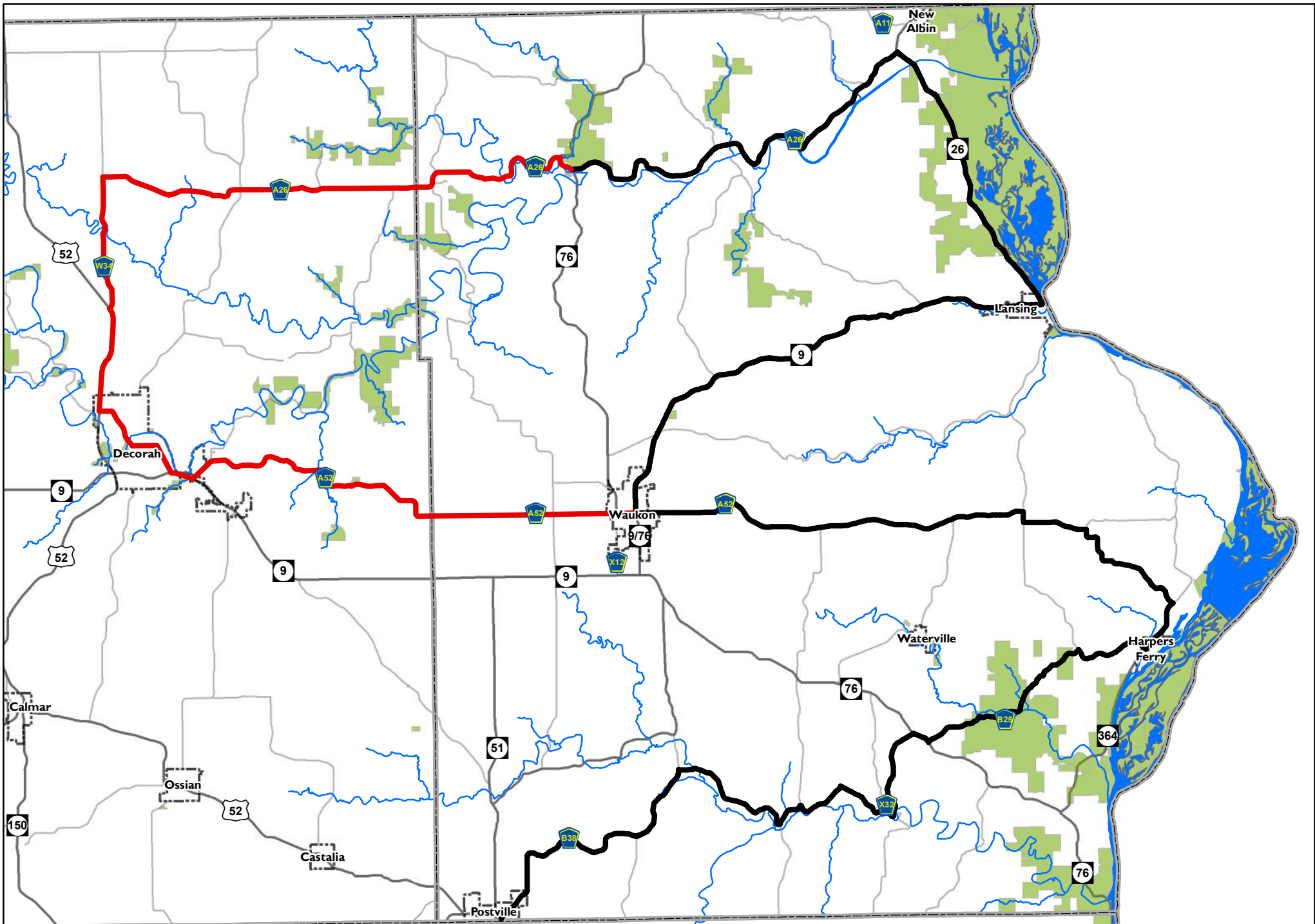


RPA 1 Transportation Enhancement Committee MINUTES: October 14, 2015

Present: Rod Marlatt, Sheryl Struthers, Elaine Govern, Harold Chapman, Craig Fencil, Valerie Reinke, Barb Schroeder, Harlan Satrom, Mallory Marlatt, Jenna Pollock, Dean Hilgerson, Bruce Palmborg, Chad Bird and Karla Organist

1. Meeting was called to order at 8:33 a.m. by chair, Rod Marlatt
2. Motion to approve the agenda was made by Struthers, second by Satrom, all approved
3. Motion to approve the minutes from May 28th regular meeting and the August 27th trail counting meeting was made by Struthers, seconded by Reinke, all approved.
4. County Updates:
 - a. Allamakee County: Rod reported that Jim was at a preconstruction meeting for the Interpretive Center
 - b. Clayton County: Jenna Pollock reported on Heritage Days and that they have a new board member on the Clayton County Conservation Board
 - c. Fayette County: Rod reported that the TRRC project received State Rec. Trail funding for \$750,000 – this should finish the trail from Elgin through Gilbertson to the Clayton County line.
 - d. Howard County: Harold and Craig reported that they did not get funding from the State Rec. Trail fund – but were relieved to find out that their listing at number 42 of 43 was alphabetical – not by scoring! They submitted the same project for Fed Rec Trails. They also reported that the ROW part of the earmark project was completed and the bridges and trail construction is set for a February letting, with construction starting in May
 - e. Winneshiek County: Freeport Trail is DONE – just need to add some signage; the Dry Run Trail is being worked on from both ends – the north half is in the appraisal process and the south half is in the landowner contact stage.
 - f. Scenic Byways: Working on the interpretive panels which should be completed in the spring. Mallory and Jaren gave a byways presentation to the DOT Commission when they were in Decorah. They also received a two-year “Our Town” grant to install public art along the byways – there will be two pieces on the Driftless Area SB and two along the River Bluffs SB. The byway extension request they made to pull the DASB into Winneshiek County is in committee review. Mallory will send Karla the route (see attached)
 - g. Safe Routes to School: Ashley sent some postcards with some great SRTS stats for the group.
5. Committee reviewed the current fund balances and discussed the lack of a federal transportation bill or CR.
6. TIP project discussions:
 - a. The Policy Board will be considering an amendment for Howard County’s Wapsi trail project – moving all remaining earmark funds to the construction project and pulling it into the current year TIP. A motion was made by Schroeder, seconded by Satrom to endorse/recommend the project amendment to the Policy Board, all approved.
 - b. Elkader’s preliminary engineering project was discussed. After much discussion it was decided that Elkader should just reapply for funding from TAP in the next round.
7. Results of the 2015 fall trail count were shared. The committee felt that three times a year was too difficult for volunteer recruitment, so perhaps one mid-summer count was enough.

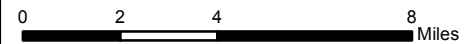
8. Public Participation Plan – the RPA is working on a complete update of this plan. The committee discussed ways to better engage the public in the process as well as ways to let them know what we do. Ideas included:
 - a. Board member presentations (P&Z's, Conservation boards, trail committees...)
 - b. More marketing for public support (newsletter articles: what's going on, where does the money come from)
 - c. Write press releases that make our project funding choices related to our long range goals
 - d. Connect with service providers
9. Floor items
 - a. Barb reported on the progress with the U of Iowa Sustainability Project – students are completing an economic impact study of the Decorah Trout Run Trail that outlines the process so that it can be replicated in other parts of the region's trail system. Currently they are in the survey process.
 - b. Chad reported that the City of Decorah is working on a comprehensive sidewalk plan to present to the council. He is also working with the tourism director to develop a motorcycle tour guide for NE Iowa that identifies circular routes for riders.
10. The next meeting was set for December 16th at 8:30 a.m. in Postville. The committee will review the TAP application, timeline and scoring practices and the Public Participation Plan
11. Motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Hilgerson, meeting adjourned at 9:30 a.m.



Legend

 Route Change One  Driftless Area Scenic Byway

Permanent Route Change One
Driftless Area Scenic Byway, Iowa



Map created by Northeast Iowa RC&D
Data Credit: Iowa DNR, Northeast Iowa RC&D
Sept. 2014

