



**Board Meeting, November 12, 2014 @ 6:00 pm  
Lowell City Hall**

**Attendance** - LARA Board Members; Al Halbeisen, Perry Beachum, Mari Stone, Betsy Davidson. Also present were guests Dave Austin and Mark Fritsma.

**Minutes** – September and October meeting minutes were approved.

**Treasurer's Report** –Davidson gave Treasurer's report –Bills to be paid: \$100.00 to Hardings for crack filling, \$4510.00 to Terre Verde (multiple invoices) \$1110.00 for concrete bench pad. Motion to approve payables by Beachum, second by Stone, motion carried.

**Public Comment** –Fritsma noted that the CIS trail to Owosso will be open soon.

**Trailhead Signs for Major Donors** – Sign permits are still pending, and this item will be completed in the Spring.

**Other outstanding issues** – It was noted that the boardwalk issues at Alden Nash north of Foreman are being observed over the winter and will be analyzed in the spring. The Cahoon driveway solution is still pending.

**Phase 1-A and Phase 2 / Connections to FMRVRT** - Dave Austin reviewed the latest version of the draft report of the Rail Trail Connection Study. He reported that MDOT has a new requirement for “all access” areas of trails funded with federal funds, which the MDOT money includes. The all access category may not use just a bike lane, it must have a 10 foot pedestrian path as well. This means that our current Option D is greatly affected, and costs for this option will be considerable higher as it will need boardwalks within easements off the roadway.

He then summarized the 4 revamped options and reviewed basic cost estimates. These varied from a high of 6M for C, 4.5 for D, 3.5M for A, to 2M for B. Board discussion and brainstorming resulted in several new suggested options, and once again, Austin will take the board comments and rework the options.

The meeting adjourned at 8:05 pm.

*Mari Stone*

Respectfully submitted,  
Mari Stone  
LARA Secretary

**Commonly used acronyms;**

Fred Meijer River Valley Rail Trails – (FMRVRT)  
Kent County Road Commission (KCRC)  
Lowell Area Schools (LAS)  
Lowell Education Foundation (LEF)  
Michigan Department of Environmental Quality (MDEQ)  
Michigan Department of Natural Resources (MDNR)  
Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT)

Greenville to Owosso – (GO)  
Lowell Area Recreation Authority (LARA)  
Lowell Area Community Fund (LACF)  
Lowell Light & Power (LLP)  
Lowell Cable TV Fund (LCTV)  
Michigan Trails & Greenways Alliance (MTGA)  
Safe Routes to School (SR2S)

North Country Trail Association (NCTA)  
West Michigan Trails & Greenways Coalition (WMTGC)  
Wittenbach – Wege Center (WWC)

Trail Resources Enrichment and Development  
(TREAD)

For more information refer to the website [www.lowellareatrailway.org](http://www.lowellareatrailway.org)