

**WOODBURY COUNTY, IOWA, CONSERVATION BOARD
MINUTES OF THE THURSDAY, JULY 16, 2020 BOARD MEETING**

The following is a true copy of the minutes of the meeting of the Woodbury County, Iowa, Conservation Board held on Thursday, July 16, 2020, at Little Sioux Park beginning at 4:00 p.m.

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT

Aaron Gehling, Neil Stockfleth, and Suzan Boden

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT

Chris Zellmer-Zant and Cindy Bennett

STAFF PRESENT

Dan Heissel, Brian Stehr, Dawn Snyder, Nathan Silfies, Derek Bean, and Dawn Bostwick

OTHERS PRESENT

Marty Pottebaum, County Supervisor

CALL TO ORDER

Vice Chairperson Gehling called the meeting to order at 4:11 p.m.

CORRESPONDENCE ITEMS

None

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

None

ITEM R1. Approve Consent Agenda

MOTION by Suzan, second by Neil

To approve the consent agenda.

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

The consent agenda was approved and involved the following items:

ITEM C1. Approve Minutes of the June 18, 2020 Monthly Meeting

ITEM C2. Approve the June 2020 Claims and Expenditures.

ITEM C3. Receive and Place on File the June 2020 Financial/Budget Report.

ITEM C4. Acceptance of Gifts/Donations

- Vibeke Jensen & Larry Benne for educational materials
- WCCF for CCI Crew
- Stone Park for CCI Crew Camping
- LeAnne and Phil Lamourex, Jan & Ken Noble, Tammy & Steve Nobel, Lorri Whitesell for \$437 for Jim Noble Memorial
- Nature Calls More Help (WCCF) – Security National Corporation for \$250, Kelly & Pam Ridgeway for \$500

ITEM R2. Brown's Lake Water Level – Informational – Discussion

Dan stated that the water level at Brown's Lake is down 9-10". Dan emailed Doug Chafa and Ben Wallace with the Iowa Department of Natural Resources, and they met with Dan, Brian and Josh to look at the intake structure. Immediately following that meeting, the pipe from MidAmerican was opened all the way. They said they had been planning to take the level down 9-12" to get revegetation on the shore. Dan got reassurance from them that they will be managing Brown's Lake as a recreational area. They will fluctuate the levels to kill the water lilies and keep a healthy lake. They will put a flow meter on it where staff can monitor it. They also plan to hold a landowners' meeting this fall to discuss the water management plan.

ITEM R3. COVID-19 – Park Facilities, Openings – Discussion – Informational

Brian reported that the park facility reopening has gone smoothly. Staff has been dealing with the public less now than when limits were in place due needing less enforcement, especially at the Brown's Lake beach.

Nathan stated that Little Sioux camping numbers for June were good even with the half capacity limit and that the July 4th weekend brought the most people he has seen so far. He also reported more new visitors and first-time campers this year. He commented that the COVID-19 concerns have made them more conscientious employees with improved cleaning procedures and social distancing, and that the misting machines are working great both for virus protection and public comfort levels.

ITEM R4. Capital Improvement Projects Update

1. Brown's Lake – Phase II – Update

Dan stated that the decking color originally chosen was from the wrong line, so a new color needs to be selected. The decking included in the contract is a cheaper material which isn't as thick, and also with a thinner coating. Changing to the better decking would incur a \$12,000 up-charge. Dan will go to Blackhawk Lake to look at the decking used there and will bring a recommendation to the next board meeting. Construction should start the day after Labor Day. Dixon Construction won the bid, and they have hired Brandon Deeds to install the Trex deck. Dan also stated that they hope to let bids for the concession stand in August.

ITEM R5. Board member/staff reports

1. Administrative items

Dan reported on the following items:

a. August Meeting Date

It was noted that the August meeting was typically not held in the past, so it was agreed to wait until September to meet again unless something urgent arises. Dan will send a short Director's report in lieu of the meeting.

The next meeting will be held at 4:00 p.m. on September 10, 2020, at Snyder Bend Park.

b. Equipment Bids – Trucks, Mower, UTV – Action

Brian presented the bids for a replacement UTV for the Nature Center. Requests for bids were sent to four vendors, and bids were received from Midwest Kubota and AgriVision Equipment. The low bid was from Midwest Kubota at \$11,000.

MOTION by Suzan, second by Neil

To approve and authorize the purchase of a two-seat 2020 Kubota Sidekick RTV from Midwest Kubota at a cost of \$11,000 after trade-in of a 2011 John Deere 825i Gator.²⁰⁻²⁰

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

Bids were also presented for a 60” zero-turn mower for Bigelow Park. Requests for bids were sent to five vendors, and bids were received from Midwest Kubota, AgriVision Equipment, and Bottjen Implement. The 2009 John Deere 997R mower will be traded in. The low bid of \$12,000 was received from Midwest Kubota.

MOTION by Neil, second by Suzan

To approve and authorize the purchase of a 2020 Kubota 60” rear discharge, zero turn mower from Midwest Kubota at a cost of \$12,000 after trade-in of a 2009 John Deere 997 ZTR 60” mower.²¹⁻²⁰

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

c. Fowler Forest Well – Informational – Action

Dan reported that there have been issues getting the Fowler Forest well going. The pump was pulled, and it was discovered that the fins were broken. The pump was replaced, but it still couldn’t build pressure. It is suspected that the screen at the bottom of the well is clogged or there is a hole in the casing. Options include acid treatment, air lifting, or replacing with a new well. Mike Barkley is going to try air lifting it first.

d. Other - State Association Strategic Survey

Dan asked if there were any additional comments to include in the ICCS strategic survey, and comments submitted at the June meeting were reviewed.

Brief discussion was held regarding the recent tragic drowning of a 12-year-old boy at Little Sioux Park. Dan stated that staff handled the situation well.

Dan talked to the County Attorney and Human Resources Director regarding liability exposure in these types of situations. He was reassured that the county has a \$10 million liability errors and omissions insurance which covers the county and the conservation board, and that the county would defend and protect the conservation board.

²⁰⁻²⁰ To approve and authorize the purchase of a two-seat 2020 Kubota Sidekick RTV from Midwest Kubota at a cost of \$11,000 after trade-in of a 2011 John Deere 825i Gator.

²¹⁻²⁰ To approve and authorize the purchase of a 2020 Kubota 60” rear discharge, zero turn mower from Midwest Kubota at a cost of \$12,000 after trade-in of a 2009 John Deere 997 ZTR 60” mower.

2. Park Activities (Stehr)

Brian reported on the following Nature Center activities:

- The Fourth of July weekend was busy with no major incidents.
- Snyder Bend staff finished putting up the ADA swing set. There is a combination lock box, but keys will be issued to regular users upon request.
- The sand bags around the Snyder Bend cabins have been deteriorating to the point that they will be unusable. Due to the low flood threat currently, the staff will be removing those bags.
- Two new mowers have been delivered. An Exmark zero-turn mower was delivered to replace the John Deere wide area mower at Little Sioux Park. The John Deere 1550 four-wheel drive mower at Snyder Bend purchased last year was replaced because John Deere could not figure out why it wouldn't start.
- A new John Deere Gator for Snyder Bend and Bigelow Park was delivered last week to replace the diesel Bobcat UTV. This unit was purchased at the end of the fiscal year when it was determined there were unallocated funds available. Bids were obtained from AgriVision Equipment for \$6,900 and from Midwest Kubota for \$9,000, both including trade-in value of the Bobcat UTV.

3. Nature Center Activities (Snyder)

Dawn reported on the following park activities:

- The program and visitor report for June was presented. All programs were provided virtually, and the visitor numbers are all from outdoor hikers except for one day since the Nature Center was closed due to COVID-19.
- The Nature Center reopened on Tuesday, June 30th, limiting guests to 30 in the building at one time and with most hands-on exhibits removed. Stoppers were added in the tunnel to block access to the badger cave. The first Saturday open was July 11th, and there was steady traffic. The mister is working well, but a residue is being left on the glass. It is helpful to have the summer interns to help staff keep up with the cleaning.
- In-person programs started with low numbers and restricted age groups. Of 120 available spots, only 35 are filled. Participants will be asked screening questions, have their temperatures taken, and sign a waiver agreement approved by the county attorney.
- Virtual programming continues with a presence on Facebook, Instagram, and YouTube.
- Virtual classroom program options are being put together with the assumption that there will be no field trips or classroom visits allowed this fall.
- An AmeriCorps employee in cooperation with Iowa Lakeside Lab has been participating in a vegetation survey on the prairie ridges at the Nature Center. He is writing a management plan and will provide a copy of the vegetation survey to WCCB.
- A quarter-time person has been funded by the AmeriCorps grant. A full-time person wasn't requested this year due to the new Naturalist position recently approved by the Board of Supervisors.
- The Nature Center's 25th anniversary is in October, but it is uncertain at this time whether an in-person event will be planned, but something virtual can possibly be held.

ITEM R6. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 5:23 p.m.

The above minutes were recorded by Dawn Bostwick.

Recording Secretary, Dawn Bostwick

Board Secretary, Suzan Boden

Board Chair, Cindy Bennett