



TRI-COUNTY TRAIL COMMISSION

Meeting minutes of Thursday, November 18, 2021 at 7 PM
Lafayette County Ames Road Multi-Purpose Building

Present: Committee members – Blumer, and Withee of Green County along with Reichling, Fisker, Flannery and Stauffacher from Lafayette County. Coordinators present were Tom Jean and Deb Krahenbuhl along with ATV Club members and snowmobile club members. Torkelson had an excused absence, and Lindholm from Iowa County was also absent.

The meeting was called to order by Vice-Chairman Karl Blumer, 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. Blumer 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 Mrs. Fisker, seconded by Mr. Withee and the motion carried.

A motion to approve the minutes of the October 21, 2021 meeting was made by Mr. Blumer, 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 working with Kurt Byfield of the DNR to bring all of the outstanding grants up to date so that we receive reimbursement for them. There was also some discussion as to the future needs for specific projects and grant applications that need to be applied. At a previous meeting, it was mentioned that the DNR has had an influx of registration monies and therefore this may be an ideal time to apply for necessary gravel or bridge rehabilitation funds. Applications for these projects will have to be in by the April 15 deadline.

Update on Rip Rap project between Ferndale & Tibbets Road:

Tom continues to work with Jewell and Associates to obtain the proper permits for the Rip Rap project between Ferndale and Tibbits Roads. Matt Horner of the PRTC has called and expressed concern with landowner notification and/or encroachment issues in a couple of areas of the trail. Tom plans to meet with Matt to see what his concerns are.

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:

- a. **Update on informational signs along the trail:** Lee reported that he has the signs installed and he also had a sample of the open/closed signs and explained how they will work once the decision is made to open or close the trail for whatever reason. Tom will take a photo of the signs and bring it to the next meeting.
- b. **Bridge rail safety concerns.** Matt Horner from the PRTC, expressed some concern over the adequacy of the bridge railing over the Pecatonica River in Calamine. Lee will look into it and Tom will be in contact with Matt Horner and the DNR.

Trail Usage update: Ever since last snowmobile season, there has been continuing discussion regarding the policy of opening and closing of the Cheese Country Trail for snowmobiling and who should make that decision. There has been a lot of time expended by both the Tri County

Trails Commission and the Lafayette County Snowmobile Alliance to come up with a policy that will work for the Cheese Country Trail and compliment the club trails. After more discussion, a motion was made by Mrs. Fisker that **In the fall of each year, by a consensus of the Tri County ATV Club, the Green County ATV Club, the four maintaining snowmobile clubs(T-Riders, Fayette SnoGoers, Blackhawk Riders, and State Line Trailblazers), along with the Lafayette County Snowmobile Alliance representative, a date will be decided upon to open the Cheese Country Trail for snowmobile use. Once this date is established, the Cheese Country Trail will be continuously opened for snowmobiling until the following Spring when this same representative group will decide upon a closing date. During this Snowmobile continuous open season, ATV/UTV traffic on the Cheese Country Trail is prohibited. These dates will be posted to the public via social media and website information and signs will be activated at each municipality along the trail. This motion was seconded by Ms. Flannery and the motion carried unanimously.**

Legislative update: None

Public comment: None

Fencing Request: None

Status of Funds: Tom presented the updated 2021-2022 Status of Funds showing an up to date balance. A motion to approve the Status of Funds was made by Mrs. Fisker and seconded by Mr. Withee and the motion carried.

Vouchers: There was one voucher to consider in the amount of \$820.13 to Jewell and Associates for Rip Rap project engineering. A motion was made by Ms. Flannery to approve the voucher, seconded by Mr. Reichling and the motion carried.

Date of next meeting: December 16, 2021 in Green County at the Courthouse in Monroe at 7 PM.

Adjournment: A motion to adjourn was made by Mrs. Fisker and seconded by Ms. Flannery and the motion carried and the meeting was adjourned at 8:25 pm.

submitted 12/14/21 TRJ