



TRI-COUNTY TRAIL COMMISSION MINUTES

October 17, 2024

7:00 PM

Green County Boardroom
1016 16th Avenue, Monroe

1. Call to Order

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

Members Present:

Green County –William Burchard, Larry Kranig, Russ Torkelson
Lafayette County – Jeff Berget, Mark Pinch

Members Absent:

Iowa County – Craig Hardy
Lafayette County – Donna Flannery, Luke McGuire

Others Present:

Max Blackbourn and Deb Krahenbuhl – Tri-County Trail Coordinators
Don Carpenter, Steve Flannery, Sheldon Krahenbuhl, Lee McCarville, Conor McGowan, Scott McGowan, Shelly McGowan, Duke Ruf, Craig Shager

2. 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.

3. Approval of Agenda

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

4. Approval of Minutes for September 19, 2024

Motion by Pinch, seconded by Kranig, to approve the minutes as presented. Voice vote. Motion carried.

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

Kranig spoke on an update on the potential trail access to Allen Road:

- Spoke with Cadiz Town Board
- They believe the bridge is a safety hazard and should be removed
- First Responders (Fire & EMS) do not feel the bridge is safe to cross with their equipment

Following Kranig's presentation, there was a brief discussion about how the bridge crossing Patterson Road was removed in 1980s (unsure of the year). Consensus was to bring the topic up at the next PRTC meeting to see if it is allowable to remove the bridge and create a sloped approach to Allen Road. No action taken.

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

Blackbourn reported nothing of concern this month and no other updates on other situations. No action was taken.

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

a. Snowmobile Club(s) input on any trail conditions

Scott McGowan from Fayette snow-goers stated on November 9th, they will have their annual trail clean up. Blackburn stated that the trail was all in good shape as it was just graded barring any extreme weather events, but noted to please call him if there are issues to be addressed before freeze-up.

No action taken.

b. Bridge Inspections

Blackburn informed the commission that moving forward the Snowmobile Council and the ORV council will require bridge inspections for any new bridge or bridge rehabilitation. Blackburn stated that he had a few bridges that he'd been requested to apply for grant funding to rehabilitate, so the bridges will need to be inspected. Blackburn further noted that there have been no bridge inspection to his knowledge on the Cheese Country Trail except for the ones completed by the railroad in 1979. Pecatonica State Trail has 23 bridges that are inspected by the DNR's own inspector. On the Cheese Trail, there are 49 bridges, with two already approved to rehabilitation so there's a need for 47 bridges to be looked at. Blackburn talked with Robert Hanold from Jewell & Associates as that firm did an inspection for a snowmobile bridge in the county. The offer was 10 inspections for \$450 a piece or a total of \$4,500. Blackburn proposed splitting the cost evenly to club's allocations whether ORV or snowmobile, which would be approximately \$750. Lee McCarville asked how good are the inspections were good for and Blackburn replied 5 to 10 years depending on what conditions were observed in the last inspection and the type of bridge (wood vs metal & concrete).

Following this discussion, a motion was made by Berget, seconded by Kranig for Blackburn to work with Jewell & Associates to conduct 5 bridge inspections on the Cheese Country Trail with bridge selection to be done under Blackburn's discretion. Voice vote. Motion carried.

c. 2025 Grant Application Project List

Blackburn laid out his proposed 2025 grant application list

- Bridge #1 re-deck
- Bridge #2 re-deck
- Pecatonica Trail Rehab – Gravel, geotextile placement (between bridges #66 & #67)
- Riprap near Dennis Crist Farm
- Riprap south of Slough Ln (between bridges #21 & #22)
- Bridge #72 replacement

Blackburn also stated that if anyone has any other projects that need to be looked at, to get ahold of him ASAP and not wait until the last minute.

No action taken.

d. Trail Coordinator's Report

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

- Working with Wheeler for bridge #18 & #48 rehabs
 - A question was brought up about bridge #18 that club members thought was going to be a replacement with a culvert and Blackburn responded with that was not how Tom Jean had applied for the grant funding. There was also a comment about the weight rating and railing not being strong enough and Blackburn assured that engineer would design it with those concerns in mind.
- Highway department had graded all trails and surface was good, talked to some UTV riders and commented how nice the ride was.

- A culvert is plugged by the Trailside Cabins that needed to be looked at being cleaned out and wanted someone to come and look at it with him.
- Culvert re-set at Calamine went over well. DNR will not close out the violation until seeding is established so hopefully, we get some rain.
- Had Pre-Construction meeting with Northern Clearing as they will be working within the trail corridor clearing around the powerline easements (Monroe to Browntown). Some trail closures will be expected. Start date of November 1st.
- Going through old trail files that his office had and found some good historic information on the trail.

Krahenbuhl reported that last weekend, hotels were packed with ORV riders and received lots of calls when the trail will be closed for snowmobile season. Suggested the commission re-visit the opening & closing of trail procedure.

No action taken.

e. Clubs Report

Tri-County ATV

- None

Green County ATV

- Craig Shager noted that he will be stepping down from his role in the club and introduced Steve Flannery and Don Carpenter. He hopes they will be attending meetings going forward
- Steve Flannery noted that Wisconsin Tourism will have Camera crews going around Green County showcasing the area of ORV riding, but wasn't sure if the Cheese Country Trail will be included.

No action taken.

8. Public Comment

None.

9. Legislative update, if any, Rob McConnell

None, as Rob was not present at the meeting.

10. Discussion and Possible Action – Vouchers

Blackbourn presented the vouchers for the commission's consideration.

24-25 ATV Maintenance Grant:

\$2,735.31 – Tri-County ATV – Pec Trail – Repair Signage

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

11. Discussion and Possible Action – Status of Funds

Motion made by Burchard, seconded by Berget to approve status of funds. Voice vote. Motion carried.

12. Discussion only – Setting a meeting schedule for 2025

Blackbourn asked the commission if they would like to have a set meeting schedule for the 2025 calendar year and wanted the commission's thoughts were before he put a lot of effort into coming up with the proposed schedule. Consensus was in favor of schedule and Blackbourn stated that he would have a proposal ready for December's meeting. No action taken.

13. Future Agenda Items

Trail open and closure procedure/overview for snowmobiling

14. Next Meeting Date

Next meeting will be November 21, 2024 at 7:00 PM located at the Lafayette County Multipurpose Building.

15. Adjournment

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

Time: 8:07 PM

Minutes by Max Blackburn, Tri-County Trail Coordinator