



## TRI-COUNTY TRAIL COMMISSION

Meeting minutes of Thursday, October 21, 2021 at 7 PM

Lafayette County Ames Road Multi-Purpose Building

Present: Committee members – Blumer, and Torkelson of Green County along with Reichling, Fisker, Flannery and Stauffacher from Lafayette County. Coordinators present were Tom Jean and Deb Krahenbuhl along with ATV Club members and snowmobile club members. Withee had an excused absence, and Lindholm from Iowa County was also absent.

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. Reichling, seconded by Mrs. Fisker and the motion carried.

A motion to approve the minutes of the September 16, 2021 meeting was made by Mr. Blumer, seconded by Ms. Flannery 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 had received the advancements for the ATV and Snowmobile grants for the 2021-2022 seasons and that Deb has deposited them with the finance department. Deb also reported that on Oct. 5, 2021 she deposited \$1,140.00 in trail pass money.

### **Update on Rip Rap project between Ferndale & Tibbets Road:**

Tom is continuing to work with Jewell and Associates to obtain the correct DNR permits for this project. The presence of the endangered species the Blanchard Cricket frog, will probably mean a delay in construction and permitting.

### 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.

Lee explained that several people are still enjoying the trail this fall and that he will be doing a final fall grading beginning next week. He plans on adding about \$15,000.00 worth of gravel to the base before freeze up. Leon Wolfe mentioned that he had ridden the Green county segment of the trail and that it was in great shape where they had added several loads of new base material.

- 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:**  
This seems to be a non-issue as everyone seems to be navigating through the construction zone safely.
- c. **Brushing issue at Roelli Lane, adjacent to Johnny McDonald property.** Lee has worked with Johnny McDonald and got this brush taken care of.
- d. **Trail trash pickup by Southwest Tech Students:** Deb said that three students from Southwest Tech recently picked up trash from Calamine to South Wayne. Deb coordinated the effort and signed the contract on behalf of the Tri County Trails Commission. The 3 students were; Ashlyn Svendsen, Brady Kennicker & Bryly Clark. Tom will send them an email thanking them for there efforts.

Trail Usage update: Several members of the local snowmobile clubs and Lafayette County Snowmobile Alliance were present to discuss the opening and closing of the Cheese Country Trail for snowmobiles in coordination with the opening of the club trails that have been developed. At one time it was believed that if side trails were closed, the Cheese Country Trail also had to be closed. Following a review of the DNR policy, it was found that was not the case. The concern is that with the Cheese Country Trail being the main connecting route for all Club trails, it is necessary that the Cheese Country Trail remains open when any of the side trails are operational. Following some discussion, it was decided to include this as an action item for the November meeting and a proposed

motion will be formulated and shared for comments so that the motion reflects the best interest of both the ATV Clubs and Snowmobile Clubs. Tom will work on a proposal and email it to the group for consideration on Nov. 18, 2021.

Legislative update: None

Public comment: Jeff Stauffacher was present to explain the encroachment claim that he has received from the PRTC. It appears the PRTC is claiming that Jeff has been farming the rail right of way for several years and has issued a warning to him to cease all activity. This is an issue that Jeff will be taking up with the PRTC and he will keep this committee informed of any progress.

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. Reichling and seconded by Mr. Blumer and the motion carried.

Vouchers: There were no vouchers to approve.

Date of next meeting: November 18, 2021 in Lafayette County at the multi-purpose building in Darlington at 7 PM.

Adjournment: A motion to adjourn was made by Ms. Flannery and seconded by Mrs. Fisker and the motion carried and the meeting was adjourned at 8:32 pm.

submitted 11/16/21 TRJ