



TRI-COUNTY TRAIL COMMISSION
Meeting minutes of Thursday, September 29, 2022
Lafayette County Multi-purpose building
Darlington, WI – 7 PM

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

Since this was the first meeting he was able to attend, the Iowa County representative, Kevin Peterson, was introduced by Mr. Torkelson and everyone introduced themselves to Mr. Peterson.

A motion to approve the agenda was made by Jeff Berget and seconded by Luke McGuire and the motion carried.

A motion to approve the minutes as of the September 1, 2022 meeting was made by Luke McGuire and seconded by Melissa Even and the motion carried.

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

FEMA audit from 2017 flood: Tom explained that he has been working with the Wisconsin Emergency Management Association (WEMA) to secure the State's portion of the 2017 flood damage. We had received \$27,133.36 from the Federal grants (FEMA) and the State's portion was outstanding. After some investigating, Tom discovered that the State had never paid their portion, and an audit of the expenses would need to be completed to get the funds. After completing the audit, Tom is expecting a check from WEMA for about \$4,000-\$5,000. The check should be arriving soon.

Update on Riprap project between Ferndale & Tibbets Road: The riprap project will begin on Monday the 3rd of October. Rule Construction of Dodgeville is the general contractor and expects it to be completed in 2-3 weeks. Tom will coordinate with Jewell Associate Engineering for oversight and Tom will make daily sight visits to assure the project runs smoothly and to keep the construction engineering bill to a minimum. Lee McCarville and Fuzzy North will take care of trail detours and notifications to the Sheriff's department.

The contract that was awarded for the project was for 800 feet of rip-rap, however there is another section of trail, about ¼ mile south of the project limits, that needs rip rap also. With that being said, now would be the best time to complete that as long as the contractor and equipment are on-site. Rule Construction estimated the extra area would cost about \$35,000 to complete. The funds that are available from the DNR are probably short of the amount, but it would be to our advantage to complete this now. Tom feels he can obtain an amendment to the grants and get the additional funding once the project is complete. Following some discussion a motion was made by Donna Flannery and seconded by Jeff Berget to go ahead with the extra work and try to obtain additional funding later. By voice vote, the motion carried.

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:

Lee plans to mow one more time and to grade the trail once more before winter. There are several signs that need to be repaired or replaced and Lee will take care of this. Don just completed grading the Green County portion and they just completed blacktopping at the Franklin road intersection.

Trail Usage update: Lee McCarville and Don Carpenter reported that there has been a lot of riders on the trail. The Fall season and fall colors bring a lot of trail users to the area.

Coordinator's salary: With the extra work that Tom has had to take on due to the riprap project and the WEMA audit, Russ felt it was time to re-evaluate the coordinators compensation. While this item was on the agenda for this meeting, the discussion and action will be tabled to a future meeting.

Legislative update: None

Public comment: None

Fencing Request: None

Status of Funds: Tom presented the Status of Funds report for the current season. It shows there have been no expenditures from either the snowmobile funds (balance at \$17,250.00) or the ATV/UTV funds (balance @ \$46,600.00). It also shows expenditures for the Rip Rap project of \$14,753.45, Fencing request fund balance of \$1,460.52 and Trust fund account balance of \$98,997.74. A motion to approve the Status of Funds report was made by Kevin Peterson, seconded by Luke McGuire and the motion carried.

Vouchers: Tri-County ATVers in the amount of \$5,494.48 for grading, mowing and storm clean-up. A motion to approve this voucher was made by Jeff Berget and seconded by Kevin Peterson and the motion carried.

Date of next meeting: October 27, 2022, in Monroe at the 2nd floor courtroom of the Green County Courthouse at 7 PM.

Adjournment: A motion to adjourn was made by Donna Flannery and seconded by Luke McGuire and the motion carried and the meeting was adjourned at 7:45 pm.

Submitted 10/26/22 TRJ