

**WOODBURY COUNTY, IOWA, CONSERVATION BOARD
MINUTES OF THE WEDNESDAY, JUNE 1, 2016, BOARD MEETING**

The following is a true copy of the minutes of the meeting of the Woodbury County, Iowa, Conservation Board held on Wednesday, June 1, 2016, at the Fowler Forest Preserve Shelter beginning at 5:00 p.m.

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT

Chris Zellmer-Zant, Cindy Bennett, Don Dixon, Neil Stockfleth and Suzan Boden

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT

None

STAFF PRESENT

Schneider, Peterson, Snyder, Stehr, Haahr, Ketelsen, Lindsay and Bostwick

OTHERS PRESENT

Larry Clausen, County Supervisor

CALL TO ORDER

President Bennett called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

None

ITEM R1. APPROVE CONSENT AGENDA

MOTION by Stockfleth, second by Boden.

To approve the consent agenda.

VOTE: Aye: Cindy Bennett, Don Dixon, Neil Stockfleth, & Suzan Boden

 Nay: None

 Absent: Chris Zellmer-Zant

Consent agenda was approved and involved the following items:

ITEM C1. Approve minutes of the May 5, 2016, monthly meeting.

ITEM C2. Approve May 2016 claims and expenditures.

ITEM C3. Receive and place on file the May 2016 financial / budget report.

ITEM C4. Acceptance of Gifts/Donations:

1. Gene and Ginger Martin – Monetary donation (\$500) for one year Red-tailed hawk adoption.
2. Mrs. Ehrig's 1st Grade Class, Battle Creek Ida Grove – Monetary donation (\$60) for Kestrel adoption for 6 months.
3. Donna Popp – Playscape digging tools.
4. Michelle Grimshaw – Seed packets.
5. Dean Van Roekel – Wren house and Playscape slide construction.
6. Interstate Mechanical – Playscape slides.

ITEM R2. Approval of FY 17 Wages/Salaries for Full-Time and Regular Part-Time conservation department employees. (Conservation Board)

Schneider presented the proposed FY 17 Salaries/Wages for full-time employees and regular part-time employees, which includes a 3% increase as approved for the FY 17 budget, and also includes additional Conservation Wage Plan Matrix adjustments as approved at the March 1, 2016, board meeting.

MOTION by Dixon, second by Boden.

To approve the proposed FY 17 full-time and regular part-time conservation employee salary and wage schedule as presented.¹⁹⁻¹⁶

VOTE: Aye: Cindy Bennett, Don Dixon, Neil Stockfleth, & Suzan Boden
Nay: None
Absent: Chris Zellmer-Zant

ITEM R3. Capital Improvement Projects Update (Schneider)

Schneider reported on the following capital improvement projects.

1. Southwood Cabins, Little Sioux Park Cabin Improvements

Little Sioux:

The concrete sidewalk project at the Little Sioux cabins has been postponed until fall.

Southwood:

The concrete living areas around the Southwood cabins have been poured. Extra cement was used for access stoop sections by the dock.

The contractor plans to have the cabins complete in two weeks, but a lot of outside work remains to be done. Appliances were found on sale at Sears and will be finalized this week. The siding on the last cabin is nearly complete. The dirt contractor will be out to finish up toward the end of next week. The ditch will be dug out and seeded. It is hoped that the cabins will be ready for the July 4th weekend, but everything needs to be completed first.

Cabin names that reflect the local area were discussed. It was agreed that something in regard to the Smokey Hollow Subwatershed and the Stagecoach Loop would be appropriate. The Board agreed on the names “Smokey Hollow” and “Stagecoach” for the two cabins.

2. Fowler Forest shelter replacement/design services

Ideas for rebuilding the Fowler Forest shelter house were discussed. The new shelter would be built in the same orientation as the current structure, but would be an enclosed shelter available for rent with an open-air structure on one end to be used on a first-come, first-served basis. Schneider will talk with an architect next week to start working on a design. A decision will need to be made as to what will be done with the old structure.

¹⁹⁻¹⁶ To approve the proposed FY 17 full-time and regular part-time conservation employee salary and wage schedule as presented.

ITEM R4. Board member / staff reports

1. Nature Center activities (Snyder)

Snyder reported on the following Nature Center activities.

- Interns started this week and will be helping with summer programs and day camps. Derik, the habitat intern, has been on staff since mid-May.
- Summer day camp reservations are above 80%, and all scheduled camps have reached their minimum capacity.
- The small slide has been installed at the Nature Playscape. The remaining three slides are ready to be installed. A scout troop has volunteered to help clear the area and put down wood chips for an Eagle project.
- Snyder will be meeting in Fort Dodge next Tuesday to score REAP grants.
- Loess Hills Alliance Board met today at the Nature Center.
- A camp program is scheduled at Brown's Lake on the 11th. Information will be sent to the park for the kiosks.
- Next week Theresa Kruid will be taking the interns around to the parks to familiarize them with the facilities.
- Nature Calls
 - Sponsorships are at \$8,750 to date.
 - Four artist exhibitors are signed up.
 - Some auction items have come in.
- A water leak issue has been ongoing at the Nature Center and is being repaired.

2. Park activities (Peterson)

Peterson reported on the following park activities.

- After a slow start, the past weekend was busy at all parks.
- The Little Sioux beach was not opened yet due to high water. Dewatering has been happening, and the top of the outlet tube can be seen now.
- The Bigelow Park campground septic system is still experiencing issues due to the high water table. Other alternatives will be explored next week.
- Midway Park also has been experiencing high water, causing the north and south ponds to flow over the boat ramp and merge together.
- Three more beaver have been trapped at the Owego big structure, and water is flowing again.
- Monarch site prep is underway but has also been slowed because of the wet weather.
- Pheasants Forever will be sponsoring a fishing derby at Little Sioux Park on June 11th from 9:00 to 11:00 a.m.
- Resource Technician applications for Little Sioux Park have been reviewed and narrowed to five candidates. Interviews will take place on Monday, June 6th.

Brian Stehr presented a comparison of specs on grinder attachments for a Bobcat Skid Loader. The grinder would aid in performing timber stand improvement or invasive species removal. Of the three presented, he recommended the Diamond 60" disc style at a cost of \$21,950. Schneider explained that the 1-ton truck purchase has been pushed to next fiscal year, which frees up funds to purchase the grinder attachment in FY 16.

MOTION by Dixon, second by Boden.

To approve the purchase of the recommended Diamond forestry grinder attachment at a cost of \$21,950.²⁰⁻¹⁶

VOTE: Aye: Cindy Bennett, Don Dixon, Neil Stockfleth, & Suzan Boden
Nay: None
Absent: Chris Zellmer-Zant

It was reported that Kody Wohlers from Pottawattamie County Conservation Board builds fire slip-on units at a cost of \$10,000. The package includes a 250-gallon tank, Type 6 engine, 1” hose, motorized reel, pump and brass fittings. The unit will be used on the 1-ton flatbed truck planned to be purchased next fiscal year.

Chris Zellmer-Zant arrived at the meeting at 5:35 p.m.

3. **Administrative items (Schneider)**

Schneider reported on the following items.

a. **Land acquisition and grants update**

Schneider has prepared a grant application to the Iowa Chapter National Wild Turkey Federation Super Fund for \$15,000 in matching funds for the Roberts property addition to Curtin Timber. The grant applications will be scored in July.

A grant application is also being prepared to the Gilchrist Foundation for the same project. The request amount was discussed and set at \$75,000. This grant will also be awarded in July.

b. **2016 IACCB Annual Conference: Ft. Dodge, Hamilton & Webster CCB’s**

The 2016 IACCB Annual Conference will be held in Fort Dodge on September 15-17, hosted by Hamilton & Webster County Conservation Boards. Board members are welcome to attend if interested.

c. **Staffing Updates**

Sixteen good applications were received for the Little Sioux Resource Technician position. The five-member interview team narrowed it down to five applicants to be interviewed on Monday. The planned start date will be July 5th.

d. **Fund transfers for FY 16**

Inter-fund transfers will be made from the Conservation Reserve Fund to cover large expenditures made throughout the fiscal year. The transfers will show up on the July quarterly statement.

e. **Set date/time for July meeting**

The next board meeting will be held on Thursday, July 7, 2016, at Snyder Bend Park. President Bennett will not be able to attend.

²⁰⁻¹⁶ To approve the purchase of the recommended Diamond forestry grinder attachment at a cost of \$21,950.

f. Additional items

Schneider noted that a question had come up from the range safety officers about whether they could shoot at the range without a permit or be issued an annual permit. They would only use the range when no other shooters were present and put their gear away if someone arrived. It was approved by Board consensus.

g. Peterson Retirement

Schneider acknowledged that Mark Peterson will be retiring effective June 30th after 26 years with Woodbury County. He presented Mark with a retirement gift from the Board and commended him on his 38 years of dedication to conservation work.

ITEM R5. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 5:50 p.m. A tour of the new Southwood cabins was offered following the board meeting.

The above minutes were typed by Dawn Bostwick.

Recording Secretary, Dawn Bostwick

Board Secretary, Neil Stockfleth

Board President, Cindy Bennett