



Turkey River Recreational Corridor Board Meeting Minutes

January 6, 2026 | 6:00 p.m.

Elgin City Hall/Elgin Public Library – Elgin, Iowa

Present: Rod Marlatt, Kenny Slocum, Troy Schott, Kelly Shaffer, Heather Gamm (alt.), Chris Schoen, Brian Balster (alt.), Steve Doeppke, Roger Buchholz, Bruce Lehman

Not Present: Chris Wachal, Kayleen Schrader

Others Present: Mallory Hanson

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

****Motion to approve the January 2026 agenda by Schott, second by Shoen. Approved.**

****Motion to approve the December 2025 minutes with corrections by Slocum, second by Doeppke. Approved.**

Hanson reviewed financials with attendees.

****Motion to approve the financials, as presented by Schoen, second by Buchholz. Approved.**

Annual Report Presentation Updates: Hanson reported that she presented to the Fayette County Board of Supervisors on December 8th and the Elkader City Council on December 22nd. Upcoming presentations:

- January 19th at 7:00pm - Elgin City Council

Project Updates:

- Flowers in the Corridor (TRRC) - The Fayette County Community Foundation grant application was not funded; however, Hanson has submitted a request to a private family trust for consideration of a \$10,000 donation to fund the Fayette County installation. Hanson will present an agreement to both the Clayton County and Fayette County Conservation Boards to take ownership of the art installations once they are completed and has planned a meeting in mid-January with the artist, Gamm, and Van Meeteren to move forward with a spring/summer installation.
- Pedal Paddle Racks (TRRC) – Hanson reported that Dan Slagel and Family donated \$2,500.00 to cover the cost of the Pedal Paddle Racks project. The project committee met prior to this meeting to finalize plans for installation and promotion this spring/summer.
- Clermont Trail Expansion (FCCB) – Hanson is working with the Fayette County Engineer and Fayette County Conservation to assist with grant writing and project development for expansion of the trail from Clermont to Hwy 150.
- Pony Hollow Trail Expansion (CCCB) – NEPA clearance has been secured for the project. The project is on track for an April 21, 2026 letting and Clayton County Conservation is working on recording easements and submitting final plans by January 20, 2026. The goal is for construction to begin June/July 2026.
- Motor Mill Stabilization (CCCB & Motor Mill Foundation) – Clayton County Conservation is awaiting guidance from SHPO and other state agencies on how to move forward with the project due to mixed recommendations from engineers and technicians for the final phase of the project.

Consider Approval of Lawful Custodian of Public Records: Open Meetings Law dictates that public entities must identify the lawful custodian of public records to comply with requirements for Iowa Code Chapter 22.

****Motion to delegate Mallory Hanson, employee of Northeast Iowa Resource Conservation and Development (RC&D) serving as Director for the Turkey River Recreational Corridor (TRRC) as the responsible official titled “Lawful Custodian” for TRRC’s public records by Slocum, second by Schoen. Approved.**

Annual Appointment Reminders: Hanson provided a list of current representatives and alternate representatives and reminded members of reappointments coming up in 2026.

2026 Turkey River Safari Site Discussion: Hanson presented the list of past safari sites for board members to review and for consideration at the February meeting.

Reports:

Director:	The TRRC Director presented highlights from the December 2025 report.
Clermont:	The City is finalizing the Pickleball, Tennis Court, Basketball Court project. New banners have been approved by the Iowa DOT for Hwy 18 poles.
Elgin:	No report.
Elkader:	Roger Buchholz is now serving as the new Elkader City Council representative. Buchholz reported that the \$4,000 contribution for TRRC.
Motor Mill:	The Motor Mill Foundation is developing their work plan for 2026. Two new board members are starting this year.
Supervisors:	Clayton County: The garbage site for the county has been upgraded. The Board of Supervisors is working on their budget and committee appointments. Fayette County: The Board of Supervisors is working on their budget and committee appointments. Wadena is partnering with the County on a road improvement project. Working on finalizing the 911 project and hiring an IT Director.
Conservation:	CCCB: The Motor Motor 5k/10k is on March 21, 2026. Received \$52,000 Fish Habitat Grant for streambank improvements for Access 39A. The final two Osborne Heritage Days listening sessions are happening January 15 th and February 6 th with a virtual recap planned for February 24 th . An OWL Prowl will take place January 23 rd . Van Meeteren's last day working for Clayton County Conservation will be June 30, 2026, therefore, applications for a new Director will open soon. FCCB: Fayette County Conservation is working on their budget and updating their 5-year plan. The Winter Festival will take place on January 10 th at Gilbertsons. A successful open house at the nature center was held the last week in December.

Other Business & Public Comments: Hanson noted that additional open meetings law dictates that a virtual option must be made available to board members for meetings, but it is not required for the general public to participate.

Next Meeting: The next meeting will be held February 3, 2026 at 6:30pm at Elgin Public Library/City Hall.

Adjournment:

****Motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:14pm by Schoen, second by Shaffer. Approved.**

Respectfully Submitted – Mallory Hanson