

**WOODBURY COUNTY, IOWA, CONSERVATION BOARD
MINUTES OF THE THURSDAY, MAY 12, 2022, BOARD MEETING**

The following is a true copy of the minutes of the meeting of the Woodbury County, Iowa, Conservation Board held on Thursday, May 12, 2022, at the Dorothy Pecaut Nature Center beginning at 4:00 p.m.

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT

Aaron Gehling, Chris Zellmer-Zant (via Zoom), Cindy Bennett, Neil Stockfleth, and Tom Limoges

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT

None

STAFF PRESENT

Dan Heissel, Brian Stehr, Dawn Snyder, and Dawn Bostwick

OTHERS PRESENT

Jeremy Taylor, County Supervisor/Conservation Board Liaison

CALL TO ORDER

Chairperson Stockfleth called the meeting to order at 4:03 p.m.

CORRESPONDENCE ITEMS

None

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

None

ITEM R1. Approve Consent Agenda

MOTION by Tom, second by Aaron.

To approve the consent agenda.

VOTE: Aye: Aaron Gehling, Chris Zellmer-Zant, Cindy Bennett, Neil Stockfleth, & Tom Limoges
Nay: None
Absent: None

The consent agenda was approved and involved the following items:

- C1. Approve Minutes of the April 21, 2022 Regular Meeting.
- C2. Approve the April 2022 Claims and Expenditures
- C3. Receive and Place on File the April 2022 Financial/Budget Report and 3rd Quarter FY22 Reserve Fund Report
- C4. Acceptance of Gifts/Donations:
 - CF Industries for \$750 for Nature Center
 - Siouxland Community Foundation/Mildred Anderson \$1,000 Grant for Wildlife Viewing Scope
 - Karen Clark for \$100 in honor of Dawn Snyder for Tale Trail
 - Marla Kerr for Children's book
 - Rex & Maria Rundquist for Breeding Bird Atlas book
 - Donna Popp for Playscape tools

ITEM R2. Acknowledge the appointment of Seasonal Park Security Guards as Temporary Peace Officers for summer season: May 27 – September 5, 2022

Dan announced the three individuals who have been hired so far to work as seasonal security guards in the parks on weekends and holidays from Memorial Day weekend through Labor Day weekend. He asked that these individuals be officially appointed by board action as temporary peace officers for the department. There may be one or two more added later.

Discussion was held regarding the security guard duties. Dan explained that unless they are certified officers, they are not able to make arrests or carry a weapon. They patrol the parks, talk to guests to inform them of the rules, and call the ranger on duty or the sheriff's office for backup if necessary. Dan stated that the position is not attracting certified officers anymore at the current pay rates, and that may need to be addressed for next year.

MOTION by Cindy, second by Tom.

To designate the following seasonal park security guards as temporary peace officers for the 2022 season (May 27 – September 5): Molly Bixenman, Lance Dunkelberger, and Marcello Greco.²²⁻¹⁵

VOTE: Aye: Aaron Gehling, Chris Zellmer-Zant, Cindy Bennett, Neil Stockfleth, & Tom Limoges
Nay: None
Absent: None

ITEM R3. Capital Improvement Projects Update

1. Brown's Lake Projects

a. Road Project

Dan reported that the campground roads are done except for a couple radiuses that go to the parking lots. They milled the main road down to grade yesterday. They had to take it down a foot to get the grade on the base, and more rock had to be hauled in. The paving machine will start at the very end of the boat ramp Monday morning at 7:00 a.m. and will be done concreting by Monday evening. Then they will start doing the radiuses and the shoulder work. If it doesn't rain, they may finish ahead of schedule.

b. Campground Project

Dan stated that the rest of the campground project has been running behind because of the weather. The ground had been too cold for the grass to grow, but the seeding was finished up today. The pumps need to be hooked up to the electric but some of the supplies needed are still on order. There is some dirt work to do, and the pads need to be rocked. He predicted that only a portion of the campground will be opened initially.

c. Concession Project

Dan gave an update on the concession project stating that the building is up, and the roof and overhang are on. The electricians will start next week, and the plumbers will come after the drywall is hung. Paddle boats and docks have been ordered, and kayaks have been purchased. Dan is hesitant about advertising for the concession worker positions not

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knowing when the septic system will be approved. Neil suggested bringing in a couple portable toilets to aid in opening sooner. Dan stated that JEO has been hired to work through the permitting with the DNR. If the DNR determines a system needs to be engineered, that work will also have to be hired out.

d. Oak Ridge Unit One Dam Repair

Dan stated that pipe was ordered early in the year for the Oak Ridge dam repair, but it still hasn't arrived. Fines are supposed to be imposed on the contractor if the work is not completed by July 1, but Dan said the fines may need to be waived if there continues to be a supply issue that is out of their control.

ITEM R4. Board member/staff reports

1. Administrative items

Dan reported on the following items:

a. June Meeting Date

The next meeting will be held at 4:00 p.m. on June 9, 2022, at Brown's Lake.

b. Carryover of FY22 Funds for Motor Vehicles to FY23 Budget

Dan reported that the chassis cab truck order was cancelled by Chevy and cannot be reordered. Brian stated that he called the dealers who had submitted bids last time. He was told that Ford can't get pricing until December, Chevy will be able to get pricing in June and place orders in July, and Ram can't order fleet vehicles until August. Additionally, the ¾ ton truck hasn't been built yet and may not be built before July 1st. Dan explained that items cannot be paid for before they are received, so he talked to the budget director about carrying over a portion of the motor vehicles budget to the next fiscal year's budget due to unavailability of trucks. He was told the conservation board would need to approve a motion to ask to have restricted funds on general basic for specific line items and provide exact dollar amounts. Then a request will have to be taken to the supervisors for approval.

MOTION by Tom, second by Aaron.

To approve and authorize the director to request general basic restricted funds to carry over from the motor vehicles budget into next fiscal year in the amount of \$41,717 for a 1-ton chassis cab truck and \$24,402 for a ¾ ton Ford truck.²²⁻¹⁶

VOTE: Aye: Aaron Gehling, Chris Zellmer-Zant, Cindy Bennett, Neil Stockfleth,
& Tom Limoges

Nay: None

Absent: None

c. Old Business

None

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d. Other Business

None

2. Nature Center Security Cameras

Supervisor Taylor reported that the board of supervisors approved a one-time allocation of \$5,229.89 from gaming revenue for the nature center security camera system. Board members expressed appreciation to Jeremy for his efforts. Brian reported that the cameras have been ordered.

3. Nature Center Activities

Dawn reported on the following Nature Center activities:

- The programs and visitors report for April was presented.
- Summer day camps are approximately 85% full.
- Dawn received notice today of a Missouri River Historical Development grant award in the amount of \$15,000 for an outdoor learning shelter. The check will be presented on May 18th at the Lewis & Clark interpretive center. This will cover approximately half what is needed. A grant request of \$20,000 has been submitted to the Sioux City Rotary.
- The AmeriCorps intern will be starting next week. Four interns will be starting on May 23rd and one on June 1st.
- The Sioux City Journal had an article about the tale trail on the front page on April 23rd.
- The Missouri River Runners will be hosting a 20K and 8K run at the nature center. They will split the proceeds between Stone Park and the nature center for trail maintenance.
- Nature Calls packets have been delivered to board members to request sponsorships and donations.

4. Park Activities

Brian reported on the following park activities:

- Camping opened on April 29th, but the first couple weekends were slow.
- Staff completed a good burn at Owego on Tuesday, and it is expected to revegetate quickly.
- Staff has been working on food plots – disking and applying preemergent.
- Aaron asked about pumping earlier this year. Brian stated that the intention is to get ahead of it and shoot for about August.

5. Board Information

Neil asked about the current water level at Brown's Lake, and Dan estimated that it is at the level it was in February. Dan explained that MidAmerican had stopped pumping for a month and a half to repair a butterfly valve but started pumping again within the last two weeks. MidAmerican is confident with the water study and that it isn't necessary to increase the pump size. They are planning to have a public meeting in the future.

6. Other Business

Dan stated that he sent Jeremy information on the \$750,000 AARPA request for water and sewer at the campgrounds. Jeremy explained that there is \$10 million available, but it is much more restricted now and this project would be a very allowable use. The request is on the supervisors' agenda for Tuesday, May 17th at 4:30 p.m. Jeremy stated that he will highlight that the project is

an allowable use of those funds, is expected to generate an increase in revenue of \$100,000-\$150,000 each year and will impact quality of life and economic development. Dan reviewed his calculations for estimating the costs and the expected increase in revenue.

Dan received a notice and request for comment about a borrow pit located east of a WCCB conservation easement. He explained the plan for the property and stated that although he has concerns, he doesn't recommend making any comment since it is on private property. It was the consensus of the board to decline making any comment.

ITEM R5. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 5:12 p.m.

The above minutes were recorded by Dawn Bostwick.

Recording Secretary, Dawn Bostwick

Board Secretary, Cindy Bennett

Board Chair, Neil Stockfleth