Turkey River Recreational Corridor Board Meeting Minutes

June 2, 2026 | 6:30 p.m.
Elkader City Hall/Opera House – Elkader, Iowa

Present: Rod Marlatt, Kelly Shaffer, Chris Wachal, Heather Gamm (alt.), Bruce Lehmann, Jennifer Cowsert (alt.), Ean Popenhagen, Brian Balster (alt.)

Not Present: Chris Schoen, Steve Doeppke Roger Buchholz, Troy Schott, Kayleen Schrader

Others Present: Mallory Hanson, Dan Slagel, Jesse Matt

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

**Motion to approve the June 2026 agenda by Balster, second by Wachal. Approved.

**Motion to approve the May 2026 minutes by Balster, second by Cowsert. Approved.

Attendees reviewed financials.

**Motion to approve the financials, as presented by Popenhagen, second by Wachal. Approved.

Project Updates:

- Turkey River Safari (TRRC) – The Safari started Memorial Day weekend and has been popular.
- Coneflowers in the Corridor (TRRC) - The artists continue working on fabrication. Still moving along with an August deadline for fabrication and installation.
- Pedal Paddle Racks (TRRC) – FCCB poured a concrete pad and is preparing for installation. CCCB intends to prepare the concrete pad sometime in the next few weeks.
- Clermont Trail Expansion (FCCB) – Gamm reported that they continue to prepare for a Destination Iowa grant app. and are preparing for a tour with the Iowa Economic Development Authority in June.
- Pony Hollow Trail Expansion (CCCB) – Popenhagen reported that they are planning to host a pre-construction meeting this week.
- Motor Mill Stabilization (CCCB & Motor Mill Foundation) – A meeting was held with a Geotech from Minneapolis, MN – He plans to review past reports to provide his perspective and recommendations.

Election of Officers:

**Motion to elect Rod Marlatt as Chair, Chris Schoen as Vice-Chair, and Mallory Hanson as Secretary-Treasurer by Cowsert, second by Balster. Approved.

Review and Consider Approval of FY '27 Contract with RC&D:

**Motion to approve the FY '27 Contract for Services between the Turkey River Recreational Corridor and Northeast Iowa Resource Conservation and Development by Balster, second by Popenhagen. Approved.

Review and Consider Approval of FY '26 Programming Budget:

**Motion to approve the FY '27 Programming Budget by Wachal, second by Lehmann. Approved.

Consider Infrared Trail Counter Management Assistance to FCCB for Echo Valley State Park/Jensen Trail:

**Motion to approve Hanson spending time assisting Fayette County Conservation with management of the new infrared trail counter at Echo Valley State Park/Jensen Trail by Wachal, second by Popenhagen. Approved.

Reports:

Director:	Hanson provided highlights from the May 2026 Director's report.
Clermont:	No report.
Elgin:	Wachal reported that there are new lights installed at Capper's Field, supported in part by a Fayette County Community Foundation Grant. Two Music in the Park events are planned for the summer (July 9th and August 13th). Flower baskets honoring the 250th celebration have been installed and are ready for the 4th of July weekend.
Elkader:	City-wide garage sales are June 4-6. Downtown Rhythm on the River/Light Up the Night will take place June 5th. The pool opens June 5th. A social media influencer has been hired to attend this weekend's events. The City continues to work with Main Street to develop updated wayfinding signage.
Motor Mill:	Tours continue to be available throughout the summer. A laser device has been purchased to monitor the floor of the Mill. The Earth Day cleanup event with students was a success.
Supervisors:	Clayton County: No report. Fayette County: A public hearing on the county farm was held. Construction is in progress on Juniper Road and Canoe Road. An EMS levy is on the ballot.
Conservation:	CCCB: A new Naturalist has been hired (Jesse Matt) and a new Resource Maintenance Technician will start next week. CCCB is preparing for summer camps and library/senior center programming. FCCB: Day camps begin next week. A STEM intern has been engaged to help primarily at the Gilbertson Nature Center. Project A.W.A.R.E. will take place in both counties in mid-July. Travel Iowa is considering a photography/videography project featuring both counties sometime this summer.

Other Business & Public Comments: Hanson reported that Marlatt was selected as a Wings to Water Water Warrior and will be featured at the Eastern Iowa Airport for three months starting in June/July, 2026. Marlatt recently partnered with the American Flood Coalition to attend sessions in Washington D.C. advocating for efforts related to watershed management and improvement.

Next Meeting: The next meeting will be July 7, 2026 at 6:30pm at Clermont City Hall/Larrabee School.

Adjournment:

**Motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:19pm by Wachal, second by Shaffer. Approved.

Respectfully Submitted – Mallory Hanson