



**TRI-COUNTY TRAIL COMMISSION
MINUTES**

November 21, 2024

7:00 PM

Lafayette County Multipurpose Building
11974 Ames Road, Darlington

1. Call to Order

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

Members Present:

Green County – William Burchard, Russ Torkelson

Iowa County – Craig Hardy

Lafayette County – Jeff Berget, Donna Flannery, Luke McGuire, Mark Pinch

Members Absent:

Green County – Larry Kranig (excused)

Others Present:

Max Blackbourn and Deb Krahenbuhl – Trail Coordinators

Greg Doan, Ryan Federman, Steve Flannery, Sheldon Krahenbuhl, Connor McGowan, Scott McGowan, Shelly McGowan, Dick North, Jean North, Jody Ruf, 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 October 31, 2024

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

5. Discussion and Possible Action – Utility Permit Application submitted by Wisconsin Power & Light Co.

Blackbourn pointed out the application in the meeting packet provided to all commission members. Brief discussion had about why the proposed boring was close to the trail and Blackbourn commented that he would assume it would be to avoid disturbing adjacent wetlands. Following discussion, a motion was made by Burchard, seconded by Berget to approve the application and send to Pecatonica Rail Transit Commission for final consideration. Voice vote. Motion carried.

6. Update on Trail Access to Allen Road (Green County)

Blackbourn stated that he discussed about the possibility of removing the Allen Road bridges with PRTC's attorney as they were able to remove the "Patterson Road" bridge in the late 80's. He also stated to the attorney that if the trail was to revert back to rail, the current bridge wouldn't meet rail standards anyways and in his opinion would rather not devote any more funds to maintaining the bridge due to it's current condition. PRTC's attorney said they will review if there is a special process or if it would even be allowed to be done. No action was taken.

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

No new issues this month. It was mentioned that the produce stand on the Pecatonica State Trail was still there. Blackburn stated that he will follow up with that issue. No action taken.

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

a. Trail opening and closing procedure overview for snowmobiling season

Scott McGowan gave an overview of policy how a formalized group of clubs that maintains sections of the Cheese Country Trail and Pecatonica State Trail (Fayette Snowgoers, T-Riders, Blackhawk Riders, Stateline Trailblazers, Tri-County ATVers) comes to agreement when the trail is closed to ATV and open for snowmobile. Once the trail is open for snowmobiling it remains closed to ATVs until the decision is made to re-open the trails for ATV use. Due to the resignation of Lee McCarville, Deb Krahenbuhl would be taking over the role for Tri-County ATV in the decision making group.

No action taken.

b. Bridge #18 & #48 rehab quote review

Blackburn presented the commission with quotes from Wheeler Lumber for bridge rehab for #18 and #48. The consensus was to have Blackburn look at more quotes for the two bridges.

No action taken.

c. Trail Coordinator's Report (Blackburn and Krahenbuhl)

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

- No updates for grant advances
- Did some photos and looked at bridges #1 through #4
- Working on getting estimates for 2025 bridge/trail projects

Krahenbuhl stated she doesn't have anything additional besides quite a few phone calls. Especially ones asking when the trail will close for ATV and open for snowmobile.

No action taken.

d. Clubs Report (ATV and Snowmobile)

Tri-County ATV: Worked on entire trail system in Lafayette County with help from other volunteer groups. Were able to take care of some trees laying close to the trail and brush piles.

Green County ATV: Did some brief grading to get the crown off the trail but should be ready for snowmobile season now.

9. Discussion and Possible Action – Trail Maps

Krahenbuhl stated there has been a desire to have trail maps with bridge numbers on it in a downloadable format as it has been requested by majority of trail users. There appears to be some sort of miscommunication going on. McGuire stated that he's heard complaints from snowmobile groups as well on this issue and will be addressed as best that he can as he is the chair of GIS/IT committee.

No action taken.

10. Public Comment (3 minute limit per speaker)

Sheldon Krahenbuhl made a comment that he thought the trail was in good shape and commended everyone who's helped out in the past year.

11. Legislative update, if any, Rob McConnell

None, as Rob was not present at the meeting.

12. Discussion and Possible Action – Approval of Vouchers

Blackbourn presented the vouchers for the commission's consideration.

Trail Rehab (ATV-4701)

\$1,231.14 – Lafayette County Highway Dept. – Trail Rehab: Grading

\$6,193.05 – Lafayette County Highway Dept. – Trail Rehab: Grading & Gravel

Trail Rehab (ATV-4702)

\$ 6,193.00 – Lafayette County Highway Dept. – Trail Rehab: Grading & Gravel

Trail Rehab (ATV-4703)

\$2,773.23 – Lafayette County Highway Dept. – Trail Rehab: Grading & Gravel

Trail Rehab (ATV-4704)

\$2,772.50 – Lafayette County Highway Dept. – Trail Rehab: Grading & Gravel

24-25 ATV Maintenance Grant:

\$1,202.50 – Tri-County ATV – Tree Trimming/Brushing

\$470.95 – Green County ATV – Hired Grading

Trail Pass/Trust Fund

\$518 – Wisconsin County Mutual – Liability Insurance Premium

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

13. Discussion and Possible Action – Status of Funds

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

14. Future Agenda Items

None at this time.

15. Adjournment

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

Time: 7:54 PM

Minutes by Max Blackbourn, Tri-County Trail Coordinator