

**WOODBURY COUNTY, IOWA, CONSERVATION BOARD
MINUTES OF THE THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 7, 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, September 7, 2017, at the Dorothy Pecaut Nature Center beginning at 4:30 p.m.

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT

Chris Zellmer-Zant, Cindy Bennett, and Don Dixon

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT

Neil Stockfleth and Suzan Boden

STAFF PRESENT

Schneider, Snyder, Stehr, and Bostwick

OTHERS PRESENT

Marty Pottebaum, County Supervisor
Dakin Schultz, Iowa Department of Transportation

CALL TO ORDER

Acting President Zellmer-Zant called the meeting to order at 4:30 p.m.

CORRESPONDENCE ITEMS

Schneider presented a letter from Todd Coffelt of the Iowa Department of Natural Resources indicating that they will be contacting all county conservation boards that manage old state parks for participation in the DNR's 100th anniversary of state parks coming up in 2020.

Schneider also shared the schedule for the REAP Assemblies, which meet biennially during odd years. The meeting for Woodbury County will be held in Correctionville on October 25, 2017.

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, and Don Dixon
 Nay: None
 Absent: Neil Stockfleth and Suzan Boden

Consent agenda was approved and involved the following items:

ITEM C1. Approve minutes of the August 3, 2017 monthly meeting.

ITEM C2. Approve August FY17 accrued and August FY18 claims and expenditures.

ITEM C3. Receive and place on file the June Final Accrued FY17 and August 2017 financial / budget reports.

ITEM C4. Acceptance of Gifts/Donations:

1. Sheryl Rose – Danbury Mint Songbird Ornament collection.

ITEM R2. Consideration and action on final proposal from Xtreamair Wireless to provide and install wireless internet equipment in Little Sioux Park. (Schneider)

Schneider received information from Bob Bendixen of Xtreamair Wireless regarding the type of footings needed for the communications tower to be installed at Little Sioux Park. The tower will be a 60' self-supporting tower. Schneider recommends that a concrete contractor with experience in tower bases be used to pour the footings.

Schneider noted that during an onsite meeting with Bendixen, some areas were determined to need additional coverage over the one mesh antenna included in the original quote. Coverage at the registration booth was also added in case electronic payments are desired in the future. The tower height was increased by 10'. With these additions, the final cost is \$12,945, plus the cost of installing the tower footings. Coverage for the beach area and some of the primitive camping area is not included at this time.

MOTION by Dixon, second by Bennett.

To approve and authorize contracting with Xtreamair Wireless to provide and install wireless internet equipment in Little Sioux Park at a cost of \$12,945.²⁹⁻¹⁷

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

ITEM R3. Consideration and action on proposals for Beach Renovations at Little Sioux Park. (Schneider)

Schneider reported that only one proposal was received for the Little Sioux beach renovation project. Johnston Excavating submitted a quote of \$8,920 for the installation of the parking lot drainage system with completion this fall. In speaking with contractors, Schneider found that no quotes were submitted because contractors couldn't do the work this fall. After informing them of the final completion deadline of May 15th, two contractors expressed interest and will be submitting proposals for the concrete retaining wall.

Ag Drainage Systems alerted Schneider to the skyrocketing costs of the SDR26 PVC pipe to be used in the beach drainage system due to the recent hurricane. He recommended using HDPE material which is used for storm sewer pipes and will be \$1,300 cheaper than the quote for the original materials. Schneider sent the information to the engineer for approval.

Schneider noted that changing the wall height from 5' to 4' lowered the cost to \$40,000 which is comparable to the cost of blocks but would provide a better wall. The shorter height works better for the contractors because their forms are also 4'.

²⁹⁻¹⁷ To approve and authorize contracting with Xtreamair Wireless to provide and install wireless internet equipment in Little Sioux Park at a cost of \$12,945.

MOTION by Dixon, second by Bennett.

To approve the proposal from Johnston Excavating to install the parking lot drainage system for Little Sioux Park beach at a cost of \$8,920.³⁰⁻¹⁷

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

ITEM R4. Capital Improvement Projects Update (Schneider)

1. Brown’s Lake shoreline development – Preliminary design kick-off meeting.

Schneider met with Jake Miriovsky and Dennis Stille of JEO Consulting Group on August 30th at Brown’s Lake to review the project plans, including stabilizing shoreline erosion, creating better fishing access with piers & jetties, and providing accessible parking lot and facilities. JEO will complete topographic and bathymetric surveys next week and complete the preliminary design work by the end of October.

2. Oak Ridge water impoundment structure replacement – NRCS correspondence.

Schneider received notice that the USDA cannot assist with the plans for the Oak Ridge structure replacement due to lack of funding. Schneider again contacted Christine Evans at the NRCS and set up a meeting with John Thomas of Golden Hills Resource Conservation and Development for next Wednesday to discuss the possibility of their providing technical assistance, but not engineering services. Golden Hills may be able to offer cost-share assistance through the Hungry Canyons Alliance.

ITEM R5. Review and consideration of potential land acquisition project. (Schneider)

Discussion was held regarding the potential acquisition of approximately 87 acres of timberland west of Correctionville that contains significant prehistoric artifacts from American First Nations people. Geoglyphs found by archaeologists when conducting cultural resources surveys for the DOT’s Highway 20 expansion project are also in that area. Schneider sent a letter to the landowner after hearing that they were interested in selling and found the property had been turned over to broker, Bruce Brock, who subsequently met with Schneider onsite. The property is listed at \$3,000/acre, and the landowner is willing to split off the 87-acre area. Because immediate action is needed, the purchase would need to be negotiated by the Iowa Natural Heritage Foundation on the board’s behalf and a repurchase agreement signed, which would need approval by the Board of Supervisors. REAP grants would be sought to cover the full purchase price.

Dakin Schultz of the Iowa DOT was on hand to present “*Landscapes that Shape Us – Mitigation Efforts of 2020*”, a video explaining the consultation process with the American First Nations people regarding the sites where many artifacts were discovered during the Highway 20 expansion. Several public presentations are upcoming, and he will inform the board of those meeting dates.

³⁰⁻¹⁷ To approve the proposal from Johnston Excavating to install the parking lot drainage system for Little Sioux Park beach at a cost of \$8,920.

MOTION by Dixon, second by Bennett.

To pursue the purchase of approximately 87 acres of timberland near Correctionville through a repurchase agreement with the Iowa Natural Heritage Foundation. ³¹⁻¹⁷

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

ITEM R6. Board member/staff reports

1. Nature Center activities (Snyder)

Snyder reported on the following Nature Center activities:

a. Nature Center Sidewalks and Playscape Terracing project

Claussen Group has been contracted and given a down payment for the Playscape terracing project. Work will begin in late October or early November. Snyder has contacted Don Sewalson about moving the retaining wall behind the Nature Center and expanding that area for equipment in preparation of laying concrete sidewalks. That work should be completed by the end of September, and then Mike Barkley can begin installing the underground drainage in that area.

b. Nature Calls event

Snyder distributed lists of live auction items, sponsors, brews and wines for Nature Calls. Ticket are currently being sold online or at the Nature Center. It was noted that the last of six handmade knives created for Nature Calls by the late Louis Aitken will be auctioned off this year. Other knife options were briefly discussed for future years.

c. Other items

Nature Center program and visitation numbers were distributed. Snyder explained that last August's numbers were higher due to the eagle release program held in Anthon which drew approximately 750 people.

WCCF is the new local sponsor and fiscal agent for the Plant Some Shade Siouland program in cooperation with MidAmerican Energy & the Iowa Department of Natural Resources. MidAmerican Energy customers may purchase up to two shade trees at a discounted cost of \$30 per tree. WCCF is receiving the order, and Mary Koster, formerly of the Sioux City Chamber, is tabulating the orders. WCCF will pay the nursery with reimbursement coming from MidAmerican Energy. Trees will be delivered on October 5th. Snyder will be participating in a press conference with MidAmerican and the DNR on Friday.

A proclamation which was signed by Governor Reynolds on August 24th was approved by the Woodbury County Board of Supervisors this week declaring September 23rd through October 1st as Loess Hills Heritage Week in Iowa. Several events are being planned around the area.

³¹⁻¹⁷ To pursue the purchase of approximately 87 acres of timberland near Correctionville through a repurchase agreement with the Iowa Natural Heritage Foundation.

The Loess Hills poster contest deadline is September 22nd. There are three age categories with a cash prize for each in every county and additional cash prizes for overall winners.

Tyler is doing a geocaching program in Onawa on Saturday, September 9th, and will be at the Clay County Fair the following Saturday, September 16th. Theresa and Tyler both will be at the Ponca State Park Expo student day on Friday, September 15th.

2. Park activities (Stehr)

Stehr reported on the following park activities:

a. Update on swan display

Stehr discussed fencing alternatives with Dave Hoffman of the IDNR. Hoffman recommended fencing an area rather than letting the swans use the whole lake with no fencing, even if only temporarily while the swans adjust to their new surroundings. He suggested woven wire or cattle panel fencing as more cost-effective alternatives to chain link fence. Stehr presented estimated costs for both options at \$4,051 for woven wire and \$5,521 for cattle panel.

Due to availability, the initial swans will both be female. Stehr cautioned that even once a male becomes available, only about 40% of breeding pairs produce and that it can take up to 4-6 years.

Discussion was held regarding concerns about displacing fishing on that section of the lake. Schneider stated that the fence could be removed at the south end across the water as soon as the swans have acclimated, probably no more than 1-2 years. People could also have access to fishing within the fenced area by installing a fence ladder.

The estimated project cost, including an aerator, fence, and ladder would be \$5,000.

MOTION by Zellmer-Zant, second by Bennett.

To proceed with building an enclosure for a pair of trumpeter swans at Little Sioux Park using woven wire fencing.³²⁻¹⁷

VOTE: Aye: Chris Zellmer-Zant, Cindy Bennett, and Don Dixon

Nay: None

Absent: Neil Stockfleth and Suzan Boden

b. Law enforcement equipment update

Stehr reported that the officer rifles are expected to arrive mid-September. Training is being arranged with the Sheriff's Department and will be scheduled after November 1st so Dan Heissel can participate. Stehr is working on developing a repayment plan for officers who wish to purchase their rifles.

³²⁻¹⁷ To proceed with building an enclosure for a pair of trumpeter swans at Little Sioux Park using woven wire fencing.

c. Other items

No major issues were experienced in the parks over the Labor Day weekend. Beaches are now closed for the season.

Mowing has started back up after all the August rain, just as the summer staff is finishing up for the season.

Approximately 14 million gallons of water were pumped in four different cells at Owego. The original piece is being kept dry for cattail mitigation.

The new flagpole donated in memory of Bill Anderson has been received and will be installed at Snyder Bend Park next week.

A CCI crew was here in August to fence the southeast corner of Riverside Bluffs. It rained all but two days, and only half of the project was completed. The rest was finished by staff. On the rain days, the crew was kept busy at Little Sioux Park cutting down trees and repairing parking bumper forms.

Fence and gates were installed on the Military Road access area to Riverside Bluffs.

3. Administrative items (Schneider)

Schneider reported on the following items:

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

Sioux and Lyon counties will be hosting the 2017 IACCB Annual Conference in Sioux Center on September 21-23. Schneider, Stehr, Dixon and Zant will be attending.

b. Owego Management Plan completed/signed

The NRCS Owego management plan has been completed and signed after 20 years of waiting. Grazing and haying were not included and will require separate plans if the board desires to pursue them later. The plan is good for ten years.

c. FY 17 Annual Report

Schneider sent out the administrative portion of the FY17 Annual Report for the board's review. The educational section, financials and pictures will all be added, and be ready for review at the October meeting.

d. FY 19 Budget

The FY19 budget will be reviewed at the October meeting. Schneider is waiting for some direction from the Board of Supervisors and Budget Director. Salaries savings will be realized due to retirements; however, those funds may not be available for use elsewhere in the budget.

e. Set date/time for October meeting

The next meeting will be held at 4:00 p.m. on October 5, 2017, at Brown's Lake-Bigelow Park. The annual appreciation picnic will be held following the meeting.

ITEM R7. Adjournment

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

The above minutes were typed by Dawn Bostwick.

Recording Secretary, Dawn Bostwick

Board Secretary, Chris Zellmer-Zant

Board President, Suzan Boden