

Elmer G Biddick

CHARITABLE FOUNDATION

11623 State Road 80 Livingston, WI 53554

Phone (608) 943-6363 Fax (608) 943-6365

www.biddickfoundation.com

TALKED to Denise Fisher
and told her we would
include the report
on agenda for next
foundative meeting.
3/23/16 gje

Elmer G Biddick
Richard M. Meyer
James W. Neundorff
David Warner

Elmer G Biddick - President
Richard M Meyer - Vice President
Bradley D Biddick - Secretary/Treasurer

GRANT APPLICATION

*Must be received in our office on or before the due dates below

Due Dates April 15th and October 15th

Date: December 9, 2015

Name of Organization (must match IRS 501(c)(3) designation) Wisconsin River Trail
Organization

Address 125 Vista Place

City, State, Zip Boscobel, WI 53805

Phone 507-269-2646

Person Responsible for the Grant Denise Fisher

Position in the Organization Director

Organization's Purpose see attached sheet

This application must include your organization's latest IRS Letter of Determination showing exemption and public support status. (Not required for units of Government & public schools).

Grant Request \$ 50,000.00

Describe the reason for this grant request in the space below:

see attached sheet

-Application continued on next page-



Founded to Further the Growth Of Our Community.

Attachments to this grant that we find useful in considering your grant request.

A. Supporting information.

1. Specific use of grant.
2. Time schedule.
3. Other sources of funding.
4. Describe the effect of postponing your request to another time.
5. Describe who, when, how and where will the effects of this grant be felt.

B. Your organization's history, activities, services, and composition. (Videos are of limited use.)

Applications are considered in June and December of each year. The corresponding deadlines are April 15th and October 15th. Concise grants that address the needed information are appreciated.

PLEASE SEND THIS APPLICATION TO ELMER G BIDDICK CHARITABLE FOUNDATION:

Biddick, Inc.
11623 State Road 80
Livingston, WI 53554
Phone (608) 943-6363
Fax (608) 943-6365

ELMER G BIDDICK CHARITABLE FOUNDATION

Dear Elmer G Biddick Foundation Board Members:

Thank you for giving the Wisconsin River Trail Organization the opportunity to apply for your grant award. The Wisconsin River Trail Organization (WRTO) formed on April 15, 2014 in Boscobel, WI. Our mission statement is: "We will preserve the beauty of our nature trails through the acquisition of property for conservation in order to promote an environment of health and wellness", but we are so much more.

Our Purpose: The WRTO formed to create a four-phase project to improve the daily lives of the citizens in our community. As the project grew in interest and participation, the City of Boscobel, as well as the community developers, Chamber of Commerce, local businesses, and individual citizens rallied around an idea of Boscobel becoming the Outdoor Recreation Capital of Wisconsin. The Wisconsin River defines the majority of its citizens as outdoorsy people who enjoy fishing, hunting, canoeing, hiking, and biking, and the rural solitude and peace of mind that these activities bring us. What better way to improve our city than to connect the Wisconsin River and the community in a recreational way, enjoying the beauty that nature provides for us along the way, inviting tourists and outdoor enthusiasts to enjoy our land right along with us.

Phase one of the trail was chosen as the first step since it finishes a project that was already started, the Sanders Creek Trail. It is the shortest trail at .39 miles and the land is owned entirely by the DNR, which allows for land easement from one entity instead of many owners. We were chosen as a capstone project for a UW-Madison Landscape Architect, who helped us to see that our community has many opportunities to grow and prosper.

The Phase two segment is a 7-mile hiking/biking trail that leads from Boscobel, west towards Woodman, following in areas, the existing railroad tracks. It is legally and financially beneficial to parallel parts of the railroad trails, to minimize the need to clear land, and also, to widen easements that are not taxing to the landowners. This phase has become a project that was designed by the UW-Platteville engineering students. They have produced plans on bridging and different trail routes including costs, pros, and cons. Their involvement has truly made this a learning experience for all involved, as well as a regionally-driven mission.

Phase three, our biggest feat and most exciting segment of our trail, will be to cross over the Wisconsin River from Woodman into Wauzeka in an area that boasts country and river scenery that allows for peaceful, one-of-a-kind views of nature that can now only be seen by watercraft. WRTO is applying to contract with UW-Platteville Engineering students again to construct a bridging system that is handicap accessible, with fishing piers, and even a view of an early 1900's turnstile, built when the river was deep and wide enough for barge traffic. It is approximately 4 miles to Wauzeka from this path, with a need for 4-7 bridges, and a stretch of land and river that will bring you back to nature in a pristine, quiet, and relaxing setting.

Finally, Phase four will begin in Wauzeka and lead us back to Boscobel roughly following Highway 60's scenic river route, approximately nine miles.

We realize the complexity of this project, but we believe this trail, when complete, would be like no other in the state and that Grant and Crawford counties would benefit in the ability to draw individuals

to the area. It would allow our communities to grow in tourism and recreation, encourage economic development, and reinvent and awaken our rural piece of heaven, while still allowing us to remain the quaint, rural communities that we currently are.

The 1.75 mile Sanders Creek Trail that already exists meanders through the small community of Boscobel, following the creek. Last winter, I (Denise) wrote my very first grant, a \$200,000 Knowles-Nelson DNR grant. It was the death of me, but without it, we couldn't start construction on phase one to finish the trail to the boat landing. I received the very best birthday present of my life in September....we received the full grant! Construction begins for phase 1 in early spring of 2016 with completion of the trail set for the end of the summer of 2016.

We are pressing forward with Phase 2 to Woodman and are looking at a Wisconsin DOT grant that is an 80/20 grant where we would have to come up with the 20%. While that seems like a small fraction, I would estimate that our portion could total approximately \$200,000. In order to present this to the DOT, we have to fund the engineering plans prior to the grant. These plans will surpass \$ 50,000 and we ask for your generous support to help us finance this aspect of our trail.

The WRTO has spent much of the last year fundraising in order to become a non-profit conservation group and securing funds to match grants that we hope to acquire. We have worked hard at partnering, involving and securing relationships with Federal, State, and local communities, the Chamber of Commerce, development groups, universities, colleges, and hospitals to create this trail together. We strive for high quality, reasonable costs, and pride in ownership when the trail is completed.

Personally, this trail is our community's inheritance to our children and grandchildren. Most of us will never be rich enough to leave any significant inheritance, but we can, as a tight-knit community, build a forever trail that can only be built upon. Our Legacy Trail will help us reinvent ourselves, our community, our health and wellness, and our future.

We're common people, our board. We consist of moms and dads that are nurses, a teacher, an administrative secretary, a bank official, a heavy equipment operator, and a postal employee. Instead of saying we can't, we're teaching our children that we can. We hope you see our vision and support us in creating our dream, the Wisconsin River Trail.

If you have any further questions or concerns, feel free to contact me at 507-269-2606.

Thank you for your time and consideration,

Denise Fisher, Director

Tonia Vial, Assistant Director

Joel Leonard, Board Member

Jo Sommers, Board Treasurer

Wendi Stitzer, Board Member

Marianne Krogen, Board Secretary

Angie O'Brien, Board Member

SPECIFIC USE OF THE GRANT-This grant would be used to support the engineering costs to apply for phase 2's grants through the Wisconsin DOT and other grant-seeking opportunities.

Time Schedule-Historically, it takes 3-5 years in paperwork to create ANY trail. The WRTO has only been an organization since April of 2014, and our phase one will begin construction this spring, as we are currently in the process of finishing up DOT and DNR permits. Our time frame for phase two is three years in order to apply for grants, receive these grants, and finish the 7 mile construction. We are working on completing the entire four phases in a time frame of 15 years total.

We realize you just awarded your grants for the year and we are early in submitting this application for April, but I will be working very diligently on the Wisconsin DOT 80/20 grant through April now, and didn't want to miss your deadline that you have set for April also.

OTHER SOURCES OF FUNDING-While we recently received the \$200,000 grant award from the DNR Knowles-Nelson Stewardship grant, we will also continue to write grants for major federal and state entities. We have received grants from Cabela's Outdoor Fund (\$3800), Boscobel Community Foundation (\$5000), Grant County Tourism (\$2500), and individuals that have donated up to \$1000. Yearly, we have had different fundraisers. Our major fundraiser has been a Hike/Bike Banquet every November. This year, while we had to limit our attendance to 200 attendees (due to building size), we raised a total of \$27,500 net. We also have a "Taste of Boscobel" event that raised its first year a total of \$2500, and a July 3rd chicken BBQ in the Boscobel Kronshage Park that has raised approximately \$4000. Area restaurants are willing and have donated certain percentages of sales on given days, and our local World of Variety sells our clothing line without any charge to us.

The effects of postponing our request would hamper the engineering plans for the WRTO phase 2. Most federal grants are due in April, and as we continue to write these grants that take months to prepare, we need to have approximately 60% of our plans drawn in order to qualify our applications into these grants. As we gain donations and receive grants, we can continue to move forward with our project. The faster we raise money, the sooner our trails will be complete, the sooner we will have visitors that will boost our communities' economies, as well as improving the health and wellness of our local citizens.

The effects of this grant will effect (who) our local community. It will, in the end, increase tourism, boost the economy, create more jobs, improve our health and wellness, and provide safe areas for families to recreate or other avenues of transportation to and from school and work. Phase 2 is being divided into an A and B phase. Phase A (where) will reach from the Boscobel western city limits to the Cozy Acres Trailer Court located about 3 ½ miles out of town. This will help those that don't have their license or a vehicle to use, a safe venue to school or work in Boscobel. This grant will also give tourists a new, beautiful driftless region to visit, and, when the entire trail is complete, a breathtaking, one-of-a-kind view. The effects of this grant (when) will be felt immediately as we can use the grant (how) to continue forward progress on the engineering plans for the trail.

OUR ORGANIZATION'S HISTORY, ACTIVITIES, SERVICES, AND COMPOSITION

The WRTO began as a dream spoken in January of 2014 in the coffee shop in Boscobel. I was encouraged to share my dreams in the Boscobel Dial and I did. There's a little town of 1400 people in Minnesota called Lanesboro that has a huge biking/hiking trail and many of the same quaint and rural recreational opportunities that the Boscobel area has. Boscobel no longer has the ability to become a successful factory town. Why not share the beauty that abounds and draw other quality people in to share that beauty with? While the city of Boscobel was supportive, the city had just had a flood that was devastating to our local economy. The city had no extra money. Meetings were held, a board was formed, and our WRTO group began fundraising to become a non-profit organization. Instead of the saying we can't, the new saying is: Why can't we? The city has donated all of the labor and equipment to complete phase 1, and assisted in all of the planning needed to make this trail a reality.

Yearly, as stated above, we have had many fundraisers, but one of our favorite additions to our community's activities is an annual bike safety training course for our kids, complete with the Boscobel Gunderson Hospital and Clinic's donation of helmets for all of our children that don't have a helmet or can't afford one. We provide our kids with a meal, certified, hands-on biking course, bike tune ups, and fun door prizes. It's events like these that we are most proud of. Other events we have sponsored are: horse-drawn sleigh rides, Brewers bus trips, canvas painting fundraisers, and a weekly booth supporting the new farmer's market in Boscobel, having brat feeds, bake sales, selling our clothing line, signing people up for our fundraisers, and informing the general public that a trail is coming!

We are a new organization, but we're trying fun and diverse events for fundraisers and continue to support whatever we can do to engage all ages in our community into doing positive, active, family events in our area.

While I stated above the composition of our board, we do have many volunteers that step up to the plate when called upon for our events. Also the support from local businesses has been absolutely amazing when it comes to needing donations for different events, especially our top fundraiser, our Hiking and Biking Banquet held every year in November.

I am going to include the letter that was written for the Knowles-Nelson Stewardship grant application that our Boscobel Elementary School student council children wrote in favor of creating a trail in our community. It was our favorite and most memorable letter of support and sums up what we strive for in our community, as seen through the eyes of our children.

Thank you so much for your time, for believing in us, and for supporting our trail.

Sincerely,

Denise Fisher

WRTO Director

507-269-2606

Denisefisher5995@gmail.com