



TRI-COUNTY TRAIL COMMISSION

MINUTES

January 15, 2026

7:00 PM

Iowa County Community Room
303 West Chapel Street, Dodgeville

1. **Call to Order:** The meeting was called to order at 7:00 PM by Vice-Chair Flannery.

Members Present:

Green County – Larry Kranig

Iowa County – Michael Gates

Lafayette County – Jeff Berget (via Zoom), Donna Flannery, Luke McGuire, Mark Pinch

Members Absent:

Green County – Will Burchard (excused), Russ Torkelson (excused)

Others Present:

Max Blackburn & Laney Finkelmeyer – Trail Coordinators, Deb Krahenbuhl – Trail Liaison

Rob McConnell – WATVA

Public - Greg Doan, Ryan Federman, Jed Gant, Travis Hagen, Sheldon Krahenbuhl Jim Lange, Doug Mayer (via Zoom), Connor McGowan, Scott McGowan, Dick North, Jean North, Tony Pittz, Russ Ruegsegger, Jody Ruf, Duke Ruf Jack Sauer, Brett Sisker, Steve Spensley and Leon Wolfe

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 Berget, seconded by McGuire, to approve agenda as printed. Voice vote. Motion carried.
4. **Approval of Minutes for December 11, 2025:** Motion by Pinch, seconded by Kranig, to approve minutes as printed. Voice vote. Motion carried.
5. **Public Comment:** None.
6. **Legislative or WATVA Updates – Rob McConnell**
Rob reported the following:
 - Bill regarding increasing Snowmobile trail pass & registration fees has passed Senate
 - Notified everyone of the grant deadlines of RTP of March 1 and ATV/UTV & Snowmobile of April 15.
7. **Discussion and Possible Action – Regarding policy for opening or closing trail for snowmobile use:** Discussion had regarding language in the policy that was formally adopted as a motion at the previous meeting, before further discussion was tabled. Finkelmeyer handed out a draft policy that Blackburn and herself developed as a suggestion for the commission to consider as it was what they believe was commission's intent based on last meeting's discussion. Following prolonged discussion, a motion was made by Gates, seconded by Kranig to adopt the following as the current policy going forward:
"When conditions dictate, a group with a single representative from Tri-County ATV Club, Green County ATV Club, T-Riders, Fayette Sno-Goers, Blackhawk Riders, Stateline Trailblazers and the Lafayette County Snowmobile Alliance will decide when to open the Cheese Country Trail and Pecatonica State Trail to snowmobile use. This group will determine whether the entire trail is fit to be open or if certain sections can be open to snowmobile. If only sections are to be open, it will be that maintaining club's responsibility to install any blockades or additional signage that may be needed to prevent use on sections not yet open. It will also be their responsibility to update the kiosk signs located along the trail. Whether the entire trail or sections of the trail are open for snowmobiles, then ATV/UTV and OHM is prohibited from the entire trail system until March 31st. All dates and information shall be posted to the public via social media and appropriate websites." Voice vote. Motion carried. After brief discussion, a motion was made by McGuire, seconded by Gates to amend prior motion to read as follows: *"When conditions dictate, a group with a*

single representative, approved by the Tri-County Trail Commission, from T-Riders, Fayette Sno-Goers, Blackhawk Riders, Stateline Trailblazers and the Tri-County Trail Commission will decide when to open the Cheese Country Trail and Pecatonica State Trail to snowmobile use. This group will determine whether the entire trail is fit to be open or if certain sections can be open to snowmobile. If only sections are to be open, it will be that maintaining club's responsibility to install any blockades or additional signage that may be needed to prevent use on sections not yet open. It will also be their responsibility to update the kiosk signs located along the trail. Whether the entire trail or sections of the trail are open for snowmobiles, then ATV/UTV and OHM is prohibited from the entire trail system until March 31st. All dates and information shall be posted to the public via social media and appropriate websites." Voice vote. Motion carried.

8. **Discussion and Possible Action – Encroachment issues on trail system (if any):** Blackburn reported no new issues since last meeting.

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

a. **Trail Coordinator's report**

- Blackburn reported the following:
 - Sent draft ordinance for each county's corporation counsel to review
 - Working on discussing detour routes with applicable Townships and Highway Departments
 - Worked with Tri-County ATV Club and Land Information Department for developing updated 2026 trail maps
 - 2025 Trail Counter Data
 - Contacted bridge inspector last week and was about halfway done with reports
- Krahenbuhl had nothing to report.

No action taken.

b. **Clubs Report (ATV and Snowmobile)**

No reports given by ATV and Snowmobile Clubs.

10. **Discussion and Possible Action – Approval of Vouchers:** Blackburn presented the vouchers for the commission's consideration:

Trail Pass / Trust Account:

\$2,367.00 – Blackhawk Riders – Non-Grooming Maintenance (part of 25/26-SNO-06)

\$1,084.08 – Blackhawk Riders – Non-Grooming Maintenance (25/26-SNO-11)

\$3,481.50 – Blackhawk Riders – Non-Grooming Maintenance (25/26-SNO-12)

25-26 Snowmobile Maintenance Grant:

\$531.00 – Blackhawk Riders – Non-Grooming Maintenance (part of 25/26-SNO-06)

\$840.00 – Blackhawk Riders – Grooming Maintenance (25/26-SNO-07)

\$120.00 – Fayette Sno-Goers – Grooming Maintenance (25/26-SNO-08)

\$134.20 – Stateline Trailblazers – Non-Grooming Maintenance (25/26-SNO-09)

\$1,048.00 – T-Riders – Grooming Maintenance (25/26-SNO-10)

Motion made by Gates, seconded by Kranig to approve the voucher as presented. Voice vote. Motion carried.

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

12. **Confirm next meeting date and location: February 19, 2026, at 7:00 PM – Green County:**

Blackburn read aloud to remind commission members and attendees that the next commission meeting date and location is February 19, 2026 7:00 PM in Green County at the Green County Board Room.

13. **Future Agenda Items:** Nothing at this time.

14. **Adjournment:** Motion by Gates seconded by Kranig, to adjourn. Voice vote. Motion carried.

Time: 8:19 PM

Minutes by Max Blackburn, Tri-County Trails Coordinator