

**WOODBURY COUNTY, IOWA, CONSERVATION BOARD
MINUTES OF THE THURSDAY, APRIL 6, 2017, BOARD MEETING**

The following is a true copy of the minutes of the meeting of the Woodbury County, Iowa, Conservation Board held on Thursday, April 6, 2017, at the Dorothy Pecaut Nature Center beginning at 4:30 p.m.

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT

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

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT

None

STAFF PRESENT

Schneider, Snyder, Stehr, VanVoorst, and Bostwick

OTHERS PRESENT

None

CALL TO ORDER

President Boden called the meeting to order at 4:30 p.m.

CORRESPONDENCE ITEMS

Schneider presented an invitation from the Iowa Law Enforcement Academy for the 272nd Basic Class Graduation on April 14, 2017. Dylan Bales and Erik Lindsay will be graduating with this class.

Schneider reported that Bob Farmer of The Shooting Shop in Anthon requested a special permit to host a demo by NEMO Arms at the shooting range on Saturday, May 13th.

Schneider also noted that Brent Berry of Back Country Horsemen asked to address the board at the May meeting in regard to a proposed project at Southwood Conservation Area.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

None

ITEM R1. APPROVE CONSENT AGENDA

MOTION by Zellmer-Zant, second by Dixon.

To approve the consent agenda.

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

Consent agenda was approved and involved the following items:

ITEM C1. Approve minutes of the March 14, 2017 monthly meeting.

ITEM C2. Approve March 2017 claims and expenditures.

ITEM C3. Receive and place on file the March 2017 financial / budget report and the 3rd Quarter FY 17 Reserve Fund Report.

ITEM C4. Acceptance of Gifts/Donations:

1. Gene and Ginger Martin – Monetary donation (\$750) for Red-tailed Hawk adoption and animal care.
2. Ed Walding – Monetary donation (\$1,000) for intern fund.

ITEM R2. Consideration and acceptance of quote to replace Nature Center parking light fixtures with LED fixtures. (Schneider)

Schneider presented a quote from Thompson Electric to replace the Nature Center parking lot light fixtures with LED fixtures. They have determined that the integrity of the posts is good and only the heads will need replaced. The estimated cost is \$5,670 after rebates.

MOTION by Zellmer-Zant, second by Stockfleth.

To accept and approve the quote from Thompson Electric for replacing the Nature Center parking lot light fixtures with LED fixtures at a cost of \$5,670 after rebates.⁹⁻¹⁷

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

ITEM R3. Review and action on quotes for purchase of pickup truck. (Stehr)

Stehr presented quotes for a 2017 1-ton pickup replacement for Little Sioux Park. He found that pre-owned pickups with the desired specifications were hard to find and didn't offer much savings compared to a new pickup. Quotes were received from Knoepfler Chevrolet for a 2017 Chevrolet 1500 Silverado at a cost of \$26,990 and from Sioux City Ford for a 2017 Ford F150 at a cost of \$27,987. Stehr recommended the Chevy because of the price difference and the larger V8 engine.

MOTION by Stockfleth, second by Zellmer-Zant.

To approve the purchase of a 2017 Chevrolet 1500 Silverado from Knoepfler Chevrolet at a purchase price of \$26,990.¹⁰⁻¹⁷

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

⁹⁻¹⁷ To accept and approve the quote from Thompson Electric for replacing the Nature Center parking lot light fixtures with LED fixtures at a cost of \$5,670 after rebates.

¹⁰⁻¹⁷ To approve the purchase of a 2017 Chevrolet 1500 Silverado from Knoepfler Chevrolet at a purchase price of \$26,990.

ITEM R4. Discussion of reduced swim beach hours at Brown’s Lake. (VanVoorst)

Resource Manager VanVoorst asked the board to consider reducing the swimming beach hours at Brown’s Lake, suggesting a 6:00 p.m. closing time rather than 8:00 p.m. He explained that problems are consistently being experienced during the last few hours that the beach is open, particularly on the weekends. He stated that law enforcement needs at the beach are taking away from time spent at the campgrounds and in providing a good experience for paying campers. He also stated that alcohol violation tickets under code 350.5 are hard to enforce and are usually thrown out by judges who aren’t familiar with it. The board was sympathetic but decided to delay action until next month so that the situation at Little Sioux Park beach can be considered at the same time.

ITEM R5. Capital Improvement Projects Reports (Schneider)

a. Little Sioux Park bank stabilization project.

Schneider reported that the contractor for the Little Sioux Park bank stabilization project moved into the park this week and will begin work soon.

b. Little Sioux Park water control structure.

Schneider stated that the contractor will also begin work on the water control structure. Forty tandem truckloads of dirt have been hauled in for the plug dam.

c. Park residences remodeling.

Schneider reported that the Little Sioux residence remodeling was well underway and is ready for texturing and painting.

d. Little Sioux Park cabin sidewalks.

Schneider stated that the concrete for the Little Sioux cabin sidewalks should be poured in a few days.

ITEM R6. Board member/staff reports

1. Nature Center activities (Snyder)

Snyder reported on the following Nature Center activities:

- Carlyn Iverson, an artist from Minnesota, is here making repairs to the eagle for the Nature Center playscape. Dean Van Roekel has volunteered to build an eagle nest play structure. The eagle will then be installed above or near the nest where it will not be accessible for climbing.
- Summer day camp registration for Foundation members began April 5th, with 70 campers currently registered. Non-member registration will begin April 12th.
- The spring programs calendar has quickly filled up with field trips for Theresa, Tyler and Dawn. Only self-guided tours are available now. Unfortunately, teachers calling late to schedule field trips won’t be able to be accommodated due to limited building space in case of inclement weather.
- The volunteer dinner went very well with 85 people in attendance.

- Olaf, the resident barred owl, passed away unexpectedly last week. Kay Newman of S.O.A.R. will be looking for another raptor, preferably an owl, to fill the available space in the raptor house.
- Tickets are available for the May 5th showing of “*On Golden Pond*” at LAMB Theatre with all proceeds going towards the Nature Center. LAMB will be sending out postcards advertising the event.
- Nature Calls sponsor letters started going out this week. Letters will be prepared for the board members to send once the sponsor lists have been approved.
- The Nature Center was contacted by the State Archeologist’s office with a request to display a commemorative plaque for the Kimball Village site, Iowa’s newest National Historic Landmark. The National Park Service would provide the plaque at their cost. The board agreed by consensus to allow this plaque to be displayed in the Nature Center.
- Graham McGaffin of the Iowa Nature Conservancy is seeking sponsors for the Iowa Prairie Conference being held in Council Bluffs in July. The lowest sponsorship is \$250.
- A “Fund the Trust” day is being held at the capitol building on Tuesday, April 11th. Board members are encouraged to contact legislators asking for support of House File #597.

2. Park activities (Stehr)

Stehr reported on the following park activities.

- Little Sioux staff has been removing trees for the bank stabilization project and moving dirt for the water control structure project.
- The shooting range project was finished on Monday.
- Fencing is being added at the D50 bridge parcel today.
- Snyder Bend/Brown’s Lake staff has been power washing and sealing the cabin and observation decks.
- Small prairie burns have been completed near the Bigelow Park shop area.
- Southwood staff has been working on signage and burn plans.
- Two summer employees have been added.
- The new Resource Technician for Little Sioux will start on Monday, April 10th.
- Gill Hauling has agreed to add one-stream recycling dumpsters at Little Sioux, Brown’s Lake and Snyder Bend parks. They aren’t able to provide recycling service at Southwood because it is in a different recycling district. A 3-yard dumpster is \$35 per month and a 4-yard dumpster is \$45 per month. The collection points will be in an area which allows for some supervision and will be prominently marked. If they end up full of trash, however, the park will be responsible for having them emptied at a cost of \$15-30 per trip. Announcements will be made on the website and Facebook, as well as through the campground hosts. Stehr will continue to pursue a contractor for Southwood Conservation Area.

MOTION by Stockfleth, second by Dixon.

To approve contracting with Gill Hauling for one-stream recycling pick-up service at Little Sioux Park, Snyder Bend Park, and Bigelow Park from mid-May to early October on an experimental basis.

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

- Dixon noted that a few panels on the Correctionville trail need to be replaced and that riprap is needed in an area on the northwest corner of the river bridge. He suggested that each board member be assigned a park to visit regularly and report any areas that need attention or repairs.
- The John Deere front deck mower has been ordered.
- Stehr asked the board to consider purchasing additional law enforcement equipment for WCCB officers. All officers in Iowa, other than conservation officers, carry either rifles or shotguns. Rifles are recommended because of the longer effective range and round capacity. The board asked that Stehr provide costs at the May meeting.

3. Administrative items (Schneider)

Schneider reported on the following items.

a. Resource Technician positions status

Derek Bean will start as Resource Technician at Little Sioux Park on Monday, April 10th. He will commute from Onawa for a few weeks until the residence remodeling is done.

b. Riverside Bluffs sale of parcel progress

The survey work has been completed with the final parcel being 0.347 acre. The boundary lines were adjusted to be parallel and to extend to the center line of Military Road. The parcel includes a roadway easement and perpetual right-of-way easement. It was appraised at \$2,800. The initial agreement stipulated that the purchaser would be responsible for a minimum of \$1,500 to cover the cost of the survey, appraisal and closing costs.

MOTION by Stockfleth, second by Dixon.

To approve the sale of a 0.347 acre parcel at Riverside Bluffs with an initial asking price of the full appraised value of \$2,800, plus half of the actual costs incurred, and to authorize Schneider to negotiate the sale at his discretion.¹¹⁻¹⁷

VOTE: Aye: Chris Zellmer-Zant, Cindy Bennett, Don Dixon, Neil Stockfleth & Suzan Boden

Nay: None

Absent: None

c. LWCF grant update

The tribal historic preservation officer was planning to bring her crew to the Roberts site on April 10th, but her tribal council hasn't approved it yet. They hope to do it later this month.

d. ILEA training for Nathan Silfies May 1- August 11

Two employees, Dylan Bales and Erik Lindsay, will be graduating from the Iowa Law Enforcement Academy on April 14th. Nathan Silfies will take his physical test on April 10th and begin his ILEA training on May 1st.

¹¹⁻¹⁷ To approve the sale of a 0.347 acre parcel at Riverside Bluffs with an initial asking price of the full appraised value of \$2,800, plus half of the actual costs incurred, and to authorize Schneider to negotiate the sale at his discretion.

e. Little Sioux River DOT property access

The Attorney General's office agreed with the County Attorney's request for a wording change regarding the liability statement on the proposed lease agreement form for the river access site owned by the Iowa DOT near the D-50 bridge on Highway 31. The signed agreement has been received. The south boundary fence has been installed.

Schneider recommended that the site be named "Meyer Access" as requested by former Resource Manager, Bernie Ketelsen, in memory of his grandfather who owned the property to the east.

MOTION by Zellmer-Zant, second by Bennett.

To approve the name "Meyer Access" for the river access site along Highway 31 near the D-50 bridge. ¹²⁻¹⁷

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

f. 2017 Camping Kick-off Weekend May 5-7

The camping kick-off weekend will be May 5-7, 2017. Campers will receive a can koozie, a WCCB ballpoint pen, and a certificate for one free night of camping.

ITEM R7. Review and set summer meeting schedule. (Schneider)

Schneider reviewed the typical summer meeting rotation stating that the first meeting would be held at Southwood Conservation Area, followed by Snyder Bend, Brown's Lake, Little Sioux, and Fowler Forest, with the annual picnic being held either at Brown's Lake or the Nature Center. Following this schedule, it was agreed that the May meeting will be held at Southwood Conservation Area on Wednesday, May 3rd, beginning at 4:30 p.m.

ITEM R8. Succession planning discussion for Conservation Director position. (Conservation Board)

Schneider noted that he recently sent each board member an updated hiring time schedule, samples of job descriptions from other counties, and potential interview questions for the Conservation Director position. He distributed a salary range matrix from the top 14 counties for 2006 and 2017, which also noted the total acres managed, number of employees, and years of experience. Schneider reported that he has been working on an updated job description and expects the HR Director to review it next week. For advertising to begin in mid-May, the board will need to approve the job description, determine the salary range, and decide on advertising outlets at the May board meeting.

¹²⁻¹⁷ To approve the name "Meyer Access" for the river access site along Highway 31 near the D-50 bridge.

ITEM R9. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 6:07 p.m.

The above minutes were typed by Dawn Bostwick.

Recording Secretary, Dawn Bostwick

Board Secretary, Chris Zellmer-Zant

Board President, Suzan Boden