



TRI-COUNTY TRAIL COMMISSION
Meeting minutes of Thursday, September 1, 2022
Green County Courthouse
Monroe, WI at 7 PM

Present: Committee members – Even, Wilke and Torkelson from Green County along with McGuire, Flannery and Berget from Lafayette County. Coordinators Tom Jean and Deb Krahenbuhl were also present. Kurt Malott from Lafayette County, and Kevin Peterson from Iowa County both were excused.

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 a properly posted legal meeting with enough members present to constitute a quorum.

A motion to approve the agenda was made by Jeff Berget and seconded by Melissa Even and the motion carried.

A motion to approve the minutes as of the July 21, 2022 meeting was made by Luke McGuire and seconded by Sam Wilke and the motion carried.

Discussion and update on the status of the DNR grant funding for the projects along the Cheese Country Trail.

Update on Rip Rap project between Ferndale & Tibbets Road:

Tom explained that the contractor for the Rip Rap project along the Pecatonica River between Ferndale Road and Tibbetts Road is Rule Construction of Dodgeville. Rule plans to begin the project around the 26th of September and estimates it will take about 2-3 weeks to complete. Tom will contact Lee McCarville and Fuzzy North to facilitate closing the trail at this location during the construction. There will be a pre-construction meeting at the site before work will begin and Tom will arrange this meeting with the engineers from Jewell Associates, Rule Construction, himself and Lee McCarville. Tom also explained that he was successful in obtaining additional funds from the DNR (both snowmobile funds and ATV funds) to fully fund this project.

Leon Wolfe explained that he had attended the snowmobile grant funding meeting and that presently there are excessive funds available for trail rehabilitation, bridge repairs and major projects. He said it is a good time to apply for grants since the likelihood of getting approval is high. The Engineering needs to be completed prior to applying. The deadline for these applications is April 15 and Tom will scope the needs of the trail and apply for funds accordingly.

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:

Craig Shager and Don Carpenter reported that they have been having an issue with washouts where Franklin road intersects with the trail. They recently had Green County Highway Dept. blacktop that area to alleviate the problem.

They also reported that there needs to be some rip rap placed near the bridge on Allen Road and Tom will take a look at this to determine the best way to fund it.

Tom mentioned that we needed to thank Lee, Fuzzy, Deb and the Tri County ATV Club for the refreshments and meal for our last month's meeting in Calamine. Melissa Even said she had seen a lot of favorable comments on Facebook regarding the trail.

Trail Usage update: Lee McCarville was absent and Craig Shager updated the committee on the trail usage. All segments are being used heavily and for the most part the trail is in pretty good shape. With the fall season upon us, trail usage will become heavy and Lee will need to keep mowing and grading as needed.

Legislative update: None.

Public comment: Tom had reported to Russ that he was completing a FEMA Audit from the flood of July 2017. Once completed it should result in an additional \$5,000 funds from the Wisconsin Emergency Management Association. This audit resulted in a lot of additional work for Tom outside of his normal duties and along with him managing special projects, Russ Torkelson felt that he needs to be compensated for this. Russ would like this added to next month's agenda for discussion and possible action. There was also some discussion regarding the trail pass amount and the possibility of increasing it for additional revenue. This will also be an additional future agenda item.

Fencing Request: None

Status of Funds: Tom presented the initial Status of Funds report for the 2022-2023 season. It shows that there is \$17,250 in Snowmobile funds and \$46,600 in ATV/UTV funds available along with \$1,460.52 for fence requests, \$97,797.74 in the Trust/Trail Pass account and the Special rip rap project has incurred costs to date of \$14,014.01. A motion was made by Donna Flannery to approve. It was seconded by Jeff Berget and the motion was approved.

Vouchers: Jewell Associates for Engineering on Rip Rap project -\$749.44. A motion to approve this voucher was made by Luke McGuire and seconded by Melissa Even and the motion carried.

Date of next meeting: September 29, 2022, at 7 PM at the Lafayette County Multipurpose building.

Adjournment: A motion to adjourn was made by Sam Wilke and seconded by Luke McGuire and the motion carried and the meeting was adjourned at 7:55 pm.

Submitted 9/27/2022 TRJ