



TRI-COUNTY TRAIL COMMISSION

Meeting minutes of Thursday, January 21, 2021 at 7 PM
Lafayette County Multipurpose Building
Darlington, WI 53530

Present: Committee members – Blumer, Withee and Torkelson of Green County along with Reichling, Flannery, Staffacher and Fisker (Conference Call) from Lafayette County and the Iowa County representative, Richard Rolfsmeyer. Coordinators present were Tom Jean and Deb Krahenbuhl along with ATV Club members and snowmobile club members.

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Russ Torkelson, at 7:00 PM. Tom Jean verified the meeting was posted at the Green, Lafayette and Iowa County Courthouses, Darlington Municipal Building, the Lafayette County Highway Dept. and on the website. Mr. Torkelson declared this to be a properly posted legal meeting with enough members present to constitute a quorum.

A motion to approve the agenda was made by Mr. Stauffacher, seconded by Mr. Reichling and the motion carried.

A motion to approve the minutes of the December 10, 2020, meeting was made by Mr. Blumer seconded by Ms. Flannery and the motion carried.

Discussion and update on the status of the DNR grant funding for the projects along the Cheese Country Trail: Tom is continuing to work with Kurt Byfield from the DNR to bring all of the grant requests for reimbursements up to date and to get a DNR agreement for the rip rap project between Tibbets road and Ferndale road and is continually checking on the SNARS website to see if any new entries have been added and need approval or rejection.

Discussion and update on general maintenance/signage or encroachment issues along the Cheese Country Trail along with Trail Maintenance Update – Local ATV & Snowmobile Clubs: Lee didn't have much to report other than a bridge had been damaged by a groomer near Gille Lane. It is thought to be part of the Blackhawk Riders section to groom and repair costs will come out of their entitlement. Paul McCarville reported that the Cheese Country Trail has been open for only 4 days to date but he anticipates it being open by the coming weekend with more snow and colder temperatures to come.

Trail Usage update – Local ATV and Snowmobile Clubs:

There was a large contingency of snowmobile club officers and members present to address some concerns. The main concern was the opening and closing of the Cheese Country Trail and a policy that exists that ties this opening and closing to the Club trails that connect to the Cheese Country Trail. The reason this policy exists seems to have stemmed from a letter from the DNR dated 2009 that states that all State owned trails

should adjust their opening and closing in accordance with the connecting Club Trails. Following some very productive and civil discussion, it was decided that the Cheese Country Trail is not a State Owned Trail, but rather a State DNR funded trail and therefore doesn't necessarily fall under the memorandum that was issued in 2009 by the State Trail Coordinator.

Therefore, it was decided that there was a need to have a system in place to close or gate-off side Club trails should they be closed and allow the Cheese Country Trail to remain open (if conditions are right). Lee McCarville made the comment that he felt if the Cheese Country Trail is not open to the public, the snowmobile clubs should not be paid for grooming it. It was decided that since the existing policy was adopted by the Lafayette County Trails Committee in conjunction with the Lafayette County Snowmobile Alliance, that a meeting of the Trails Committee should be held to adopt a new policy for opening and closing of the Club trails and that the Cheese Country Trail would be opened and closed as a separate entity. Ms. Fisker will contact Andy Schilling about calling a meeting of the Lafayette Trail Committee to work on a solution.

Legislative update: None

Public comment: None

Fencing Request: None

Status of Funds: Tom presented the updated 2020-2021 Status of Funds showing an up to date balance. A motion to accept the Status of funds was made by Mr. Withee and 2nd by Mr. Reichling, and the motion carried.

Vouchers: Vouchers presented for payment were: Wisconsin County Mutual Insurance Co. (Liability Ins.) - \$595.00, Tri County ATV Club (grading & maintenance) - \$4,171.72, T-Riders Snowmobile Club (Grooming & maintenance) - \$2,489.50, State Line Trailblazers Snowmobile Club -\$175.00, Lafayette County Highway Dept. (brushing for T-Riders) - \$1,394.38, Bard Materials (gravel for maintenance)- \$11,358.90. The total of all vouchers - \$20,184.50.

Date of next meeting: February 18, 2021, in Monroe at the Green County Courthouse.

Adjournment: A motion to adjourn was made by Mr. Stauffacher and seconded by Ms. Flannery and the motion carried and the meeting was adjourned at 8:30 PM.

submitted 1/18/21 TRJ