

Praeri Rail Trail Listening Session
Story County Board of Supervisors-Story County Conservation Board
McCallsburg American Legion
January 14, 2020 at 6:00pm

Jim Pease and Linda Murken called the meeting to order at 6:07 pm.

Roll Call:

Story County Conservation Board Members

Present: Jim Pease, Craig Meyers, Nancy Franz

Absent: Ted Tedesco, Christine Laumer

Story County Board of Supervisors

Present: Linda Murken, Lisa Heddens, Lauris Olson

Story County Conservation staff

Mike Cox, Pat Shehan, Ryan Wiemold

Guests

Morgan Wright – adopt a trail volunteer

Jeff White – co chair Story County Trails Advisory Committee

Norm Tjelmeland – Zearing Volunteer Fire Department

Dustin Ingram – Story County Community and Economic Development Outreach

Introduction of those present and their trail affiliation

Purpose of this session: Gather community feedback on present and future collaborative efforts to improve the Praeri Rail Trail

Countywide trails overview – Ryan Weimold

This presentation included information on Story County Conservation trail usage, trail types, trail development process, trail maintenance and longevity, Story County Trails Advisory Committee, details about major trails, economic impact of trails, trail costs, recent trail projects, and trail volunteers.

Praeri Rail Trail Updates – Mike Cox

This presentation included information on the Story County long range plan (C2C) to pave the PRT trail, extend it to Story City, and provide hard surface trails between all cities in the county. The PRT is currently being extended safely across Hwy 65 into downtown Zearing and to the trail end destination of Dakins Lake Park. Community input on the PRT is being sought (including this listening session), limestone sections are being updated, and some improvements to the McCallsburg trail section. A rough cost projection to fund future PRT initiatives are over \$9 million. The presentation concluded with critical elements needed for successful trail development and use.

Praeri Rail Trail Community Feedback – facilitated by Nancy Franz

- Reality check for partners on the trail development process and potential trail impacts
- Define, develop, and promote destinations, amenities, and town identity
- Plan for family trail use

- Conduct asset mapping of trail cities (spaces, buildings, etc.)
- Highlight the “prairie” aspect of the trail
- Determine and promote trail “connections”
- Develop trailheads, maps, signage, parking, food, gas, and restrooms
- Improve “rideability” and “walkability” of grass sections of the trail
- Keep on top of trail maintenance (i.e. mowing and brushing)
- Become familiar with PRT community demographics and infrastructure
- Reveal the less tangible aspects of trail development and success
- Use SCC PRT Powerpoint slides in economic and community development conversations
- Look seriously at a Roland to Story City connector trail

What next steps are most important for us to work on together and why? – facilitated by Nancy Franz

- Use SCC trail talking points/Powerpoint slides with economic and community development groups and across Story County departments
- Conduct asset mapping in each trail community and then determine trail development synergies
- Analyze trail community assets (spaces, destinations, amenities, etc.)
- Identify and use community-based trail champions
- Prioritize practical next steps for trail development
- “Meet on” (keep trail momentum going)

Immediate next steps

- Listening session proceedings shared with key partners
 - SCC- Trail Advisory Committee, Trailgate Party
 - SC Board of Supervisors- trail city elected officials, economic development groups, across county departments
- Trail city elected officials- respond to the proceedings

Meeting adjourned 7:30 pm

Nancy Franz
Recording Secretary


Story County Conservation
Board, Chair