

**WOODBURY COUNTY, IOWA, CONSERVATION BOARD  
MINUTES OF THE THURSDAY, AUGUST 3, 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, August 3, 2017, at Heritage Shelter in Little Sioux Park 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, Fundermann, and Bostwick

**OTHERS PRESENT**

Dan Heissel, Director - Clay County Conservation Board  
Dan Kleen, President - National OHV Conservation Council  
Tim Johnson, Tri-State OHV Club  
Calvin Towns, OHV operator

**CALL TO ORDER**

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

**CORRESPONDENCE ITEMS**

Schneider presented an invitation to the Iowa Law Enforcement Academy's 275<sup>th</sup> Basic Class Graduation to be held on August 18, 2017. Nathan Silfies, Assistant Resource Manager at Little Sioux Park, will be part of the graduating class.

Schneider also shared a thank you note from one of the candidates interviewed for the Director's position.

**PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

None

**ITEM R1.      APPROVE CONSENT AGENDA**

**MOTION** by Dixon, second by Bennett.

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 July 6, 2017 monthly meeting and the July 17, 2017 meeting.**

**ITEM C2.    Approve July 2017 and June 2017 accrued claims and expenditures.**

**ITEM C3.    Receive and place on file the July 2017 financial / budget report.**

**ITEM C4. Acceptance of Gifts/Donations:**

1. Pat Moseman – Five framed prairie plan posters.
2. Sioux Valley Sports Club, Inc. – Monetary donation (\$500) for youth programming.

**ITEM R2. Presentation by Tri-State OHV Club. (Dan Kleen)**

Dan Kleen and Tim Johnson of the Tri-State OHV Club presented information about their organization and the use of off-highway vehicles across the state. They shared their desire to purchase at least 80-120 acres within Woodbury county to develop an OHV park. The organization has funding available for this purpose through state OHV registration fees and federal tax dollars. Gypsum City in Fort Dodge was lifted as an example of their largest park project that was professionally designed and built rather than user created. Discussion was held regarding the need for a campground in conjunction with the OHV park as well.

**ITEM R3. Review proposal for public Wi-Fi and internet access at Little Sioux Park from Xtreme Air. (Schneider)**

Schneider reported that he has had discussions with Bob Bendixen of Xtream Air, who is building a wireless network to serve the area between Holstein and Correctionville. Bendixen completed a line-of-sight study at Little Sioux Park and believes he can provide service with a 50' tower near the shop using directional antennae to broadcast the signal to the rest of the park. A high-speed connection would be available for the office with a slower connection broadcast to the public areas. Public users would have the option to purchase additional speed for a daily fee. The project installation cost is estimated at \$8,230 with no contract required. The monthly rate would be calculated after a month of usage. Installation would take place this fall. The board asked Schneider to ask for a commitment on the maximum monthly rate.

Schneider noted that Wiatel will be installing fiber to the cabins at Southwood Conservation Area, which could also be broadcast to the rest of the park in much the same way.

He also reported that Fibercomm would be flying a drone at the Nature Center next week to evaluate the possibility of providing internet service from a nearby tower possibly by using the parking lot light poles.

**ITEM R4. LAWCON grant status: Reiterate Board's intent to keep Curtin Timber Addition as a natural area with no development. (Schneider)**

Schneider stated that the LAWCON grant cultural resources issue hasn't yet been resolved. The National Park Service recommended that the board officially reaffirm the intent to keep the Curtin Timber Addition as a natural area with no development other than the parking lot which has been approved provided a cultural resources monitor is on site when the earth is disturbed. The work on the parking lot will most likely be done by conservation staff to avoid the need to coordinate a contractor and a cultural resources consultant to be on site at the same time.

**MOTION** by Zellmer-Zant, second by Stockfleth.

To reaffirm the intent to keep the Curtin Timber Addition as a natural area with no development other than the approved parking lot and signage.<sup>24-17</sup>

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<sup>24-17</sup> To reaffirm the intent to keep the Curtin Timber Addition as a natural area with no development other than the approved parking lot and signage.

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

**ITEM R5. Capital Improvement Projects Update (Schneider)**

**1. Little Sioux Park Beach renovation – Review of materials cost estimate and type of retaining wall.**

Schneider presented new plans for the Little Sioux Park beach renovation incorporating reduced and shortened drainage inlets, resulting in less linear feet needed. Quotes acquired from three vendors for the retaining wall blocks were reviewed. In addition, Schneider will get specs from the engineer for a poured concrete retaining wall and obtain quotes for materials.

**2. Engineering proposals for Brown’s Lake shoreline development.**

Schneider requested engineering proposals from three additional firms for the Brown’s Lake shoreline improvement project and received one response. The board discussed and compared the two proposals for a preliminary design received from FYRA Engineering at \$13,425 and JEO Consulting Group at \$11,452.

**MOTION** by Stockfleth, second by Bennett.

To approve and authorize Schneider to contract with JEO Consulting Group for a preliminary design on the Brown’s Lake shoreline improvement project at a cost of \$11,452.<sup>25-17</sup>

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

**3. Oak Ridge water impoundment structure replacement.**

Schneider reported that he, along with Don Haahr and Erik Lindsay, met with Steve Langholdt, an NRCS engineer, at the site of the breached water control structure in Oak Ridge Conservation Area and reviewed the proposed site for a new structure. Langholdt will have their geologist inspect the soil and schedule a survey for the fall. The design will need to meet requirements for a high-hazard structure because of the proximity to Oto.

**ITEM R6. Acceptance of interview committee’s recommendation for new Conservation Director. (Boden)**

Schneider acknowledged that an offer had been made, pending board approval, to Dan Heissel for the Executive Director position. The start date has been moved to November 1<sup>st</sup>, rather than November 6<sup>th</sup>, to allow insurance coverage to begin on December 1<sup>st</sup>, rather than January 1<sup>st</sup>.

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<sup>25-17</sup> To approve and authorize Schneider to contract with JEO Consulting Group for a preliminary design on the Brown’s Lake shoreline improvement project at a cost of \$11,452.

**MOTION** by Zellmer-Zant, second by Stockfleth.

To approve the offer of employment to Dan Heissel to fill the Executive Director position beginning November 1, 2017.<sup>26-17</sup>

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

**ITEM R7. Board member/staff reports**

**1. Nature Center activities (Snyder)**

Snyder reported on the following Nature Center activities:

- Snyder applied for a Gilchrist Foundation grant in the amount of \$74,825 for sidewalks, limestone retaining wall, and overlook deck repair. The grant was funded at \$33,325 for the concrete path and Gobbler Point overlook repair. Additional costs will be added for installing underground downspouts on the lower patio. Snyder indicated that the terracing at the Playscape would be priority this fall. She has made other grant requests to Cargill for \$25,000 and Burlington Northern for \$10,000. Other funding possibilities include Union Pacific and MRRD. She requested the use of REAP or Reserve Fund dollars to cover the shortage and allow the project to get underway.

**MOTION** by Dixon, second by Bennett.

To approve and authorize Snyder to proceed with the Nature Center sidewalk and Playscape terracing project using available funds to pay for the entire project up front while continuing to seek grants to supplement funds already raised.<sup>27-17</sup>

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

- Nature Calls sponsorships of almost \$18,000 have been received to date. Additional auction items have been received including a couple pieces of jewelry and a Canada fishing trip for 4-6 people. Tickets can now be purchased online or by calling the Nature Center. The event will be publicized in the Journal and Weekender at the end of August. An announcement was placed in the state newsletter inviting IACCB conference attendees to come to Nature Calls following the conference.
- WCCB has a booth at the Woodbury County Fair which is going on now.
- Summer day camps concluded yesterday.
- Interns will end their season after next week. One intern will be staying a little longer as she is no longer in school.

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<sup>26-17</sup> To approve the offer of employment to Dan Heissel to fill the Executive Director position beginning November 1, 2017.

<sup>27-17</sup> To approve and authorize Snyder to proceed with the Nature Center sidewalk and Playscape terracing project using available funds to pay for the entire project up front while continuing to seek grants to supplement funds already raised.

## 2. Park activities (Stehr)

Stehr reported on the following park activities:

- Park staff have switched from mowing to watering trees and other projects due to the dry weather.
- Little Sioux staff have been hauling dirt from the water control structure to the primitive camping area.
- Woodchips were added to the playground near the Little Sioux cabins.
- Southwood staff have been spraying food plots and crown vetch.
- Southwood and Little Sioux staff have completed the first of two required mowings of the butterfly plots.
- A CCI crew will be at Riverside Bluffs the week of August 14<sup>th</sup> to do some fencing.
- Andy Anderson has offered to donate a flag pole in memory of his father and former WCCB employee, Bill Anderson. It will be a 30' commercial flag pole and will be placed behind the registration kiosk at Snyder Bend Park.
- Dave Hoffman of the IDNR has provided information about a swan restoration program. Because of a current national shortage of males, two females would be placed initially until a male becomes available. If a male becomes available and any cygnets are produced, some would be allowed to be released in Woodbury county, but most would go to southern Iowa. Requirements include a 3-4 acre fenced area, an aerator to keep water open year-round, and a water depth of at least five feet. If the area provided is large enough (approximately 20 acres), no fence would be needed. The swans would also need 50 pounds of corn and protein pellets per month during the winter. Expected cost for an aerator is \$1,000. A chain link fence would cost approximately \$23,000 for the area identified at Little Sioux Park.
- Andy Anderson has asked to be allowed to take hay from the tree nursery area near Fowler Forest Preserve to be used strictly for feeding his own livestock. The area is full of crown vetch, and he has offered to come back and spray later.

**MOTION** by Zellmer-Zant, second by Dixon.

To allow Andy Anderson to take hay from the tree nursery area near Fowler Forest provided he sprays for crown vetch when done.<sup>28-17</sup>

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

Dixon asked if the walking trail which has been under water much of the last four years near the Little Sioux Park lake could be put into use again. Building up a ballast area for the first 50-60' of the trail was suggested. Some clearing and widening has already been done last spring. The worrisome state of the cottonwood trees in the primitive camping area was also discussed. The front sites along the pavement may be opened back up, with the back area remaining closed.

## 3. Administrative items (Schneider)

Schneider stated that a draft of the annual report is almost done and that the easement visits would be completed this month. He also reported on the following items:

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<sup>28-17</sup> To allow Andy Anderson to take hay from the tree nursery area near Fowler Forest provided he sprays for crown vetch when done.

**a. 2017 IACCB Annual Conference: Sioux Center, Sioux & Lyon CCB's**

Don, Brian, and Rick are registered to attend the Annual Conference in September. Registration deadline is August 15<sup>th</sup>.

**b. Owego Management Plan progress, grazing/haying requests**

Schneider, along with Stehr, Haahr and Lindsay, met with Sheila Cox of the NRCS who will be writing a new management plan for Owego Wetland Complex. The basic plan has been turned in. Grazing and haying will be added later due to new regulations.

A request was received for grazing at Owego and Oak Ridge, but neither areas are available this year.

**c. Riverside Bluffs access progress**

The City of Sioux City has installed the culvert for Riverside Bluffs access from Military Road. They plan to add rock and possibly a gate.

**d. FY 19 Budget**

Schneider will start working on the FY19 budget and have an initial draft in September or October. The Board of Supervisors will provide instruction, but the budget is expected to be tight for another year.

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

The next meeting was not set at this time.

Zellmer-Zant asked about the possibility of obtaining a mountain lion killed near Ida Grove for display at the Nature Center.

**ITEM R8. Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 6:15 p.m.

The above minutes were typed by Dawn Bostwick.

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Recording Secretary, Dawn Bostwick

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Board Secretary, Chris Zellmer-Zant

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Board President, Suzan Boden