

TRI-COUNTY TRAIL COMMISSION

Thursday June 27, 2013

7:00 PM

Lafayette County – Trailside Pavilion – Calamine, WI

Present: Committee - Supervisors Heimann, Shea and Wolfe of Lafayette County, Guth, Koopmans and Williams of Green County, Lindholm of Iowa County. Absent: Wiegel of Lafayette County, John Bartels of Lafayette County was present for the absent Wiegel.

Guests Present: Members of local ATV and snowmobile clubs.

The Tri-County Trail Commission meeting was called to order at 7:00pm by Chairman, Gerald Heimann

Mr. Heimann asked if the meeting was properly posted. Deb Krahenbuhl verified the meeting was posted at the Green, Lafayette and Iowa County Courthouses, Darlington Municipal Building, Memorial Hospital of Lafayette County and Lafayette County website. Mr. Heimann declared a legal meeting of the Tri-County Trail Commission.

The minutes of the May meeting were presented. Mr. Guth noted that the address of the Green County courthouse was listed as in Mineral Point and should be in Monroe, and Mr. Wolfe noted that he was listed as making a motion while he was indeed absent. The changes to the minutes will be made by the coordinator. Mr. Guth made a motion to accept the minutes with the changes. Mr. Wolfe seconded the motion and minutes were approved.

Discussion, update and possible action from the report given in regards to the impact study of the Cheese Country Trail: Mr. Wolfe reported that the report was completed and presented the brochures to the committee. It consists of a 32 page economic impact study which spells out the use of motorized vehicles on the Cheese Country Trail, their impact on the area's economy according to surveys taken from users, business owners, and trail officials. As of now, only 9 copies were made available and the discussion consisted of how many copies the trail commission should purchase to make sure all county board members and essential personnel would have one. Ms. Lindholm made a motion to purchase 100 books and after some discussion withdrew the motion. The question was also brought up regarding how long this particular economic impact study and report will be beneficial as use changes in the coming years. It was then decided to have Leon check with UW Extension Publishing regarding the cost and availability per booklet and report back to the committee next month.

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

Lee McCarville reported that the trail between Calamine and Mineral Point is currently shut down due to the flood damage caused by the recent heavy rains. He is currently documenting the damage and hoping to meet with DNR or FEMA officials to see if any money is available to repair the trail. Lee's assessment shows a need for about \$45,000 to replace the washed out gravel over a 4 mile stretch and about an additional \$15,000 to place it. While that is being done, both Willow Springs and Mineral Point Townships are being contacted regarding using Ferndale Road as an alternate route into Mineral Point.

Mr. Jean reported that he has been in contact with Ann Loechler from the DNR regarding trail funding for the upcoming year. (July 1, 2013-June 30, 2014) She said the funding remains the same, \$600/mile for 64 miles of ATV routes or \$38,400 annually. In addition she said that we would receive \$100/mile for allowing UTV access on all 64 miles of trail or \$6,400 more. The snowmobile maintenance is the same as previous years (\$250/mile) for \$16,000.00

Rob McConnell from WATVA reported that both the State DNR snowmobile and ATV funds are severely underfunded and that the DNR is having a planning meeting soon to review and prioritize projects for funding. He highlighted that when the Legislature sets new laws for ATV/snowmobile trail use, these laws can be restricted even more by local authority.

Discussion and possible action on general maintenance/signage and encroachment issues along the Cheese Country Trail: A data base is being established by Mr. Jean of landowners along the entire length of the trail. Currently, Green County and Iowa County have completed their excel spreadsheets and Lafayette County is in the process of finalizing theirs. This will give the commission a good tool should we need to contact landowners collectively.

Public comment: Mr. Wolfe reported that Dave Raymond continues to work with Representative Marklein regarding using State Highways to access trails with ATV's.

It was brought up by Don Noble of the Green County ATV Club that he feels the trail is losing revenue dollars from users that are not paying trail fees. He felt that the trail sticker money is drying up because of this and that more signage would increase the awareness of the requirement for all non-registered users to purchase a sticker. A motion was made Mr. Wolfe and seconded by Mr. Guth to authorize the purchase of signs to make the public aware of the requirement for trail stickers. By voice vote the motion passed.

Fencing Request. None

Status of Funds. Deb presented the financial report and reviewed it with the committee. Deb is working with the new Lafayette County Finance Director to bring her up to speed on the finances for the commission. Following some discussion, a motion was made by Mr. Wolfe and seconded by Mr. Guth to approve. On voice vote, motion carried.

Approval of Vouchers: Voucher # 5077 payments include; Green County ATV Club \$1485.50, Ivey Construction \$3094.63 and Tri County ATV Club \$2085.00. Total payment of voucher 5077 is \$6665.13.

Following some discussion, a motion was made by Mr. Wolfe and seconded by Mr. Guth to approve. On voice vote, motion carried.

Next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, July 25, 2013 at 7:00 PM in Mineral Point at the Mineral Point City Hall.

The annual brat feed and fireworks will be at Calamine on July 6th from 11:00 AM until dusk.

Lee McCarville catered the annual picnic and refreshments following the meeting.
Thanks to Lee.

Motion, by Mr. Shea second, by Mr. Wiegel to adjourn. Voice vote, motion carried.
Meeting adjourned at 8:10 pm.