



TRI-COUNTY TRAIL COMMISSION

Meeting minutes of Thursday, March 21, 2019 at 7 PM
Lafayette County Multi-Purpose Building, Darlington, WI

Present: Committee members –Boyle, Wolfe, Schilling and Bartels of Lafayette County, Blumer from Green County and Winters had excused absences and Butteris from Iowa County was also absent. Interested club members present were: Deb and Shelly Krahenbuhl, Lee and Heidi McCarville, Fuzzy North, Rob McConnell and Paul McCarville.

The meeting was called to order by Mr. Heimann at 7:15 PM and he asked if the meeting was properly posted. 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. Heimann 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. Bartels, seconded by Mr. Schilling and the motion carried.

A motion to approve the minutes of the Feb. 21, 2019 meeting was made by Mr. Blumer and seconded by Mr. Bartels. 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 is still working with FEMA to get all of the reimbursement from the July 2017 flood damage.

Tom is also working on applications for ATV/UTV and Snowmobile grants for the upcoming 2019-2020 season along with trying to secure more funding for the flood damage from both the October 2018 and recent March 14, 2019 events.

According to Annie from the DNR, in order to be eligible for additional funding to rehabilitate following storm damage, all of the grant money needs to be used up, including snowmobile, ATV/UTV's. Tom assured the committee that the funds have been exhausted and therefore he will include a request for additional grant money when he submits the next funding applications.

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

The main topic of discussion was the extensive flood damage on the Cheese Country Trail. As of this meeting the trail is closed indefinitely until repairs can be made. Tom and Lee have both been assessing the damages, taking photos and documenting what needs to be repaired to get the trail open as quickly as possible. Tom will utilize some of the County Highway Dept. resources to regrade portions and Lee will also work on sections to try to recover from this latest flood event.

This past season was one of the best in recent memory for snowmobile use. The Clubs spent most of their funding on trail grooming and the trail saw a large number of riders in the months of January and February.

Lee said that he is still seeing Amish horse and buggy's using the trail and that they ignore the signs which prohibits them from using a buggy on the trail. He has asked the Sheriff to speak to them.

Legislative update:

Rob McConnell was present and gave the committee an update on some pending legislation that could affect the trail.

The DNR is considering updating their open intoxicant ordinance, that would then be similar to our own County resolutions which prohibit them on an ATV/UTV. There is some discussion ongoing regarding the allowable speed limits on road routes along with discussions involving the use of radial tires on UTVs.

Rob also mentioned that the Off road council would be considering storm damage applications at their next meeting and that he thought the Council had surplus money for storm damage rehabilitation. Tom will stay in contact with Rob to see if we can qualify for some of this funding.

Trail Coordinators Salary and duties: Tom reported that the amount of work that has been generated from the flood events has taken an enormous amount of extra time on his part to try and find funding to pay for the repairs along with evaluating the damages. The salary that he receives, (\$4,000 annually) is not enough compensation to justify the effort it takes and couple that with the taxes he has to pay (at least 33%) since he is paid as a contractor who is responsible for 15.3% FICA taxes. Tom would either like to be compensated more or if the salary remains the same, he is willing to let someone else take over his position. Along with that, Deb Krahenbuhl is retiring in May from the County Finance Dept. but is willing to try to work out something to continue as a co-coordinator for the Tri County Trail Commission. There was some discussion regarding increasing Tom's compensation and adding compensation to Deb's position. No action was taken and this will be a future agenda item.

Public comment: None.

Fencing Request: None

Status of Funds: Tom presented the Status of funds which showed the 2018/2019 expenditures. Due to the flood damage, the fund balance shows an \$11,633 deficit in ATV/UTV funds. The snowmobile clubs have not turned in all of their invoices or grooming records as of this meeting. A motion was made by Mr. Wolfe and seconded by Mr. Bartels to approve them as shown and the motion carried.

Vouchers: Vouchers presented for payment were: Coordinator's annual Salary from March 2018 to March 2019 - \$4,000.00, Southwest Graphics for 2019 trail stickers - \$580.00, and T-Riders snowmobile for grooming - \$4,767.00. A motion was made by Schilling and seconded by Blumer to approve and the motion carried.

Future Agenda items: Restricting the use of trail by horse & buggy, & Coordinators compensation.

Adjournment: A motion to adjourn was made by Mr. Blumer and seconded by Mr. Wolfe and the motion carried and the meeting was adjourned at 8:25 PM.

Submitted 4/24/19 TRJ