



**TRI-COUNTY TRAIL COMMISSION
MINUTES**

July 25, 2024

7:00 PM

Calamine Pavilion

West of 17641 County Road G, Mineral Point

Call to Order

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

Members Present:

Green County –William Burchard Russ Torkelson

Lafayette County – Jeff Berget, Donna Flannery, Mark Pinch

Members Absent:

Green County - Larry Kranig (Excused)

Iowa County – Craig Hardy (Excused)

Lafayette County – Luke McGuire (Excused)

Others Present:

Max Blackbourn and Deb Krahenbuhl – Tri-County Trail Coordinators

Dick North, Jean North, Lee McCarville, Heidi McCarville – Tri-County ATV Club

Connor McGowan and Shelly McGowan – Fayette Sno Goers

Peter Parkinson – Tri-County ATV Club / Fayette Sno-Goers

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.

Approval of Agenda

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

Approval of Minutes for June 13, 2024

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

Discussion and Possible Action – Application to Permit Vegetation Clearing and Reconstruction of ATC Transmission Line on PRTC Property

Blackbourn pointed out the application within the commission packet in which ATC is requesting to clear around their existing transmission lines and some reconstruction but was not described in the application. This will have to conform to federal regulations and Trans 29 WI. Administrative Code. After brief discussion, a motion was made by Burchard, seconded by Berget to approve the application and send it to PRTC for their consideration. Voice vote. Motion carried.

Discussion and Possible Action – Trail Access to Allen Road (Green County)

Blackbourn stated that he had been talking with Craig Shager and Larry Kranig about this topic and showed a topography map. Blackbourn recommended waiting until the fall so the vegetation will die off and we can get a better look at a possible location onto Franklin Road. Blackbourn also mentioned that that Kranig hasn't talked to the township yet on the subject. No action taken.

Discussion and Possible Action – Policy and Procedure Regarding Commission or Coordinator Directives to Maintaining Cheese Country Trail and Pecatonica State Trail

Blackbourn gave a statement about the current grading of the trail and complaints that he has been receiving. It was his understanding that majority of the grading was to be done by the highway department per an approved motion occurring at the September 21, 2023 TCTC meeting. Although due to timing near the 4th of July holiday, he did direct the club to grade from Gratiot to South Wayne only due to severe poor condition.

Lee McCarville stated that he was fixing all the storm damage from this year and is trying to do the best they can with material (gravel) that exists on the trail. McCarville also questioned why the highway department hasn't been out to grade at all this year.

Blackbourn replied it was because the 23-24 funding this spring was expended to a point that there wasn't going to be enough funding remaining to cover that cost and the actual "Trail Pass/Trust Fund" balance was still in question, besides the fact that funding should be conserved for emergencies. He hopes to have a corrected balance for next month.

Berget explained that the reasoning for that passed motion was because the highway department has the proper equipment to do the grading. He also stated that he's been receiving pictures recently after the trail being graded in areas that have "windrows" on the sides or the sides have been ditched out with no way for runoff to drain away leaving puddles.

Dick North made a comment that he used to work for the highway department and explained why it is more expensive because they have multiple guys on the job to run equipment and haul the gravel instead of having the quarry operators haul in the gravel which is why the club would rather do the work so more money could be put toward the gravel. North also commented that Lee used to do all the grading, but due to McCarville having other volunteer commitments (Golf Course, etc.) his understanding is now someone else does the grading with McCarville's equipment.

No action taken.

Discussion only – Review Tri-County Trail Commission Charter

Blackbourn suggested that the Tri-County Trail Commission Charter should be reviewed by members considering its age (1990) and a few things not being followed. Blackbourn suggested that it should be discussed at the next meeting if amendments are desired. No action taken.

Discussion and Possible Action – Rural Address Assignment for Calamine Pavilion

Blackbourn stated that in arranging this meeting he realized the pavilion doesn't have an address and the pavilion falls under applicability for requiring one for being able to be located in cases of emergency (fire, ems, etc.). After brief discussion, a motion was made by Berget, seconded by Burchard to direct Blackbourn to apply for the Rural Address with Tri-County ATV Club to pay the fee and have Dick North to install the sign when it is received. Voice Vote. Motion Carried.

Discussion and Possible Action – Encroachment along Cheese Country Trail or Pecatonica State Trail (if any)

Blackbourn stated that he has been dealing with the following:

- Upcoming meeting with DNR on August 7th to discuss moving a produce stand that has been on the Pecatonica State Trail land
- No update on South Wayne area timber issue
- No update on Belmont area timber issue

Discussion and Possible Action – Bid Process for DNR Grants

Blackbourn included the DNR grant procurement guide in the commission's packet. Blackbourn stated that the rehab grants shall go out to bid as the only way to not be required to bid is if the work is done by the county or another municipality. Blackbourn also noted that he's not received the advance payment for any of the rehab grants yet. Motion by Burchard, seconded by Pinch to direct Blackbourn to formulate request for bids for the four rehab grants and get them posted as soon as possible. Voice vote. Motion carried.

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

a. Trail Coordinator's Report

Blackbourn briefly went over some updates and what he worked on since the last meeting:

- Pecatonica State Trail inspection with DNR (sign needs, some bridge inspections)
- Building violation on PRTC property in City of Darlington (topic to be covered by PRTC)
- Got more information on a "bridge #1" built by custom manufacturing for a potential rehab project for redecking the bridge.
 - McCarville corrected Blackbourn and stated there was numbering error and they didn't want to change the numbering system so the bridge has never been numbered. Blackbourn stated he will come up for a unique # to identify the bridge in question in the future.

Krahenbuhl reported that she's been receiving the normal calls and emails daily. She noted that she's been sending lots of trail maps to Iowa and Illinois residents.

No action taken.

b. Clubs Report

Lee McCarville reported trail mowing, trail grading and some bridge railing repairs have been completed.

Craig Shager reported nothing additional to report. Hope the rehab grants can be executed soon.

No action taken.

Discussion and Possible Action – 50th Anniversary of the Pecatonica State Trail

Blackbourn reported that this year is the 50th anniversary of the Pecatonica State Trail and asked if the commission or club was interested in doing a celebration for it. Blackbourn outlined what was done for the Sugar River State Trail which was a bike ride, short speech by a DNR official about the history of the trail and Governor's Proclamation was given in recognition of the anniversary. After a brief discussion a motion was made by Flannery, seconded by Berget to collaborate with DNR to host a short speech with an ATV/UTV ride to follow on the morning of September 14th and to send a request to the governor for a proclamation in recognition of the Pecatonica State Trail. Voice vote. Motion carried.

Public Comment

None.

Legislative update, if any, Rob McConnell

None, as Rob was not present at the meeting.

Discussion and Possible Action – Vouchers

Blackbourn presented the vouchers for the commission's consideration:

23-24 Snowmobile Maintenance Grant Account:

\$1,940.55 – Green County ATV Club - Grading

23-24 ATV Maintenance Grant Account:

\$4,495.16 – Ivey Construction – Gravel

\$131.73 – Tri-County ATV Club – Storm Clean Up

\$2,007.50 – Tri County ATV Club – Brushing and Spreading Gravel

Motion by Pinch, seconded by Burchard 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 completed 2023-2024 Snowmobile grant balance, ATV/UTV grant balance, and expended funds for each grant. Blackbourn noted he hoped to have the trail pass/trust fund account updated for the next meeting, so he left it off this month. A motion was made by Flannery and seconded by Pinch to accept the report. Voice vote. Motion carried.

Future Agenda Items

Cheese Country Trail access onto Allen Road

Tri-County Trail Commission Charter

Status of Trail Pass/Trust Fund Account

Next Meeting Date

Next meeting will be August 22, 2024 at 7:00 PM located at the Green County Boardroom.

Adjournment

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

Time: 8:01 PM

Minutes by Max Blackbourn, Tri-County Trail Coordinator