



TRI-COUNTY TRAIL COMMISSION

Meeting minutes of Thursday, September 16, 2021 at 7 PM
Green County Courthouse, Monroe, WI

Present: Committee members – Blumer, and Torkelson of Green County along with Fisker and Flannery from Lafayette County and Stauffacher via phone. Coordinators present were Tom Jean and Deb Krahenbuhl along with ATV Club members and snowmobile club members. Reichling and Withee had excused absences, and Lindholm from Iowa County was also absent. Lafayette County Sheriff Reggie Gill and DNR Warden, Mike Burns were also present.

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Russ Torkelson, at 7:00 PM. Tom Jean verified the meeting was posted at the Green, Lafayette and Iowa County Courthouses, Darlington Municipal Building, the Lafayette County Highway Dept. and on the website. Mr. Torkelson declared this to be a properly posted legal meeting with enough members present to constitute a quorum.

A motion to approve the agenda was made by Mr. Blumer seconded by Mrs. Fisker and the motion carried.

A motion to approve the minutes of the July 22, 2021 meeting was made by Mrs. Flannery, seconded by Mr. Blumer and the motion carried.

Discussion and update on the status of the DNR grant funding for the projects along the Cheese Country Trail.

Tom reported that he has received the grants for both the Snowmobile and ATV/UTV 2021-2022 seasons. The amounts are the same as last year and he also requested advance payments for one-half of the total amounts.

Update on Rip Rap project between Ferndale & Tibbets Road:

Tom reported that he has been working with Jewell and Associates regarding the DNR permitting for this project. It appears that the DNR is requiring all of the usual red tape to be completed before they will permit the project, even though it is their own funds that are paying for the work to be done. Tom will continue to be in contact with Jewell & Associates to keep this moving forward.

Discussion and update on general maintenance/signage or encroachment issues along the Cheese Country Trail along with Trail Maintenance Update – Local ATV & Snowmobile Clubs and Trail Usage update. Local ATV and Snowmobile Clubs.

- a. **Update on informational signs along the trail:** Lee reported that he has the one sign completed in Belmont and has all of the materials to complete the rest. They should be completed before too long.
- b. **Trail Usage and access during the Main St. construction in Darlington:**
There seems to be no problems getting around the construction zone.
- c. **Brushing issue at Roelli Lane, adjacent to Johnny McDonald property.** Lee has been in contact with Johnny McDonald and will get this taken care of before they harvest the field that is in question. To alleviate the safety concern, Lee said he would also provide Johnny McDonald with some traffic warning barricades that can be placed on the trail at either side of the area in question, when McDonalds are harvesting or planting.
- d. **Trail trash pickup by Southwest Tech Students:** Deb was approached by a small group of students from Southwest Tech, that wanted to pick up trash on a section of the Cheese Country Trail for a service project. Following some discussion, a motion to allow this, was made by Mrs. Fisker, seconded by Ms. Flannery and the motion carried. Tom and Deb will supervise this project.

- e. **Regarding letter to City of Darlington about Law Enforcement harassment:** A letter from an Illinois trail user that was sent to the Darlington Mayor complaining about excessive law enforcement from the City of Darlington, the DNR, and Lafayette County was presented to the committee. Following some discussion which included commentary from Sheriff Gill and DNR Warden Burns along with a response letter from Darlington Chief of Police, Jason King, the incident that prompted the letter was discussed. The committee listened to all sides of the reports and agreed with law enforcement that they are doing a good job of managing the large volume of ATV/UTV traffic with the least amount of law enforcement possible. Sheriff Gill gave some numbers of the amount of stops that are taking place along with tickets that are being written and that number is quite low for the volume of trail usage. They both also gave the committee some statistics regarding crashes, complaints and owi arrests. Warden Burns said he would like to see more speed limit signs installed to make trail users aware of the correct 30 MPH speed limit. He would also like to see 10 MPH placards placed at the entrance to the Towns and Villages, so that trail users are aware of that speed limit. The committee thanked the officers for their efforts and for their presence.

Legislative update: None

Public comment: None

Fencing Request: None

Status of Funds : Tom presented the updated 2021-2022 Status of Funds showing an up to date balance. A motion to approve the Status of Funds was made by Mr. Blumer and seconded by Mrs. Fisker and the motion carried.

Vouchers: Vouchers presented for payment were: Jewell & Associate Engineers for special Rip Rap project - \$883.53, and Tri County ATV Club for mowing and grading - \$4,296.16. A motion to approve the vouchers was made by Ms. Flannery and seconded by Mrs. Fisker, all approved and the motion carried.

Date of next meeting: October 21, 2021 in Lafayette County at the multi-purpose building in Darlington at 7 PM. The Lafayette County snowmobile alliance would like to be placed on the agenda.

Adjournment: A motion to adjourn was made by Mr. Blumer and seconded by Mrs. Fisker and the motion carried and the meeting was adjourned at 8:12 pm.

submitted 10/19/21 TRJ