



**TRI-COUNTY TRAIL COMMISSION
MINUTES**
May 2, 2024
7:00 PM
Green County Courthouse
1016 16th Avenue, Monroe

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 7:00PM by Chair Torkelson

Members Present:

Green County – Willaim Burchard, Larry Kranig, Russ Torkelson

Lafayette County – Jeff Berget, Luke McGuire, Mark Pinch

Members Absent:

Iowa County – Kevin Peterson (excused due to attending Iowa County board meeting)

Lafayette County – Donna Flannery

Others Present:

Max Blackbourn and Deb Krahenbuhl – Tri-County Trail Coordinators

Scott McGowan, Shelly McGowan, Duke Ruf and Jody Ruf – Fayette Sno-Goers

Lee McCarville and Heidi McCarville – Tri-County ATV Club

Tony Pittz and Greg Doan – T-Riders

Proof of Proper Posting

Chair Torkelson asked for proof of proper posting. Blackbourn stated the agenda was posted at the Green, Iowa and Lafayette County Courthouses, sent to all Lafayette County Departments to post in their facilities and the Lafayette County Website. Chair Torkelson declared this to be a properly posted legal meeting with enough members to constitute a quorum.

Election of Tri-County Commission Chair

Torkelson explained this is routine that the commission elects the chair after every county board election. At this time, Torkelson asked for any nominations for Chair. Motion by McGuire to nominate Torkelson for Commission Chair, seconded by Pinch. Hearing no other nominations, a unanimous ballot was casted for Torkelson and declared as Commission Chair until April 2026. Torkelson thanked the other members for his selection.

Election of Tri-County Commission Vice Chair

Torkelson asked for any nominations for Vice Chair. Motion by McGuire to nominate Flannery for Commission Vice Chair, seconded by Burchard. Hearing no other nominations, a unanimous ballot was casted for Flannery and declared as Commission Vice Chair until April 2026.

Approval of Agenda

Motion by Berget, seconded by McGuire, to approve the agenda as presented. Voice vote. Motion carried.

Approval of Minutes for March 21, 2024

Motion by Burchard, seconded by Berget, to approve the minutes as presented. Voice vote. Motion carried.

Introductions of New Members

Burchard, Kranig and Pinch introduced themselves to the incumbent members giving a brief background about themselves and which district they represent in their county. Following the new member introduction, the incumbent members introduced themselves to the new members.

Discussion and Possible Action – Establishing a procedure with all ATV & Snowmobile Clubs on maintenance activities that require Commission approval prior to said maintenance activities are completed and providing adequate documentation for vouchers on all maintenance work completed

Blackbourn explained that there have been anonymous complaints questioning where gravel, grading or maintenance was actually being completed on the Cheese Country Trail. Blackbourn pointed out a draft reporting form that was included in the meeting packet for commission members to take home and review. Blackbourn stated that he hopes that having additional documentation on the club's maintenance work like this form would be able to dispel scrutiny from the public. After further discussion it was clarified that this would be proposed for only ATV club maintenance. No action was taken.

Discussion and Possible Action – Encroachment Issues along Cheese Country Trail (CCT)

a. Potential Issues (If any)

Kranig brought up an issue about ATV/UTV's being able to access Hawk's Mill Winery off the trail onto road routes and getting lost. He asked if it was possible to make an access point off the trail onto Allen Road. Blackbourn stated that the request would need to be considered by the Pecatonica Rail Transit commission and the township to explore if it would be allowable and recommended reaching out to both the PRTC and the Township in regards to the matter. No action was taken.

b. Update on encroachment issue east of South Wayne

Blackbourn reported that he talked with Misty Molzoff, PRTC Administrator, and there was no new updates to report on the issue. No action was taken.

Discussion and Possible Action – CCT usage, conditions, grants and maintenance needs

a. Trail Coordinator's Report

Blackbourn pointed out his report in the committee packet and briefly went over it highlighting grants, inspections and future projects/goals that he has in mind. No action was taken.

b. Clubs Report

ATV Clubs reported since the last meeting they are busy with cleaning up storm damage as it happens and conditions on the trail are fairly good. Nothing to report from Snowmobile Clubs. No action was taken.

Update on Calamine Pavilion

Lee McCarville gave an update on the pavilion. Construction is just about wrapped up. The tin has been installed and they are working on installing the curtains and finishing up some cement work.

Discussion and Possible Action – Data Collection for CCT Economic Impact Report

Blackbourn explained to the commission that he's working in collaboration with Lafayette County's Economic Development Director to update the economic impact study for the Cheese Country Trail that was completed in 2012. He was looking for innovative ways to collect data for the updated study as the previous data collection was very heavily reliant on volunteers counting and wanted to avoid that. Blackbourn said trail counters were relatively expensive and didn't want to borrow counters from the highway department with concerns of potential theft. Trail cameras were proposed as an idea. Various members who live close to the trail were going to test out the idea to see if it was feasible and come back to the next meeting with their findings. Blackbourn was going to verify specifics on what data needs to be collected. No action taken.

Public Comment

None

Legislative Update

None

Discussion and Possible Action – Vouchers

Blackbourn presented the vouchers for the commission's consideration:

23-24 ATV Maintenance Grant Account:

\$2,385.06 – Green County ATV – Clean Up Day (Equipment)

\$910.00 – Green County ATV – Clean Up Day (Labor)

\$372.50 – Tri-County ATV – Storm Clean Up

Trail Pass/Trust Fund Account:

\$2,200 – Deborah L Krahenbuhl – Cheese Country Trail Liaison Salary

23-24 Snowmobile Maintenance Grant Account

\$2,810.53 – T-Riders – Non-Grooming Maintenance

Motion by McGuire, seconded by Kranig to approve the vouchers as presented. Voice vote. Motion carried.

Discussion and Possible Action – Status of Funds

The Status of Funds was presented by Blackbourn showing the current Snowmobile, ATV/UTV, Trail Pass/Trust Fund and Fencing Account Balances and expended funds. A motion was made by Berget and seconded by McGuire to accept the report. Voice vote. Motion carried.

Future Agenda Items

Procedure on Cheese Country Trail Maintenance Reporting
Data Collection for CCT Economic Impact Report

Next Meeting Date

Next meeting will be May 23rd, 2024 at 7:00 PM located at the Lafayette County Multipurpose Building at 11974 Ames Road in Darlington.

Adjournment

Motion by McGuire seconded by Pinch, to adjourn. Voice vote. Motion carried.

Time: 8:01 PM

Minutes by Max Blackbourn, Tri-County Trail Coordinator