



TRI-COUNTY TRAIL COMMISSION

Meeting minutes of Thursday, November 16, 2023
7 PM at the Lafayette County Multipurpose building
Darlington, WI

Present: Committee members – Flannery from Lafayette County, Torkelson and Even from Green County and Peterson from Iowa County. Wilke, Berget and McGuire were all excused. Coordinators present were Tom Jean and Deb Krahenbuhl.

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 Courthouse's, 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. Kurt Malott has recently resigned from the Lafayette County Board and from this committee. This will make the TCTC committee, a 7-person committee and therefore a quorum will consist of 4 members.

Approval of the agenda: A motion was made by Donna Flannery and seconded by Kevin Peterson to approve the agenda as presented. The motion carried.

A motion to approve the minutes of the October 26, 2023, meeting was made by Melissa Even and seconded by Donna 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 has received the advancements for both the Snowmobile and ATV maintenance grants for the 2023-2024 season. The Snowmobile grant is in the amount of \$17,250.00 and the advancement is for 50% of that or \$8,625.00. The ATV grant is in the amount of \$58,100.00 and the advancement is for 50% or \$29,050.00. Tom has given these checks to Deb and she has given them to the Lafayette County Finance Dept. for deposit into the proper accounts.

Discussion and update on general maintenance, signage or encroachment issues along the Cheese Country Trail along with Trail Maintenance Update – Local ATV & Snowmobile Clubs: Lafayette County Highway Dept. has graded the trail from Belmont to Calamine and from Mineral Point to Green County and has placed some gravel where it was needed. It is in pretty good shape for the upcoming winter season.

Tom has talked with Misty Molzof, who represents the PRTC. There is nothing new to report on the lawsuit that the PRTC has filed against the landowner who has encroached on the trail property East of South Wayne and removed trees belonging on the trail corridor. The landowner did appear at the last PRTC meeting to explain his actions.

Tom is scheduled to meet with Sara Ringleman from the DNR on Friday the 17th to inspect the Calamine to Belmont portion of the Cheese Country Trail which is owned by the WI DNR as part of the Pecatonica State Trail.

Tom will also be doing an inspection of the trail and bridges from Mineral Point to Gratiot on Saturday November 18. There are several areas that need some attention and Tom will have them addressed before freeze up.

Trail Usage update – Local ATV and Snowmobile Clubs: The ATV trail is continuing to get a lot of use and both Tom and Deb are fielding calls each week inquiring about whether the trail is open or not. With the Gun Deer Hunting season about to open on Saturday, the 18th of November, everyone is reminded to use caution and wear blaze orange while on the trail for safety reasons.

Legislative update: No report.

Public comment: None

Fencing Request: None

Status of Funds: Since the October meeting, Deb has deposited \$1,095 in trail pass collections. This was the only change to the Status of funds from the November meeting. A motion to approve the Status of funds report was made by Kevin Peterson and seconded by Donna Flannery and the motion passed.

Vouchers: There was one voucher presented for payment. The grading bill which included a culvert replacement, from the Lafayette County Highway Department in the amount of \$11,424.51 was presented. A motion was made by Melissa Even to approve the payment of this bill and seconded by Kevin Peterson. The motion carried.

Next meeting date: December 21, 2023, at 7 PM in Monroe at the Green County Courthouse second floor courtroom.

Adjournment: A motion to adjourn was made by Melissa Even and seconded by Kevin Peterson and the motion carried and the meeting was adjourned at 7:45 PM.