IHC DATABASE COMMITTEE FINAL REPORT
9/21/23

During the summer of 2022, the Indianapolis Hiking Club Board of Directors approved the formation of a committee to review and document the Club's database processes. This committee was composed of:

Marti Burton
Bob Hackenberg
Paul Klimowitch
John Lyghtel
John McShea
Rick Wortman
Ed Wright
Phil Smith, Chairman

This committee had two goals:

1.   Review, simplify, and document current data-based processes (mileage, schedule generation, and membership).

2.   Contact similar organizations (Cleveland Hiking Club) to investigate their data processes and evaluate those processes relative to those currently used by the Indianapolis Hiking Club.

Following many meetings during 2022 and 2023, comprehensive documentation was developed in the following areas:

1.   A history of the Club's use of databases and a review of how the Club has developed the current data processes including the recording of member mileage, and generation of hiking schedules. This document was produced by Karen Zimmerman.

2.   A comprehensive manual for producing a hiking schedule within the Club's database. This was prepared by Ed Wright.

3.   A database manual was produced by Bob Hackenberg and Paul Klimowitch. This document describes the logic and code required within the database (written in SQL) to store mileage, membership, and hiking schedules. It also describes, in detail, the CGI scripts (written in perl programing language) necessary for the Club's website to communicate with the various database tables and extract and display requested information.

These three documents can be located on the Club's website under Articles and Archives. In addition a local backup on an external hard drive has been established. A hard copy of all three documents was presented to the Club at the Sept. 20, 2023, Board Meeting.

Several contacts were made with the Cleveland Hiking Club. These culminated in a several-hour Zoom meeting. The Cleveland Club reviewed their data processes in detail. They use a commercial database that has been adapted for their use. The committee believes their data

solution is expensive and, as an adapted commercial database product, is somewhat cumbersome.