



**TRI-COUNTY TRAIL COMMISSION
MINUTES**

February 19, 2026

7:00 PM

Green County Board Room
1016 16th Avenue, Monroe

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, Donna Flannery, Luke McGuire, Mark Pinch

Members Absent:

Green County – Will Burchard (un-excused)

Others Present:

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

Rob McConnell and Diann McConnell – WATVA

Public - Ryan Federman, Sheldon Krahenbuhl Jim Lange, Doug Mayer, Scott McGowan, Shelly McGowan, Dick North, Jean North, Tony Pittz, and Leon Wolfe

2. **Proof of Proper Posting:** Chair Torkelson asked for proof of proper posting. Blackbourn 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 Gates, to approve agenda as printed. Voice vote. Motion carried.

4. **Approval of Minutes for January 15, 2026:** Motion by Gates, 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:

- Senate Bill 331 getting sent to the Governor for approval
- ORV Council met last week regarding updating ranking sheet for bridges to reflect rankings based on NBI scores.
- Working with DNR and legislature for increasing funding to go into grant programs with bridges being a priority.

7. **Statement of purpose by the Chair for a closed session pursuant to Wis. Stat. 19.85(1)(e): Deliberating or negotiating the purchasing of public properties, the investing of public funds, or conducting other specified public business, whenever competitive or bargaining reasons require a closed session. Specifically: Annual Trail Coordinators performance review as required by the Tri-County Trail Coordinator Co-Operative Agreement:** Chair Torkelson read this item aloud.

8. **Motion to enter into closed session:** Motion by Pinch, seconded by Kranig to convene into closed session. Roll call vote: Burchard – Absent, Kranig – Yes, Torkelson – Yes, Gates – Yes, Berget – Yes, Flannery – Yes, McGuire – Yes, Pinch – Yes. **Time: 7:16PM**

9. **Motion to enter into open session for discussion and possible action regarding items discussed in closed session:** Motion by McGuire, seconded by Kranig to convene into open session. Roll call vote: Burchard – Absent, Kranig – Yes, Torkelson – Yes, Gates – Yes, Berget – Yes, Flannery – Yes, McGuire – Yes, Pinch – Yes. **Time: 7:38PM**

No action taken.

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

11. **Discussion and Possible Action – CCT Usage, conditions, grants, and maintenance needs:**
a. **Use of remaining snowmobile funds**

Brief discussion had about uses for remaining snowmobile funds pending on weather within the next month and to revisit at next meeting. No action taken.

b. **Bridge Rehabilitation vs Replacement, findings from discussions with PRTC**

Blackburn stated that he had attended a meeting with PRTC admin and attorney to discuss bridge issues. Blackburn also stated that since DOT owned the corridor and certain restrictions that are placed on corridor, he had requested a sit-down meeting to discuss further. Blackburn explained it is his understanding that if we were to remove bridges, we have to have approval from PRTC and meet rail standard or sign an agreement to cover conversion back to rail costs. Any re-decking of bridges does not require PRTC approval. No action taken.

c. **Trail Coordinator’s Report**

- Blackburn reported the following:
 - Updated Ordinance drafts were sent to Iowa County Administrator and Green County Corp. Counsel and have not received any response.
 - Bridge inspection reports have been received with photo documentation and has been shared with commission members.
 - Asked for input of posting a notice about trail detour road route restrictions for users under the age of 16 and off-highway motorcycle users and putting notice on trail maps.
- Krahenbuhl had nothing to report.

No action taken.

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

No reports given by ATV and Snowmobile Clubs.

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

Trail Pass / Trust Account

\$546.00 – Wisconsin Country Mutual – Liability Insurance Premium

\$5,500.00 – Lafayette County – Max Blackburn / Laney Finkelmeyer 2025 Trail Coordinator Services

\$154.25 – Blackhawk Riders – Non-Grooming Maintenance (25/26-SNO-13)

25-26 Snowmobile Maintenance Grant:

\$840.00 – T Riders – Grooming Maintenance (25/26-SNO-14)

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

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

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

Blackburn read aloud to remind commission members and attendees that the next commission meeting date and location is March 19, 2026 7:00 PM in Lafayette County at the Lafayette County Multipurpose Building. Berget requested the meeting be moved to March 12th. Blackburn stated he would look into possible changes and communicate with commission members if it is feasible.

13. **Future Agenda Items:**

- Bridge Inspection Q&A with Nate Miller – NBI Engineering
 - Use of remaining snowmobile funds

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

Time: 8:03 PM

Minutes by Max Blackburn, Tri-County Trails Coordinator