

How to lead the volunteering activity?

Cases from Southern Part of Finland – District of Häme

Labour of Love –
Volunteering for Parks

Tikkurila 5.10.2011

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Kuva, © Jere Rauhala

Content

1. Volunteering – what is it?
2. Cases trough out The Häme District
3. Conclusions
4. Questions and Discussions

Volunteering – what is it?

- How should we see volunteering?
- Where is the line between volunteering and other (usual) job?
- Is volunteering always free of charge?

- I myself have seen it as an activity that has some purpose (almost any) for the other stakeholder. In fact I don't see any other limits – motive for volunteering is first of all their decision.

- Traditionally it hasn't been seen (possibly) as a work that has been done ex. by students or teachers (when it is free of charge).

- Now I have here four cases of different kind of volunteer "projects"

Case – MTB – Mountain biking

- An MTB-club and bikers from many areas wanted to get MTB-routes to Evo National Hiking Area
- Metsähallitus has no special planners on that field.
- But we can build the route or routes with the help of prisoners
- So – what should be done, how and who?

-First contact – between Mika Koivisto and me

-One short meeting with Mika and me

-“Contract” in email

-Press release, web-pages, socialmedia

-Planning (going on still)

-Routebuilding on 2012



<http://www.luontoon.fi/evo>,

<http://www.fillarifoorum.fi/forum/showthread.php?42430-Evon-retkeilyalueelle-maastopy%F6r%E4ilyreittej%E4>

Case – Diving Base

- A Diving Club wanted to develop their base in Melkutin Area
- Metsähallitus has no economical possibilities to do this job
- But, we can allow them to build the base, if all other users on the area are allowed to use this base too
- So – what should be done, how and who?

-First contact (emails, calls) – between Matti Rautamäki and me

-Meeting in the area

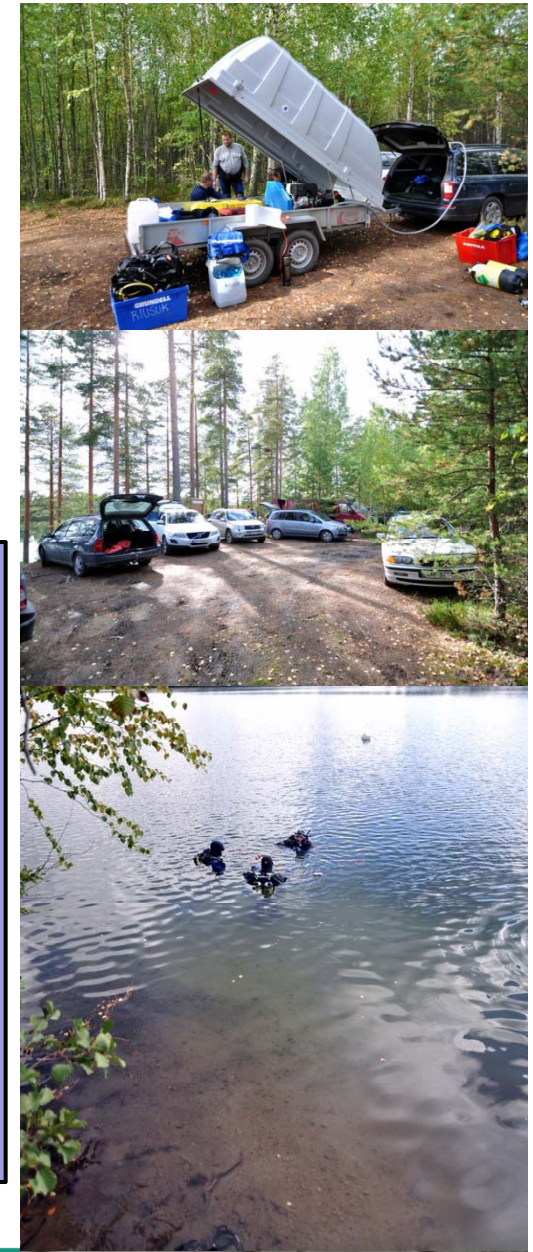
-Contract (a true one)

-Building starts in the end on july

-Constructions are ready in two weeks, web-pages ready

-=> "Dive!"

<http://www.luontoon.fi/Retkikohteet/muutsuojelualueet/melkuttimet>
<http://www.riusuk.net/laitesukellustoiminta/sukelluskohteet/iso-melkutin/>



Case – Hermits hut

Hut was home for very famous fisherman (Hermit). He developed world wide famous fishing tackle, also know as Rapala ..

Local people respect the heritage of Hermit very much and they want to save it for next generations – we have no possibilities.

So – what should be done, how and who?

-First contact (emails, calls) – between locals and us

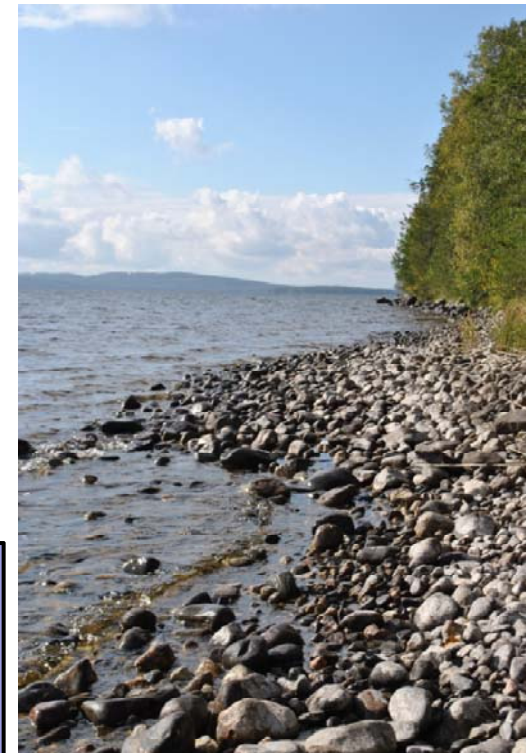
-Meeting on the island and Hut

-Contract (not ready jet), locals do the work and maintain jobs, take care of transportation and so on, we buy the equipments

-Search for more partners ... we´ll see ..

-Restorations starts in this autumn, will be ready next spring, press release

<http://sysmaseura.fi/>



Case – Youth Camp Area, basics

- First suggestion in from the prime minister Matti Vanhanen in 2004
- First negotiation with Metsähallitus in 2005, next meetings with Häme University of Applied Sciences (one land user), municipality, authorities and so on
- Decision of Youth Camp Area in 2008 in Government of Finland
- Task was ordered to Metsähallitus
- Problem: Budget was 1 000 000 €, but there where only 700 000 € money?
- Scouts are used to do volunteer work a lot – really a lot!

Case – Youth Camp Area

Volunteer parts:

-plans: master plan, electrical planning, water system planning, data planning ...

-Constructions: hut, shelter

-First camp in 2010 , Kilke 2010

-10 000 participants

-12 500 visitors in one weekend

-Summer 2011 – 15 small camps

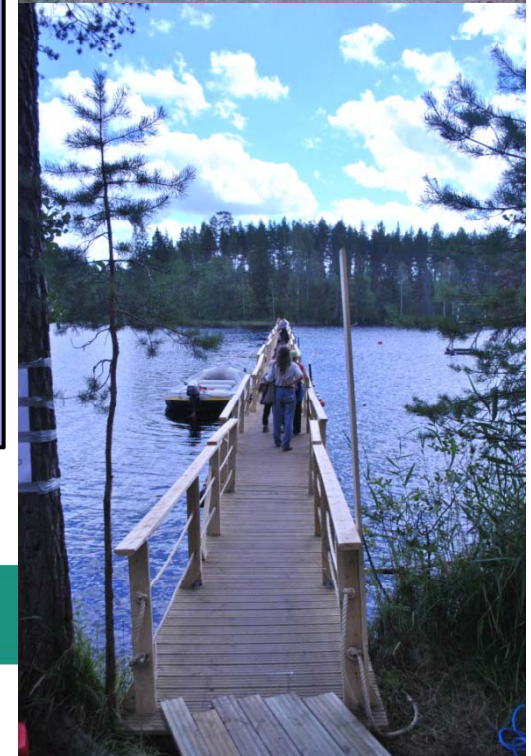
-Summer 2012;

-Rowerway 2012 – ca. 5000 international participants
(max 20 % fins)

-Saraste 2012 Capital Area Scouts Camp, ca. 4500
participants

www.rowerway.fi
www.saraste2012.fi

 METSÄHALLITUS



Case – Youth Camp Area

- A lot of meetings
- A lot of calls
- A lot of emails
- A lot of volunteers
- We in Metsähallitus took care of totality, permits from authorities, contractors and so on
- Scouts had their own organization to run the planning group
- Together we build up a management group, 5 – 7 persons, two from Metsähallitus and others from Scouts of Finland

Thinking about leading volunteering?

- These cases where all different sized
- I myself think and **rank** this kind of “projects”
- And it does not mean that some of them are not so important – the first lesson is to remember that **all cases are very important for the other stakeholders!**
- I ranked these cases:
 - Big one: Youth Camp Area,
 - Quite big: Hermits Hut and MTB
 - Small one: Diving base

- The bigger the project is the more You need to use time yourself

Thinking about leading volunteering?

- Other differences between cases?
 - Youth Camp Area – big job – and a very big co-operation group (net)
 - Hermits Hut – several partners – many roles
 - MTB- the whole MTB-net is participating on planning
 - Diving Base – one association – one partner
- So, **the bigger the net is the more possibilities** You have
- Who made the first step?
 - The others mainly! Although the suggestion is not on top of Your priority list. **Listen all suggestions**, they may help You anyway, even in small steps
- Do You need the offered volunteer work?
 - If it doesn't cause You or any one else any harm, accept it! **You need to be open minded**
- And finally – volunteers do a lot of valuable work – for themselves and others
 - **They should be seen and treated as equal partners**, not just as a resource

Cold facts of volunteering (to my mind)

Volunteering must:

- **cause pleasure and / or satisfaction** in any possible way for volunteers, it can be economic or emotional
- produce **economic outputs** (in our case)
- **not cause more expenses than is the value of investments** (in our case), it means time, materials, travel costs and so on
- not be **anyone's privilege or duty**

Volunteering:

- Can (should) be **fun and satisfying**
- **Cause benefits** (economic or emotional, hopefully both)
- Is **every man's right**
- **Create solidarity**
- **Strengthen openness**
- **Unite different interest groups**

Conversation and questions



Thank You for your attention!