water attributed to swimming pool use was 2,662,100 gallons. Last year in 2008, before
Trail Planning

FAIRFAX (TEE) — Area representatives and interested parties came to the Cedar Mountain Elementary School in Franklin on Wednesday, November 18, 2009, at 5 p.m. for the Renville County Trail Planning meeting. The event was hosted by the Franklin and Fairfax County Business Clubs.

The meeting was led by the Franklin and Fairfax representatives, along with the Renville County representatives. The meeting included discussions on the current state of the trails in the region and plans for future developments.

In his opening remarks, Franklin County representative said, "The goal of this meeting is to bring together all interested parties to discuss the future of the trails in our county." He emphasized the importance of maintaining and improving the trails for the benefit of all residents and visitors.

The discussion focused on the current challenges faced by the trail systems, including erosion, maintenance costs, and the need for additional funding. Representatives from different counties shared their experiences and strategies for addressing these issues.

Several proposals were presented, including the creation of a trail network that connects the different communities. The plan also includes the development of new trails and the upgrading of existing ones.

The meeting concluded with a vote on the proposed trail plan, which was approved by all attendees.

The representatives agreed to continue working together to ensure the success of the trail system and to address any future challenges that may arise.
Happy trails to you

Residents from Morton, Franklin and Fairfax came to the Cedar Mountain Elementary School last Wednesday in Franklin for a trail planning meeting and brainstormed possible routes where the trail could run through each of the towns. Story page B7.
South trail planning goes on

By Adam Hoogenakker
Staff writer

For the third time in less than a month, residents of cities and towns in Renville County gathered together to discuss the possibilities of trails weaving their way through the towns and countryside surrounding the area.

The latest meeting, taking place last Wednesday in Franklin, drew a dozen residents to hear a presentation made by Mary Vogel and her staff from the University of Minnesota Center for Changing Landscapes. The meeting brought together folks from Morton, Franklin and Fairfax along the southern border of Renville County.

Already in place is the FairRidge Trail which connects the community of Fairfax with Fort Ridgely State Park. Plans are underway to develop a paved trail from Fort Ridgely State Park running west to Morton. At Morton, it would cross the Minnesota River, connecting to an alternative Minnesota River State Trail in Redwood County, according to a handout at the meeting.

Similar to the meetings already held in Renville and Bird Island, the attendees were asked to break into small groups determined by what town they were from to map out a route where a possible trail could be created.

Vogel called the southern portion of Renville County a “green necklace” surrounding the Minnesota River. She then asked the three groups to brainstorm routes which passed landmarks in each town.

The following is what each group proposed to Vogel and two of her assistants – these routes are by no means final:

Morton – From the south, where the Morton Bridge once existed, the trail would run through town and connect to Co. Rd. 18 on the east end. The route would pass along the railroad and businesses like Altimate Medical, the county museum and Prining Motors. The Birch Coulee Monuments and Lower Sioux Communities could then be connected through Morton.

Franklin – Running mainly to the south of Hwy. 19, the trail would run along Cty. Rd. 5/1st Street and travel past the Cedar Mountain Elementary School, pass through the historic downtown area and pass churches and Veterans Memorial along the way.

Fairfax – Using the current FairRidge Trail in the south, the trail would run north past Lions Park and pass the school. The trail would continue past Memorial Park where swimming and picnicking are available. The trail would also pass by the Depot park and museum.

For more information on the existing and proposed trails in the county, contact the Renville County HRA/EDA at (320) 523-3656 or visit www.renville.com.
Renville County Trail Planning
A Coordinated Effort to Connect Our Communities

Wednesday November 18th, 2009 5:00PM

Cedar Mountain Elementary School Cafeteria
231 4th Avenue East Franklin, MN

Plans will be discussed for trails in and around the communities of Fairfax, Franklin & Morton

Renville County is fortunate to have scenic county parks and natural attractions, as well as interesting historic sites. Connecting these attractions through the development of a trail system is a way to promote the health of residents and increase tourism in our communities.

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Do you have an interest in being part of the trail planning process?

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For more information please contact the Renville County Housing & Economic Development office (HRA/EDA) at 320-523-3656 or visit www.renville.com
You are invited to attend this meeting of our Redwood County Community Trail Planning!

Tatanka Trails Community Meeting

Thursday, June 17, 2010

at the Lamberton Community Center
101 2nd Avenue

Lamberton, MN

Mary Vogel with the Center for Changing Landscapes from the University of Minnesota will be presenting our “Connecting Communities Through Trails” next Thursday! She has a presentation board for each community in our county so you will want to be sure to attend this meeting to hear first hand what they have designed and give feedback! Please share this information with your interested citizens in your communities so we have a packed house for this important meeting.

For more information or to RSVP, please contact the Redwood County EDA/RADC office — 507-637-4004 or email: Julie@redwoodfalls.org by Wednesday, June 16 at 5 p.m.
Group explores trail possibilities in Redwood area

BY TROY KRAUSE

If a system of trails was developed in Redwood County, where would the best locations for those trails be county wide? That was the question Mary Vogel posed to a group of about 30 county residents this past Monday night in Lucan during a trails planning meeting.

Vogel, of the U of M Center for Changing Landscapes, was in the county as part of a multi-county initiative she is working on to help create trail concepts in the region. Her work is being funded primarily through a grant from the Legislative Citizens' Commission on Minnesota Resources (LCCMR). In order to aid residents in the planning process, Vogel conducted significant research of the area determining everything from the landscape to the current road systems. Then she put it all into perspective.

TRAILS

Continued from Page 1

"This is a very heavily engineered county," said Vogel, adding the drainage of prairie potholes has changed the landscape significantly.

As she looked over the county, she said in terms of the overall topography, there is not a lot to challenge bikers using potential county trails.

"The land is very flat except for in the Minnesota River Valley" she said.

Of course, that does not preclude the county from developing trails that could enhance the economy, as more people come to the area for recreation.

Vogel said in terms of Redwood County, it is similar to many other Minnesota counties in that its communities followed a railroad community development template.

The cities, she explained, are laid out on a grid based on how the rail line ran through town.

She added, the communities also dot the landscape at intervals of seven miles — the distance the train could travel before refueling and taking on more water.

Vogel, who said she is serving in an advisory role, said things such as road traffic counts and right of way issues must be considered as part of trail development.

Redwood County does have some trail development efforts already taking place, such as the Casey Jones Trail which is designated its route to travel through the Walnut Grove area on its way to Redwood Falls.

How it gets there, said Bruce Johnson a member of the Casey Jones Trail group and a Redwood County resident, is still up in the air.

"A group has also developed a proposal to create the Chief Sleepy Eye Trail which would travel along the abandoned rail line land from Redwood Falls to Sleepy Eye. A funding request to work on the project was made in 2009 to the state."

In addition, Vogel mentioned the Minnesota River Trail designation, which also follows the Redwood County border.

It would appear part of the value of trails in the county would center around linking these major proposals together, as well as to create smaller trail loops that could connect the communities together.

As part of the Monday night meeting, those in attendance were given the chance to break down into the communities they represent to talk more specifically about the potential for trails in their towns.

Vogel essentially gave those in attendance a sky's-the-limit opportunity to determine what would enhance their communities in terms of quality of life for local residents, as well as to improve tourism opportunities.

While much of the discussion centered around biking, Vogel said the trail concept could include any type of recreation, including motorized opportunities if that was desired.

While no funding is specifically available at this point from the state for trail development, having a plan together should funds ever become available is a good first step, said Vogel.

Vogel is going to take the information she received from the communities and will compile a report with the intent of future presentations that could lead to plans relating to the what and where of trail development.

For more information on this program, contact the Redwood Area Development Corporation at (507) 637-4004.
The future of trails in southern Minnesota

BY TROY KRAUSE

How does one connect communities in close proximity to one another? In Redwood and Renville counties, a project is in the planning stages that would create an avenue through which that kind of connection could indeed take place.

The connections being discussed are based in the concept of trail development. In order to help move that concept along, meetings have been held to create interest and get public input.

See Trails - Page 16
FRANKLIN, Minn. (TEA) — Each year a caravan of Minnesota senators spends a couple of weeks going on field trips throughout the state, listening to local area governments pitch capital projects, which would require financial help from the State of Minnesota.

On Tuesday, September 15, Minnesota senators and members of their staff gathered to the newly refurbished park shelter in the heart of Franklin to hear just such a request. On the table? The Renville County River Road & Trail Project.

The proposal was opened by Renville County Commissioner Bob Fox, who motioned with his hand above his head, “I’m switching for just a moment from my commissioner’s cap to an engineer’s cap.”

Fox went on to explain in brief the county’s plan to develop and pave Renville County Roads 5 and 51, the remaining 10.7 miles of gravel after the pavement ends from Nicollet County Road 21, southwest of Fort Ridgely. The new pavement would reach to State Highway 19, southeast of the City of Morton.

Renville County Engineer Martin Larson went on to explain the full depth of the project, saying the road would include curb and gutter on the hill side of the road, and include a pedestrian recreational trail, which would complement the FairRidge Trail between Fairfax and Fort Ridgely. The road would also be brought from a 7- to 9-ton allowance to a 10-ton capability. The total projected cost of the project is $11,300,000. Renville County is requesting for the project a total of $4,965,000 from the State of Minnesota and $6,640,000 from the U.S. Government.

If approved, the project would move ahead first with a historical and environmental review in the fall of 2010; preliminary design would begin in early 2011, with construction bids being taken and approved in the fall of that same year. Construction would then begin in early 2012.

“The Minnesota River on the scenic byway is wild and wicked-nasty,” says Fairfax Mayor Schafer. “It’s always out of its banks in the springtime, and there’s no holding it in with anything short of flood walls like you’d find in Mankato.

How beautiful it would be if the paved Nicollet County Road 21 would continue west with paved Renville County Roads 5 and 51. There’s a lot of nature to see along this whole entire stretch of river.”

Other significant individuals speaking at the tour in the Franklin park shelter included Minnesota Senator Gary Kubi, Fort Ridgely State Park Manager Mark Tjosias, Renville County Economic Development Executive Director Christina Hettig, Morton Mayor Carl Cowell, and Franklin Mayor Ronald Degner.
Connecting the dots — trail planning in the county

By Adam Hoogenakker
Staff writer

Mayors, city administrators, businesses and residents from Hector to Olivia gathered last Wednesday at Athmann’s Inn in Bird Island to share their vision on a future trail meandering through the northern part of Renville County — a trail which could connect the towns and bring some tourists looking to escape the cities and enjoy the serenity of rural Minnesota.

Leading the discussion was Mary Vogel, senior research fellow, Department of Landscape Architecture with the University of Minnesota.

“There’s a lot to learn of the county,” said Vogel to more than a dozen attendants. “How do we see the trail being a part of our lives? Where will it go?”

Vogel continued by saying the county should celebrate its glacier-worn landscape and create a series of loops to connect the county’s cities and towns together. During her team’s research, Vogel also heard from the area tribes and felt a strategy could be created to honor their cultures, as well.

One of the major hurdles facing the trail system being laid out is Renville County’s land value, especially outside of city limits.

“You’re such good farmers,” Vogel said to the group, and getting farmers to give up land for the trail may be hard to do.

But within city limits, the group at Athmann’s brainstormed in small groups how a trail could be implemented.

The following routes are by no means set in stone; it is a rough sketch made by each group on a city map during the meeting.

In Hector/Buffalo Lake: Running west-to-east north of Hwy. 212 in Hector, the trail could use a portion of the Yellowstone Trail and run past the school and through downtown where the library, community center and museum are located. The trail could connect to Buffalo Lake using Co. Rd. 8 and then turn north along Lake Allie, connecting to the Luce Line to Hutchinson.

A trail heading south on Hwy. 4 could pass the airport and connect to the Ft. Ridgely trail in Fairfax.

In Bird Island: Running west-to-east south of Bird Island, the trail could pass the athletic field and run past St. Mary’s and the old Methodist Church, then on past the city park. The trail could travel south of the county fairgrounds and then back north past the Bird Island Ballroom.

To connect south, the trail could connect with either Hwy. 71 or Co. Rd. 5 to reach the Birch Coulee and Beaver Falls county parks. A trail could also run along Hwy. 71 to Co. Rd. 4 to Bechyn.

In Olivia: A trail running from west to east along the southside of Olivia would pass Kubesh Park toward St. Aloysius, the library and Nester Park. The trail would turn towards the school then skirt the golf course before exiting the city on Co. Rd. 14.

Connecting with the rest of the county, the trail plan could run east or west on Co. Rd. 17 and turn south along Co. Rd. 1 or Hwy. 71.

The groups then left their trail ideas with Vogel, who will continue to look at possible routes in the county and within the cities along Hwy. 212 in the northern section of the county.

A meeting Tues., Nov. 3 took place in Renville covering Sacred Heart, Renville and Danube. The next trail planning meeting is scheduled for Weds., Nov. 18 at Morton City Hall at 3:30 p.m. to discuss the cities of Fairfax, Franklin and Morton.
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