



**TRI-COUNTY TRAIL COMMISSION
MINUTES**

May 22, 2025

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 – Russ Torkelson

Iowa County – Craig Hardy

Lafayette County – Jeff Berget, Donna Flannery, Luke McGuire

Members Absent:

Lafayette County – Mark Pinch (excused)

Green County – Will Burchard, Larry Kranig

Others Present:

Max Blackburn – Trail Coordinator, Deb Krahenbuhl – Trail Liaison, Laney Finkelmeyer – Conservation Specialist

Sheldon Krahenbuhl, Jim Lange, Rob McConnell, Shelly McGowan, Jean North, Dick North, Tina Reddington, Duke Ruf, Leon Wolfe

2. Proof of Proper Posting

Chair Torkelson asked for proof of proper posting. Blackburn 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 McGuire, seconded by Berget, to approve the agenda as presented. Voice vote.

Motion carried.

4. Approval of Minutes for April 24, 2025

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

Motion carried.

5. Public Comment

Blackburn introduced Laney Finkelmeyer to the commission and attendees as she was assisting Blackburn in taking meeting minutes.

6. Legislative or WATVA Updates – Rob McConnell

Rob gave a brief updates:

- Let's Ride Expo 2025 – 1,000 participants
- Working on more rider & outdoor safety education with younger kids
- Some legislation moving along in AB221 & SB 221 sponsored by Senator Marklein

7. Discussion and Possible Action – Request to place gravel on trail property adjacent to parcel # 181.0162.0020

Blackbourn stated the following: Pecatonica Co-op Oil has purchased property adjacent to trail corridor. Currently their proposal is to remove existing sod and place gravel to make a parking lot for U-Haul trailers. There are no wetland or floodplain concerns. In addition, Pecatonica Co-op Oil is requesting permission to remove sod up to the trail surface and place gravel at their own expense and put up barriers along the trail. Steve Monson on behalf of Pecatonica Co-op Oil had presented the proposal to the PRTC and based on their discussion, they had no objections and gave guidance it was up to TCTC to make the final decision. After brief commission discussion, a motion was made by Berget, seconded by Flannery to approve Pecatonica Co-Op Oil's request contingent they do not encroach upon the trail corridor with the proposed use and all gravel and barriers to be installed and maintained at their own expense. Voice vote. Motion carried.

8. Discussion and Possible Action – Request to replace blacktop surface on Cheese Country Trail in Village of South Wayne

Blackbourn stated the following: Pecatonica Co-op Oil has a current crossing permit approved by the PRTC for crossing the trail to have fuel trucks re-fuel tanks at the gas station. Blacktop surface is deteriorating, and they want to repair in accordance with their crossing permit. Motion by McGuire, seconded by Berget to approve Pecatonica Co-op Oil's request contingent on notifying Tri-County ATV Club for notice of any closure notice. Voice vote. Motion carried.

9. Discussion and Possible Action – 2025 mowing on trail corridors on Lafayette and Iowa county sections

Discussion had about possibility of having townships mow on the trail. No action taken.

10. Discussion and Possible Action – Encroachment issues on Trail System (if any)

Blackbourn gave an update on the produce stand on the Pecatonica Trail. Produce stand has been removed from state property. No action taken.

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

a) Trail Coordinator's Report (Blackbourn and Krahenbuhl)

- Blackbourn gave an update on DNR grants needing another cost estimate, trail counters being deployed on the trail system and other pertinent maintenance the clubs have been performing.
- Krahenbuhl reported that she's been getting a few calls here & there and trail supporter stickers are selling well.

No action taken.

b) Clubs Report (ATV and Snowmobile)

- Tri-County ATV reported that washout was repaired east of Gratiot, some trees down that got cleaned up and putting up signage for bridge #32 closure.
- Green County ATV reported they received the blazer signs to put up along the section of trail that was cut by the powerline company and will install those soon. Also their section of trail will be graded and mowed by June 15th

No action taken.

c) Update on Bridge #32 failure

Blackbourn stated that a certified bridge inspector and a structural engineer came and looked at the bridge. Based on their opinions, the bridge is not safe for public use and any repairs would exceed cost vs benefit of repairing the existing structure. Unless other sources of funding are found, will need to wait until next year to apply for grant funding. Currently have a detour route for ATV/UTV, but unsure what can be done for snowmobile yet. No action taken.

d) Future Bridge Inspections

Discussion had about bridge inspection that was completed on bridge #32. The inspection cost was \$550. Blackbourn requested that the commission considers doing more inspections. Motion made by Berget, seconded by McGuire to pay for the completed inspection for bridge #32 at \$550 and put an RFP out for all other bridges needing inspection for consideration at the next meeting. Voice vote. Motion carried.

12. Discussion and Possible Action – Approval of Vouchers

Blackbourn presented the vouchers for the commission's consideration.

Trail Pass/Trust:

\$25.32 – Blue Door Consulting, LLC – Hosted Email Service - Annual Billing

24-25 Snowmobile Maintenance Grant:

\$35.63 – Fayette Sno Goers – Trail Non-Grooming Maintenance

\$2,345.46 – T-Riders – Trail Non-Grooming Maintenance

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

13. Discussion and Possible Action – Status of Funds

Motion made by Flannery seconded by McGuire to approve status of funds. Voice vote. Motion carried.

14. Discussion and Possible Action – Adjusting June 26, 2025 meeting date to different date

Blackbourn stated that he had a conflict with the next meeting date. A motion was made by McGuire, seconded by Flannery to move the next meeting date to June 19th, 2025 in Monroe. Voice vote. Motion carried.

15. Future Agenda Items

None

16. Adjournment

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

Time: 8:14 PM

Minutes by Max Blackbourn, Tri-County Trail Coordinator

Posted by County Clerk's Office on 6/20/2025, Barbara Weinbrenner