

TRI-COUNTY TRAIL COMMISSION



Meeting minutes of Thursday, March 24, 2022 at 7 PM
Green County Courthouse, Monroe WI

Present: Committee members – Blumer, Withee and Torkelson of Green County along with Reichling and Fisker from Lafayette County. Coordinators present were Deb Krahenbuhl and Tom Jean. Stauffacher and Flannery from Lafayette County, and Lindholm from Iowa County were all absent. Game Warden, Nick King from Green County was also present.

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 Mr. Reichling and seconded by Mrs. Fisker and the motion carried.

A motion to approve the minutes of the January 20, 2022 meeting was made by Mr. Blumer, seconded by Mr. Withee 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 the DNR to explore the possibility of more funding for projects along the Cheese Country Trail. He must have the maintenance funding applications for both Snowmobile and ATV grants for the 2022-2023 season submitted by April 15th. He is also working with Lee to apply for more bridge rehabilitation funding for at least 5 bridges on the Cheese Country Trail.

Update on Rip Rap project between Ferndale & Tibbets Road:

Tom continues to work with Jewell Associates to obtain the correct permits for the Rip Rap project between Ferndale and Tibbets Road. The possible presence of the Blanchard Cricket Frog has been delaying the permitting process with the DNR.

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.

There was some discussion as to why the Snowmobile Trail got opened before the local clubs had a chance to groom the trail last winter. There will be more discussion on this in the future. It appears there needs to be better communications with all of the maintaining snowmobile clubs before the trail is declared open.

Trail Usage update

There has not been enough snow for snowmobiling and the trail is currently closed to ATV use, so we are at a lull in trail usage. Lee fully expects the trail to be open by April 1st for ATV/UTV's.

Legislative update: None

Public comment:

Nick King, the Green County Game Warden was present to talk about the need for additional signage along the trail. He has had issues with enforcement and prosecuting speed violations due to the lack of speed limit signs. Even though the Counties have passed resolutions that set speed limits, the District Attorney's office is reluctant to prosecute a violation if there isn't adequate signage explaining what the speed limit is. Warden King is asking that more speed limit signs be installed so that himself and other law enforcement agents can properly enforce the laws and make the violators responsible. He especially would like to see signage where the speed limits change at the edge of a town or village. Lee assured him that this would be done.

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 Mr. Blumer and seconded by Mrs. Fisker and the motion carried.

Vouchers: There were three vouchers to consider : Jewell Associates - \$1,682.79 - for engineering of the rip rap project, Tom Jean -\$5,000 – Trail Coordinators annual salary, and WisNet - \$50.00 for renewal of the Cheese Country Trail domain service. A motion to approve the vouchers was made by Mr. Withee and seconded by Mr. Reichling. The motion carried.

Date of next meeting: May 5, 2022 at 7 PM at the Lafayette County Multi-purpose building in Darlington.

Adjournment: A motion to adjourn was made by Mr. Blumer and seconded by Mr. Withee and the motion carried and the meeting was adjourned at 7:45 pm.

submitted 5/2/2022 TRJ