



# Turkey River Recreational Corridor Board Meeting Minutes

February 4, 2025 | 6:30 p.m.

Elgin City Hall/Public Library - Elgin, Iowa

**Present:** Rod Marlatt, Steve Doeppeke, Brian Balster (alt.), Troy Schott, Heather Gamm (Alt.), Greg Larson (Alt.), Kenny Slocum, Jenna Pollock (alt.), Kelly Shaffer, Alex Popenhagen (alt.), Barb Wenger (alt)

**Not Present:** Deb Schmidt, Bruce Lehman, Chris Wachal, Kayleen Schrader, Chris Schoen

**Others Present:** Mallory Hanson, Jennifer Cowsert

The meeting was called to order at 6:30pm by Chair, Rod Marlatt.

\*\*Motion to approve the February 2025 agenda by Schott, second by Larson. Approved.

\*\*Motion to approve the January 2025 minutes by Pollock, second by Doeppeke. Approved.

Hanson reviewed financials with attendees.

**Annual Report Presentation Updates:** Hanson asked entities to provide an update on funding decisions for FY '26. Elgin has budgeted \$3,000, Clermont has budgeted \$3,500, Elkader, Clayton County, and Fayette County are still finalizing budgets.

### Proposed Large Infrastructure Grant:

\*\*Motion for TRRC Director to assist Fayette County Conservation directly with a Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP) funding application for expansion of the Clermont-Calmar Great River Road trail by Balster, second by Schott. Approved.

**2025 Turkey River Safari Site Discussion and Decision:** Attendees discussed the sites and came to a decision for 2025 sites (attached).

**Vice-Chair Election:** Election of a vice-chair was necessary due to Jennifer Cowsert's change in board member status.

\*\*Motion to elect Chris Schoen as Vice-Chair by Balster, second by Schott. Approved.

### Reports:

**Director:** The TRRC Director presented highlights from the January 2025 report.

**Clermont:** The City is working with the Iowa DOT to add speed feedback signs along Hwy 18.

**Elgin:** Elgin will also be working with the Iowa DOT for speed feedback signs. Funding was received for the lagoon liner. A new artistic ELGIN sign was installed this past summer. The demolition for 401 Mill St. is complete – The City will be working on an interpretive kiosk for the site.

**Elkader:** The City continues the budgeting process. Feasibility studies were completed for a pedestrian bridge project and the canoe access. Options for improvement to Keystone Park are being researched and considered. A Brownie Bash promotion occurred last month. Ladies Day Out is on March 8<sup>th</sup>.

**Motor Mill:** A fundraising campaign for stabilization of the Mill is underway. The Motor Motor 5k/10k will take place March 15<sup>th</sup>. Motor Mill will participate with a booth at an upcoming Silos & Smokestacks National Heritage Area event. Trees around the Inn were removed.

**Supervisors:** Clayton County: Brush cutting continues and the County continues the budgeted process.

Fayette County: Brush cutting continues and the County continues the budgeted process.

CCCB: Upcoming events include Prairie du Chien Bald Eagle Days on February 22<sup>nd</sup>, the Motor Motor 5k/10k March 15<sup>th</sup>, Osborne Campground Grand Opening May 1<sup>st</sup>, and Master Conservationist Aug.-Sept. hosted by Clayton and Fayette Counties. The County is seeking volunteers/teachers for Hunter Education. Pony Hollow Trail letting is likely to occur in late 2025.

### Conservation:

FCCB: The budget process is nearly complete. Inventory has been done. FCCB is currently hiring summer seasonals and has completed interviews for their open Roadside Tech position. Winter survival day was hosted at Gilbertsons last week. A donor is working with FCCB to add benches along the Clermont North trail.

**Other Business & Public Comments:** Hanson provided an update on the “Flowers along the Corridor” project and also reported that she is working on an inventory of trail wayfinding signs in Clermont and Elgin.

**Next Meeting:** The next meeting will be Tuesday, March 4, 2025 at Elkader City Hall/Opera House.

**Adjournment:**

\*\*Motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:30pm by Schott, second by Popenhagen. Approved.

*Respectfully Submitted – Mallory Hanson*