



TRI-COUNTY TRAIL COMMISSION

Meeting minutes of Thursday, February 22, 2024

7 PM at the Lafayette County Multi-purpose Building
Darlington, WI

Present: Committee members – Chairman Russ Torkelson and Melissa Even from Green County, Jeff Berget, Donna Flannery, Luke McGuire and Jack Sauer from Lafayette County, and Kevin Peterson from Iowa County. Coordinators Tom Jean, Max Blackburn and Deb Krahenbuhl were also present along with members from the various snowmobile and ATV Clubs.

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.

Approval of the agenda: A motion was made by Jeff Berget and seconded by Luke McGuire to approve the agenda as presented. The motion carried.

A motion to approve the minutes of the December 21, 2023 meeting was made by Donna Flannery and seconded by Jack Sauer and the motion carried. **Note: There was no meeting in January.**

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

Tom is currently working with Kurt Byfield of the DNR to bring all of the requests for reimbursement up to date and the approved trail grants in order before Tom steps down as Coordinator in March.

A resolution is needed from the Lafayette County Board to allow Deb Krahenbuhl and Max Blackburn to act on the County's behalf in applying for funding for maintenance and trail projects on the Cheese Country Trail going forward. The Lafayette County Trails Committee will have a meeting and approve the resolution before taking it to the County Board, so the Tri County Trails Committee does not have to act on this matter.

Discussion and update on general maintenance/signage or encroachment issues along the Cheese Country Trail along with Trail Maintenance update from the Local ATV & Snowmobile Clubs.

There is nothing new to report on the encroachment lawsuit with the PRTC and a local South Wayne landowner. Misty Molzoff of the PRTC, will keep us informed of any developments.

It is the time of year for Deb to order trail stickers that will be for sale at the various outlets in the Tri County Area along the Cheese Country Trail. Deb explained to the committee that we currently charge \$15/sticker and that a sticker is required if the vehicle is not registered with the WI DNR. Since we are currently getting trail maintenance money for ATV/UTV's, Snowmobiles and Off Road Motorbikes, there are a lot of registered vehicles that aren't required to have a trail pass to ride the trail. The suggestion is that we change the wording on the stickers to read: "Friends of the Cheese Country Trail" and therefore it becomes more of a donation to help maintain the trail than a mandatory requirement. Following some discussion a motion was made by Luke McGuire and seconded by Jack Sauer to approve this wording and keep the fee the same as it has been (\$15 annually), and to have Deb purchase the stickers. The motion carried.

Trail Usage update – Local ATV and Snowmobile Clubs.

There was a review of the trail opening procedure for this past year's snowmobile season. It appeared to have gone well and all of the local clubs that are in charge of maintaining the trail should be commended for their diligent work in getting the trail groomed and packed as quickly as possible following the initial snowstorm on January 10th.

Tom has received a Trail use permit request from MJ Electric to access the trail in Green County on or about March 11, 2024, to perform soil borings along the trail in preparation for some replacement of utility poles. Following some discussion, a motion to approve the permit was made by Kevin Peterson and seconded by Melissa Even and the motion passed.

There was some discussion on when to open the trail for ATV/UTV use. With the unseasonably warm Spring it is the hope that we could possibly open earlier than the April 1st usual date. Lee McCarville mentioned that there are still plenty of areas that have snow

and water standing and he would like to wait for a little while before opening. There is still some work to be done with signage, bridge repair, brush clean-up and grading before we are ready to open it completely. After some discussion, it was decided **not to** open it until some of this work could be completed.

Legislative update:

Rob McConnell was present to address the Committee on a few new Legislative initiatives that are circulating at the Capitol. These items include: SB216 – The use of Whip Lights on vehicles and SB217 – 2 up riders on ATVs. Rob also mentioned that we should keep applying for trail grant or bridge rehabilitation funds since there is still money available for these projects.

Public comment:

Tom and Deb thanked the committee for their generous gifts to them at the last meeting. Their generosity was very much appreciated.

Fencing Request : None

Status of Funds : The Status of Funds was presented by Tom showing the current Snowmobile expended funds. A motion was made by Donna Flannery and seconded by Melissa Even to accept the report and the motion carried.

Vouchers: Tom presented invoices to be paid; Tom Jean -Trail coordinator Salary \$5,500.00, WI County Mutual Insurance – Liability Insurance \$490.00, Blue Door Consulting – Website domain renewal \$54.51, Blackhawk Riders – Grooming & Non grooming, \$2,230.75. Fayette SnoGoers – Grooming & Non grooming \$3,265.27, Lafayette County Highway Dept. \$3,685.90, Stateline Trailblazers – Grooming & Non Grooming \$728.50, and T-Riders – Grooming & Non Grooming \$2,588.50. **The total of all Vouchers was \$18,543.43.** A motion was made by Melissa Even and seconded by Kevin Peterson to approve the voucher, and the motion carried.

Next meeting date: March 21, 2024 at 7 PM in Darlington at the Lafayette County Multi-purpose building. (Has since been change to Legends on Main Street in Darlington.

Adjournment: A motion to adjourn was made by Donna Flannery and seconded by Jeff Berget and the motion carried and the meeting was adjourned at 8:15 PM.

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