



**TRI-COUNTY TRAIL COMMISSION
MINUTES**

March 19, 2026

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 – Larry Kranig, Russ Torkelson

Iowa County – Michael Gates

Lafayette County – Jeff Berget (**arriving at 7:05PM**), Donna Flannery, Jed Gant (**substitute for McGuire**), Mark Pinch

Members Absent:

Green County – Will Burchard (un-excused)

Lafayette County - Luke McGuire (excused)

Others Present:

Max Blackburn – Trail Coordinators, Deb Krahenbuhl – Trail Liaison

Rob McConnell – WATVA

Jack Sauer – Lafayette County Board Chair

Public – Sheldon Krahenbuhl, Jim Lange, Brian Larson, Doug Mayer, Scott McGowan, Shelly McGowan, Dick North, Jean North, Duke Ruf, Jody Ruf, and Russ Ruegsegger

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, the Pecatonica Valley Leader and the Lafayette County Website.

3. Approval of Agenda: Motion by Gates, seconded by Kranig, to approve agenda as printed. Voice vote. Motion carried.

4. Approval of Minutes for February 19, 2026: Motion by Flannery, seconded by Gates, to approve minutes as printed. Voice vote. Motion carried.

5. Public Comment: None.

6. Legislative or WATVA Updates – Rob McConnell

Rob reported the following:

- Nothing new legislative wise as the legislature is currently out of session
- State Association meeting will be March 21
- Ride Safe Events are planned for May 12 and 13. Contact Rob or check Ride Safe Foundation Website for more details.
- Grant funding meeting discussing grant applications will be July 28

7. Discussion and Possible Action – Encroachment issues on trail system (if any)

Blackburn reported no new issues since last meeting.

Berget arrived at the meeting at 7:05 PM

8. Overview of completed bridge inspections and current conditions – Nate Miller, NBI

Engineering: Nate Miller gave an overview of the inspections completed on the Cheese Country Trail. Various questions were asked and answered. After brief discussion, a motion was made by Gant, seconded by Berget to request DNR for assistance in replacing bridges as soon as possible at the DNR mandated 24,000 pound rating. Voice Vote. Motion carried.

9. Discussion and Possible Action – Adjustment of Trail Coordinator(s) & Trail Liaison

Payments for 2026-2027: Blackburn stated that the paperwork has not been drafted yet to do full discussion on the topic. Motion by Pinch, seconded by Kranig to table to the next meeting.

10. Discussion and Possible Action – H&H Analysis on Pecatonica Trail segment in Belmont:

Blackbourn explained an issue about a section of trail that was rehabbed within the village of Belmont and potential need of funds to complete the H&H analysis to be compliant with Floodplain rules. Consensus was the commission was not interested in providing maintenance funds towards the issue at this time. No action taken.

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

a. Use of remaining snowmobile funds

Brief discussion had about work that the Blackhawk Riders Snowmobile Club completed for the re-routes for bridge closures on the Cheese Country Trail. Blackbourn explained some of the expenses were invoiced to the Trail Pass Account and not to the Snowmobile Grant Account to ensure clubs could still maintain trail in case more snow had arrived but had not. Motion by Flannery, seconded by Berget to move the expenses from the Trail Pass Account to Snowmobile Grant Account. Voice vote. Motion carried.

b. Updating Cheese Country Trail Signs

Blackbourn showed a proposal of getting updated Cheese Country Trail signs to replace the old ones that have become dilapidated. After brief discussion, a motion was made by Gates, seconded by Berget to order 12 of the signs from Rent-A-Flash at a total of \$171.00. Voice Vote. Motion carried.

c. Trail Coordinator's Report

- Blackbourn reported the following:
 - Working on grant applications for RTP (Recreational Trails Program) for bridges 30,40,45,47
 - He had a fencing inquiry and asked the Commission's input. Consensus from the Commission is that any and all fencing requests for the corridor go to and through the Commission not the Coordinators.
- Krahenbuhl reported the following:
 - Trail supporter stickers have been purchased and will be red with white lettering
 - She stressed the need to market these better to generate better donations to help maintain the trail.
 - Receiving lots of calls of when the trail opens.

No action taken.

d. Clubs Report (ATV and Snowmobile)

- Tri-County ATV reported they will have their 2026 maps done this week.
- Both Tri-County ATV and Green County ATV stated they will have the trail ready for opening April 1 barring any extreme weather.

12. Discussion and Possible Action – Approval of Vouchers: Blackbourn presented the vouchers for the commission's consideration.

Trail Pass / Trust Account

\$30.00 – Blue Door Consulting – Domain Renewal

25-26 Snowmobile Maintenance Grant:

\$286.00 – Fayette Sno-Goers – Non-Grooming Maintenance (25/26-SNO-15)

\$150.00 – T Riders – Non-Grooming Maintenance (25/26-SNO-16)

25-26 ATV Maintenance Grant:

\$945.00 – Green County ATV – Trail Work (25/26-ATV-15)

\$300.00 – Green County ATV – Trail Detour Signs (25/26-ATV-16)

Motion made by Flannery, seconded by Berget to approve the vouchers as presented. Voice vote. Motion carried.

13. Discussion and Possible Action – Status of Funds: Motion made by Berget, seconded by Gates to approve status of funds as presented. Voice vote. Motion carried.

14. Confirm next meeting date and location: March 19, 2026, at 7:00 PM – Lafayette County:

Next meeting date is determined to be April 9, 2026, at 7:00 in Dodgeville. Location is to be at Iowa

County Community Room but may be subject to change. *NOTE: Location Changed to Room 101 at Iowa County Law Enforcement Center (189 East Leffler Street)*

15. Future Agenda Items: None

16. Adjournment: Motion by Gates seconded by Flannery, to adjourn. Voice vote. Motion carried.

Time: 8:35 PM

Minutes by Max Blackburn, Tri-County Trails Coordinator