



TRI-COUNTY TRAIL COMMISSION

Meeting minutes of Thursday, February 18, 2021 at 7 PM
Green County Courthouse
Monroe, WI

Present: Committee members – Blumer, Withee and Torkelson of Green County along with Reichling, Flannery, and Fisker from Lafayette County. Coordinators present were Tom Jean and Deb Krahenbuhl along with ATV Club members and snowmobile club members. Reichling, Stauffacher and Rolfsmeyer were all absent.

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. Blumer, seconded by Mrs. Fisker and the motion carried.

A motion to approve the minutes of the January 21, 2021 meeting was made by Mrs. Fisker, 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. Paul McCarville mentioned that due to the increased amount of snow and need for grooming, the groomers have been used more this year than in the recent past and that there is supplement funds available from the DNR to pay for these extra hours. They have received this in the past from the Military Ridge Trail in Iowa County. Tom and Deb were not aware of this and will check into the possibility of getting extra funds for the increased grooming efforts.

Discussion and update on general maintenance/signage or encroachment issues along the Cheese Country Trail along with Trail Maintenance Update – Local ATV & Snowmobile Clubs and Trail Usage update. Local ATV and Snowmobile Clubs:

Paul reported that there has been more snowmobile use this year than for the past several years. The last couple of weeks has seen a large amount of snowmobiles on the trails and this means that more grooming has been necessary. He also addressed some concerns regarding complaints about the Calamine to Mineral Point and Calamine to Belmont portion, being rough and not groomed as often as some felt it should be. The T-Riders also sold their 15-year-old Tucker groomer and are looking to replace it.

This generated some complaints and concerns from another club and Paul also explained why that was done. All-in-all it has been a successful snowmobile season, with a lot of trail usage and an influx of people from all areas of the Midwest.

Tom reported that at the Lafayette County Trails meeting he had spoken with DNR Warden Mike Burns about snowmobile speed limits through the municipalities. Currently there is not a speed limit for snowmobiles during the day and 55 mph at night. Mike would like to see something done within these City or Village limits so that the snowmobiles would be required to slow down through these areas.

Legislative update: None

Public comment: Deb had some information on some signs to replace the informational signs at various places along the trail. The current signs are in bad shape and need upgraded. The signs that Deb presented would cost about \$1,248 each. Tom will look to see if there is any funding available for these signs and it will be placed on the agenda for next month's discussion.

This summer, the Darlington Main Street will be under construction. There is concern as to how this will affect the Cheese Country Trail. Tom will talk with project managers and this will be on the agenda for next month also.

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. Blumer and 2nd by Mrs. Fisker, and the motion carried.

Vouchers: Vouchers presented for payment were: Blackhawk Riders \$2,223.00 for snow grooming, and T-Riders \$ 3,157 for snow grooming (of which \$1,666.12 is payable through current balances). A motion to pay these vouchers was made by Ms. Flannery and seconded by Mrs. Fisker, motion carried.

Date of next meeting: March 18, 2021 at 7:00 PM in Darlington at the Lafayette County Multi-Purpose Building.

Adjournment: A motion to adjourn was made by Ms. Flannery and seconded by Mrs. Fisker. The motion carried, and the meeting was adjourned at 8:20 PM.

submitted 3/17/21 TRJ