



Turkey River Recreational Corridor Board Meeting Minutes

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

Elkader City Hall/Opera House - Elkader, Iowa

Present: Rod Marlatt, Chris Wachal, Steve Doepcke, Kayleen Schrader, Chris Schoen, Brian Balster (alt.), Kenny Slocum, Deb Schmidt

Not Present: Troy Schott, Bruce Lehman, Kelly Shaffer

Others Present: Mallory Hanson, Jennifer Cowsert, Dan Slagel

The meeting was called to order at 6:32pm by Chair, Rod Marlatt.

**Motion to approve the March 2025 agenda by Schrader, second by Doepcke. Approved.

**Motion to approve the February 2025 minutes by Slocum, second by Schoen. 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.

Turkey River Safari: Attendees discussed what color and type of bags to order for this year's safari. Pink will be the primary color, with yellow as an alternative, if needed.

Flowers along the Corridor Project: Hanson provided an update on project planning. Locations will be finalized for both Fayette and Clayton County (along conservation-managed trail segments). The cost will be \$7,500-\$10,000 per flower, with flowers being approximately 12' tall. Hanson provided a proposed funding method for the project:

**Motion to approve grant applications to Upper Mississippi Gaming Corporation and Fayette County Community Foundation for the "Flowers Along the Corridor" project by Wachal, second by Schrader. Approved.

Bike/Kayak Rack Project: Hanson provided a rough outline for a project. Participants provided input. The project will be revisited at a later date with more information/detail.

In Person Trail Count Discussion: Due to the current capabilities of the 8 infrared trail counters installed throughout the Corridor and the successful comparison of that data with previous in-person trail counts. Hanson and Marlatt proposed an indefinite pause on in-person trail counting beginning in 2025.

**Motion to pause in-person trail counting in 2025 and to revisit that decision in three years by Wachal, second by Schoen. Approved.

Reports:

Director: The TRRC Director presented highlights from the February 2025 report.

Clermont: The City is interested in reorganizing community trail signage, with Hanson's recommendations. The Downtown Housing Grant project is nearing completion. Safari post sites were approved. The City is looking into new software. The Clermont Community Club is hosting BINGO regularly at Bad Tad's.

Elgin: Safari posts were approved. The 401 Mill Street project is complete, pending development and installation of interpretive signage.

Elkader: Ladies Day Out is on March 8th. The St. Patrick's Day parade is March 17th. The Opera House Play will take place April 5th-13th.

Motor Mill: The fundraising campaign for stabilization of the Mill continues with nearly 50% of the goal raised.

Supervisors: Clayton County: The county continues to work on through their budgeting process.

Fayette County: No report.

Conservation:

CCCB: The Motor Motor 5k/10k will be March 15th. The Osborne Campground Grand Opening is planned for May 1st. An Osborne Park reforestation project is underway. OWLS will begin March 20th.

FCCB: Fayette County Conservation continues to support the Elgin Historical Society's Tribes of the Turkey River Interpretive Center project.

Other Business & Public Comments: Slocum shared that the Alexander McGregor Endowment Campaign is underway, supporting regional community betterment projects and that MarMac Human Powered Trails will work with a National Civilian Community Corps group this summer.

Next Meeting: The next meeting will be Tuesday, April 1, 2025 at Elkader City Hall/Opera House.

Adjournment:

**Motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:32pm by Wachal, second by Schrader. Approved.

Respectfully Submitted – Mallory Hanson