Turkey River Recreational Corridor Board Meeting Minutes

July 7, 2026 | 6:30 p.m.
Clermont City Hall/Larrabee School – Clermont, Iowa

Present: Rod Marlatt, Kelly Shaffer, Chris Schoen, Steve Doeppke, Roger Buchholz, Troy Schott, Kayleen Schrader, Heather Gamm (alt.), Ean Popenhagen, Brian Balster (alt.), Jenna Van Meeteren (alt.)

Not Present: Chris Wachal, Bruce Lehmann

Others Present: Mallory Hanson

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

**Motion to approve the July 2026 agenda by Schott, second by Buchholz. Approved.

**Motion to approve the June 2026 minutes by Schrader, second by Popenhagen. Approved.

Attendees reviewed financials.

**Motion to approve the updated budgeted amount of $19,798.45 in the special projects section of the FY '27 budget to account for rollover of project dollars by Schoen, second by Schrader. Approved.

**Motion to approve the financials, as presented by Buchholz, second by Schott. 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 the goal of an August deadline for fabrication and installation.
- Pedal Paddle Racks (TRRC) – Both racks are installed.
- Clermont Trail Expansion (FCCB) – Gamm reported that they continue to prepare for a Destination Iowa grant app. and hosted a tour with the Iowa Economic Development Authority June 17th to discuss the project scope.
- Pony Hollow Trail Expansion (CCCB) – Popenhagen reported that a pre-construction meeting was held in early June and that planning for updated trail alignment is in progress, with a meeting scheduled July 15th with the contractor, engineer, and Iowa DOT.
- Motor Mill Stabilization (CCCB & Motor Mill Foundation) – A virtual meeting was held with TKDA Engineering to discuss Geotech services. Multiple proposals are being considered for analysis of the stability of the bedrock and building.

Trail Count/Infrared Data Presentation: Hanson provided a TRAFx trail count equipment demonstration to attendees.

Pedal Paddle Rack Promotion: Hanson proposed scheduling a photoshoot to help promote the new pedal paddle racks. Hanson will coordinate with Shaffer to take photos to assist with promotion. Once photos are available, Hanson will create a new webpage on www.turkeyrivercorridor.com and start promotion on social media.

Schedule Vision Planning Session: Hanson proposed scheduling the annual vision planning session for the November 4th (Wednesday due to November 3rd Election Date) meeting. The meeting will begin at 6:00pm.

Reports:

Director:	Hanson provided highlights from the June 2026 Director's report.
Clermont:	A 250th Celebration was held this past weekend. BBQ in the Park will take place July 20th. The Pickleball court project is progressing, including a plan to hire someone to paint.
Elgin:	No report.
Elkader:	John Moyna attended the last council meeting and reported new manufacturing activities planned in Elkader. Casey's is in the process of putting up their building. John Moyna has the contract to do repairs at Keystone Park. Norby's expansion is on hold. Elkader Sweet Corn Days will take place July 25th.
Motor Mill:	The Clayton County Museum Crawl has concluded. SxS riders are coming through on July 31st, with approximately 200 people anticipated. Volunteers did CPR and AED Training. Schoen was honored with the Excellence in Archaeology and Historic Preservation Award.

Supervisors:	Clayton County: Gravel is being put on roads and washes are being repaired. Fayette County: Lehman called prior to the meeting to report that various road projects are in progress and noted the tour with the Iowa Economic Development Authority that took place June 17th to discuss the trail project in Fayette County.
Conservation:	CCCB: Project AWARE will be at Motor Mill June 17th. CCCB was notified of a large log jam and project AWARE got permission to go out and work on it. Bear-proof garbage receptacles were donated. $50k awarded in February from a Fish Habitat grant to improve the area above Access 39A in Elkader (500 ft. of stream stabilization upstream from that access). Various library and care center programs are in progress and day camps are coming up. FCCB: Project AWARE will be hosted at Gouldsburg starting Sunday - They are working on cleaning up debris in the river. They then move to the Elkader City Campground Wednesday, then will shuttle to Gilbertson to re-start the float from there. Camping has been good. FCCB completed various shelter roof replacements. Bear-proof garbage receptacles were donated. SSNHA came to various areas and took photos for promotion. FCCB finished up summer camps in June. The FCCB STEM extern finished last week. Gamm attended an IWILL/Trust meeting in Independence. A new Maize Maze Display is at the Nature Center temporarily and will be housed permanently in the Dummermuth building.

Other Business & Public Comments: Hanson reported that the Clayton County Development Group is in the process of hiring a new director and that Darla Kelchen's last day is September 2nd. Shaffer announced that Volga is hosting a Hometown Days celebration July 18th.

Next Meeting: The next meeting will be August 4, 2026 at 6:30pm at Clermont City Hall/Larrabee School.

Adjournment:

**Motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:21pm by Schrader, second by Schoen. Approved.

Respectfully Submitted – Mallory Hanson