



## TRI-COUNTY TRAIL COMMISSION

Meeting minutes of Thursday, May 5, 2022  
Lafayette County Multipurpose Building  
Darlington, WI at 7 PM

Present: Committee members – Even and Torkelson of Green County along with McGuire, Malott and Flannery from Lafayette County. Coordinators present were Deb Krahenbuhl and Tom Jean, along with Rob McConnell from the WATVA council. Berget from Lafayette County, Wilke from Green County and the Iowa County representative were all absent.

The first order of business was to elect a chair and vice-chair for this committee to serve the next two years. Coordinator, Tom Jean called for nominations from the floor for the position of Chair. Ms. Flannery nominated Russ Torkelson and it was seconded by Kurt Malott. Hearing no other nominations, a unanimous vote was cast for Russ Torkelson and he was chosen once again to chair the Tri-County Trail Commission.

Mr. Torkelson then asked for nominations for vice-chair and Mr. Torkelson nominated Donna Flannery. This nomination was seconded by Luke McGuire. Hearing no other nominations, Donna Flannery was elected vice-chair of the Tri-County Trail Commission for the next two years.

The meeting was called to order by Chair Russ Torkelson at 7:10 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 a properly posted legal meeting with enough members present to constitute a quorum.

Before we got started with the meeting, Melissa Even asked that we have some introductions so that everyone could tell who they were working with and what role everyone played in the operation of the Tri County Trail Commission. It should be noted that our new commission consists of 4 members from Lafayette County, 3 from Green County and 1 from Iowa County. Of the 8 members, 6 are new to this commission. Following introductions, Tom gave a lengthy orientation on how the funding for the Cheese Country Trail works and some background on the by-laws and the rail banking agreement with the Pecatonica Rail Transit Commission.

A motion to approve the agenda was made by Melissa Even and seconded by Luke McGuire and the motion carried.

A motion to approve the minutes as presented of the March 24, 2022 meeting was made by Donna Flannery and seconded by Luke McGuire 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 of the DNR to identify funding needs and to pursue grants to meet those needs. The maintenance funding for the 2022-2023 season has been approved and we should be seeing our advance payment soon.

**Update on riprap project between Ferndale & Tibbets Road:** Tom is continuing to work with Ellery Schaeffer from Jewell and Associates to get the correct notices and bid letting information for the riprap project between Ferndale and Tibbets road. He has contracted with Max Blackburn of the Lafayette County Soil Conservation service, to do a study to identify if there are any endangered species (Blanchard Cricket Frog) present. This will satisfy the DNR requirement for this permit. If this proves to be a frog –free site, we can proceed with the bid letting and hopefully get this project done yet this year.

**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:** Tom is planning a drive from Mineral Point to Monroe with Matt Horner of the PRTC to show him the planned projects and to hear about some of his concerns with encroachment issues and trail crossing permitting.

**Trail Usage update:** Lee McCarville and Don Carpenter gave updates as to the condition and amount of usage the trail is receiving. It has been very busy this Spring and it certainly appears that it will continue to get a lot of traffic this summer and fall.

**Legislative update:** Rob McConnell was present and there was some discussion regarding the Economic impact study that was completed in 2012 regarding the Cheese Country Trail. Rob said that a Statewide economic impact study that was done a few years ago showed that ATV/UTV usage had a \$295 million impact to the State's economy at that time. Now, several years later, it is proven that this has increased to \$1.2 billion today. Using those figures, we can safely assume that the \$12 million impact to the Tri-County area in 2012 has grown to \$48 million today thus showing the importance of properly maintaining and preserving this trail.

**Public comment:** None

**Fencing Request:** None

**Status of Funds:** Tom presented the updated 2021-2022 Status of Funds showing an up to date balance. It was noted that the TCTC Trust fund showed an \$844.32 deficit. When asked to explain where the Trust fund money came from, Deb explained that the Trust fund account and the Trail Pass account were really one and the same. It was separated in the reports for informational purposes only. With having outstanding invoices to approve in the amount of \$2,580 that need typically come out of the Trust fund, Melissa Even made a motion to transfer \$3,424.32 from the Trail pass account into the Trust fund account and therefore zero that account out. The motion was seconded by Donna Flannery and the motion carried. Deb will explain this to Jackie Scott at the Finance Dept. and Tom will combine these two accounts in future reports. A motion to approve the Status of funds was then made by Kurt Malott and seconded by Luke McGuire and the motion carried.

**Vouchers:** There were seven different vouchers to consider; Southwest Graphics-\$580.00 for Trail Stickers, Tom Jean - \$30.70 for postage that he paid for notices regarding riprap project, Democrat Tribune - \$66.08 for publishing notice for riprap project, Blackhawk Riders - \$1,834.00 for grooming & non-grooming , Fayette Sno-Goers - \$348.50 for grooming & non-grooming, Deb Krahenbuhl- \$2,000 for Trail co-coordinators annual salary, T-Riders - \$2,040.00 for grooming & non-grooming. The total vouchers presented were: \$\$6,899.28. A motion to approve the vouchers was made by Donna Flannery and seconded by Luke McGuire and the motion carried.

**Date of next meeting:** June 23, 2022, at 7 PM at the Green County Courthouse in Monroe WI.

**Adjournment:** A motion to adjourn was made by Donna Flannery and seconded by Melissa Even and the motion carried and the meeting was adjourned at 8:25 pm.

Submitted 6/21/2022 TRJ