



Root River Trail Extension Citizens Exploratory Committee

Wednesday, September 16, 2026 - 3:00 PM

Regular Monthly Meeting
Hokah City Hall - Meeting Room
211 W Main Street
Hokah, MN 55941

AGENDA

Call to Order

Pledge of Allegiance

Roll Call

1. Approval of the Agenda

2. Approval of August 5, 2026 Meeting Minutes

2.a Approval of August 5, 2026 Meeting Minutes

3. Discussion Items

3.a Status of Grants/Funding

3.b Draft 18-24 Month Work Plan

3.c Historic Bluff Country National Scenic Byway Management Plan
Update - Preston City Hall Meeting September 23rd at 10:00 A.M.

4. Public Comment

5. Next Meeting - October 14, 2026

6. Adjournment

cc: Honorable Mayor, City Council Members, City Attorney, City Administrator

Root River Trail Extension - Citizens Exploratory Committee
Meeting minutes.

Date: August 5th, 2026

Location: Houston Nature Center, 215 W Plum Street Houston, MN

1. Call To Order, Roll Call

The meeting was called to order at 3:16 p.m. by Larry Kirch, City of La Crescent, Community Development Director.

Members Present: Larry Stryker – La Crescent, Jake Olson – Hokah, Bridget Mullen – Hokah, Ben Horn, - Houston County, Michelle Hoskins – Houston, Jay Wheaton - Houston

Members Absent: Honor DiDonato – Houston County (excused), Dick Wieser – La Crescent

Others Present: Allison Wagner, EDA/Houston County, Travis Vicker, DNR

- 2. July 8 Minutes** – The minutes from the July 8th, 2026 meeting were sent out with the agenda. Larry Kirch asked for any changes or comments on the minutes. There were none and the minutes were accepted by consensus.

3. Discussion Items

a. Federal Congressionally Directed Spending Request (Status)

Larry Kirch reported that he researched the Federal Website and called Wisconsin Senator Tammy Baldwin's staff (Senator Baldwin sits on the Senate Appropriations Committee) and was told that there likely will not be any action on these CDS requests prior to the midterm elections. The city also has a project in the works for the Police Station/EOC project. There is not a lot to do at this point in the process.

b. Preparation of a 2026-2027 Work Plan

At the previous meeting, Larry Kirch mentioned under the agenda items "Building Support for a Trail Extension" that he was thinking that the group should come up with an 18 month work plan for the rest of 2026 and 2028.

Larry Kirch presented an early draft of a work plan that would contain a list of action steps for grant writing, legislative strategies, State Bonding Bill, direct state legislation, a review of the ownership, the adoption of the JPA and bylaws, preparation of draft documents such as Letters of Intent, donation and purchase agreements/options for easements and corridor lands, formation of a "Friends Group", opportunities to build support such as the updating of the Bluff Country National Scenic Byway Plan, visiting

with the Preston group. etc. Larry Kirch would update the draft for the next meeting for further discussion.

4. **Public Comment** (none)
5. **Next Meeting** – The group decided to hold their next meeting on September 16th.
6. **Adjourn** – the meeting was adjourned at 4:05 p.m.

Meeting minutes drafted by Larry Kirch, City of La Crescent, Community Development Director

DRAFT