Turkey River Recreational Corridor Board Meeting Minutes

August 4, 2026 | 6:30 p.m.
Clermont City Hall/Larrabee School - Clermont, Iowa

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

Not Present: Roger Buchholz

Others Present: Mallory Hanson

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

**Motion to approve the August 2026 agenda by Schott, second by Lehmann. Approved.

**Motion to approve the July 2026 minutes by Doeppke, second by Schoen. Approved.

Attendees reviewed financials.

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

Project Updates:

- Turkey River Safari (TRRC) – Four Safari kits remain. Hanson will bring these to the State Fair.
- Coneflowers in the Corridor (TRRC) - The artists continue working on fabrication. Moving along with the goal of early fall for fabrication and installation.
- Clermont Trail Expansion (FCCB) – Gamm reported that they continue to prepare for a Destination Iowa grant application and other applications, including the Resource Enhancement and Protection grant.
- Pony Hollow Trail Expansion (CCCB) – Popenhagen reported that weekly progress meetings continue as the project moves along.
- Motor Mill Stabilization (CCCB & Motor Mill Foundation) – A proposal was received and CCCB plans to review it with the Motor Mill Foundation following their review of the recommendations.

Fayette County Community Foundation Grant Discussion: Hanson proposed a grant application to be submitted for replacement of current Clermont and Elgin trail wayfinding signage. Hanson also proposed including new crosswalk signs in Clermont for specific areas identified by the City of Clermont.

**Motion to approve a Fayette County Community Foundation application for the Clermont and Elgin Trail Wayfinding Signage Project by Cowsert, second by Schrader. Approved.

Reports:

Director:	Hanson provided highlights from the July 2026 Director's report.
Clermont:	The City plans to install 25 MPH signs on Spring, State, and Larrabee Streets. The pickleball court project will be completed soon.
Elgin:	The City completed their Cured-In-Place Pipe (CIPP) sanitary sewer lining project. The 401 Mill St. kiosk has been completed. They continue to work on a capital improvement plan with Fehr Graham.
Elkader:	Elkader is working with Main Street on a trail wayfinding signage project focused on pedestrian signage. Art in the Park is planned for October 3rd. An Iowa Economic Development Authority Regional Arts Forum will take place on October 15th at the Elkader Opera House.
Motor Mill:	The Clayton County SxS group rode through Motor Mill last month. Multiple tours were held during their ride. Project AWARE also utilized the site and multiple participants toured the Mill and site. Hollyhocks were planted near the Inn in front of the propane tanks.
	Clayton County: Rock is being placed on the gravel roads. An asphalt shoulder project is in progress near Garnavillo.
Supervisors:	Fayette County: The Board is still considering options for the Prairie View site. A new County Sanitation Associate has been hired. The Juniper Road project is in progress. The County Fair was a success. Multiple information sessions have been held regarding data centers. There has been a lot of excitement and questions about the Clermont Trail project.

	CCCB: Silos & Smokestacks National Heritage Area conducted their partnership review visit last month. CCCB is considering replacing the playscape at Osborne and may submit a grant application to support the project. CCCB is doing some plan revisions for the Turkey River Access 39A project. Maintenance and summer programs are taking place.
Conservation:	FCCB: Project AWARE was a success. Hanson is assisting with updates to the Gilbertson Conservation Education Area brochure. Roadside staff are doing hydroseeding along active road projects. Gamm reported that there was interest in a mirror or other efforts to assist with visibility in the tunnel along the Turkey River Recreational Corridor Trail between Elgin and Clermont – Gamm and Hanson are gathering input from regular trail users.

Other Business & Public Comments: Attendees had brief discussion about the recent E-bike guidance shared by the Iowa Department of Natural Resources, Iowa State Patrol, and Iowa DOT. Schoen reported that a Northeast Iowa Vietnam Veterans Memorial is planned near Giard.

Next Meeting: The next meeting will be September 1, 2026 at 6:30pm at Clermont City Hall/Larrabee School.

Adjournment:

**Motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:26pm by Wachal, second by Schrader. Approved.

Respectfully Submitted – Mallory Hanson