

**WOODBURY COUNTY, IOWA, CONSERVATION BOARD
MINUTES OF THE THURSDAY, JULY 7, 2016, 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 7, 2016, at the Snyder Bend Park shop building beginning at 5:00 p.m.

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT

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

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT

Cindy Bennett

STAFF PRESENT

Schneider, Snyder, Stehr, Bales, VanVoorst and Bostwick

OTHERS PRESENT

Larry Clausen, County Supervisor

CALL TO ORDER

Acting President, Suzan Boden, called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m.

CORRESPONDENCE ITEMS

Schneider distributed the ballots for the election of a Board Member representative for IACCB District 3. The candidate is Steve Anderson of Dickinson County.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

None

ITEM R1. APPROVE CONSENT AGENDA

Schneider noted that some major maintenance expenses, such as the Brown's Lake septic system, were able to be done with the remaining General Fund budget. Transfers were made from the Conservation Reserve fund to the General Fund to cover capital improvement expenditures for the fiscal year. The remaining expenses for the Southwood cabin project are expected to be approximately \$20,000-30,000. The projected total cost was \$175,000, but it will end up being higher due to extra expenses for rock, grading, parking, warranties and insulation.

MOTION by Dixon second by Zellmer-Zant.

To approve the consent agenda.

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

 Nay: None

 Absent: Cindy Bennett

Consent agenda was approved and involved the following items:

ITEM C1. Approve minutes of the June 1, 2016 monthly meeting.

ITEM C2. Approve June 2016 claims and expenditures.

ITEM C3. Receive and place on file the June 2016 financial / budget report and the 4th Quarter FY 16 Reserve Fund Report.

ITEM C4. Acceptance of Gifts/Donations:

1. Dean & Paula Van Roekel – Monetary donation (\$550) for Barred Owl adoption, 1 year.
2. State Steel – Stainless Steel for Playscape slides.
3. Grace United Methodist Church – Monetary donation (\$50).
4. Aaron Bomgaars – Oak tree.
5. Scott Kayl – Monetary donation (\$10) for raptors.
6. Judy Mahaney – Bird seed donation in honor of Father Lawrence McClarty.
7. CF Industries – Volunteers for Playscape work.
8. Scheels – 24 survival kits for camps, craft supplies and snacks.
9. Ahn Drury – Camp food.

ITEM R2. Staff updates. (Schneider)

Schneider gave the following staff update.

- Mark Peterson's retirement reception was held on June 30th at the Nature Center.
- Brian Stehr took over as Deputy Director on July 4th. His main priority will continue to be the parks through Labor Day.
- Josh VanVoorst assumed the Resource Manager position on July 4th.
- Dylan Bales will be promoted to Assistant Resource Manager in September and will be attending the Iowa Law Enforcement Academy in January.
- Bernie Ketelsen delivered his official notice of retirement, and his last day will be August 31, 2016. With just over 44 years of service, he is the longest-serving employee. Schneider announced that a retirement reception is being planned for the afternoon of Sunday, August 28th, at the Little Sioux shelter.

ITEM R3. Capital Improvement Projects Update (Schneider)

1. Southwood Cabins, Little Sioux Park Cabin Improvements

Schneider reminded the board of the Southwood cabins open house to be held on Saturday, July 9th, from 1:00 to 3:00 p.m. He will use this opportunity to promote the IWILL Fund The Trust program. The cabins will be available to rent beginning July 15th.

2. Fowler Forest shelter replacement/design services

Schneider reported that he met with Dean Van Roekel in regard to the Fowler Forest shelter, and Dean recommended keeping and enclosing the original structure. He presented some preliminary drawings of the project, which would include a new roof, a new floor poured over the current floor, an HVAC system, and cement board siding.

Schneider noted that he had found information in the recently digitized microfilm files that documented the construction of the shelter in 1970 by Fonda Rock Company at a cost of \$3,936.

3. Miscellaneous repair projects

Schneider reported on the following repair projects.

- The Southwood dam outlet problem has been resolved at a cost of under \$5,000. A plug was rented to stop the water and allow the pipe to be taken apart and shortened. New riprap was added. The crossing between the ponds was widened with the extra fill from the cabin project.
- A Corp permit was obtained to add riprap in the Little Sioux Park picnic area.

- The septic system at Brown's Lake was restored to working order last weekend. The drain lines had been silted in. A new drain field was installed and a forced pump pit station will be added in the fall. The system should be fully functional 90% of the time.
- The Little Sioux beach was opened on the Friday before Memorial Day.

ITEM R4. Board member / staff reports

1. Nature Center activities (Snyder)

Snyder reported on the following Nature Center activities.

- The Western Iowa Tourism Region & State Department of Economic Development advertising insert was presented. This insert will be included in the Des Moines, Omaha and Minneapolis newspapers, as well as mailed out when someone calls their office. Erika Newton is the President of WITR this coming year.
- Roger Brooks was hired to do an assessment of Sioux City in April. Snyder presented the section of his report relating to the Nature Center. He gave a very positive review of the Nature Center, calling it "World Class" and praising the staff and facilities. He recommended that the city create a "Best of Sioux City" brochure. Erika Newton said that the Nature Center would be included in that publication.
- Summer camps and programs are going well. A programs synopsis for the fiscal year was presented.
- A memorial donation has been received for a large eagle sculpture. It will have a 4 ½' wingspan and be weather resistant and sturdy enough to be climbed on. The same donors would like to also purchase viewing binoculars for the center to be located on the Kestrel Point deck. Donations are being sought for three additional animal sculptures.
- Nature Calls sponsorships are currently at \$14,100 with a goal of \$20,000. Last year's goal was \$18,000. The logo for this year's event was displayed. Snyder will be meeting with the convention center next week.
- Snyder reported an unfortunate incident during a program at Brown's Lake where the intern felt unsafe and had her phone stolen. Future programs will be moved away from the beach area and have two interns present whenever possible. The park staff will also be more visible in the area during programs.

2. Park activities (Stehr)

Stehr reported on the following park activities.

- The July 4th weekend went very well with the cooler weather.
- Drier weather has allowed use of the Little Sioux beach and the Brown's Lake septic system again.
- Southwood cabins are getting finished up and ready to rent.
- A concrete walkway was poured at the shooting range, and final grading was completed.
- Nathan Silfies started as Resource Tech at Little Sioux Park on July 1st.
- The beaver dam at Owego's big structure was removed. The stop logs will be pulled to clean out the intake tube.
- Stehr spent time with Mark Peterson over the past month learning the filing system, contacts for suppliers, and other procedures and information related to the Deputy Director position.

3. Administrative items (Schneider)

a. Land acquisition and grants update

Grant results for the Roberts property acquisition are expected next week from the Gilchrist Foundation and the Wild Turkey Federation. Whitetails Unlimited is also interested in the project and wants to contribute.

b. 2016 IACCB Annual Conference: Ft. Dodge, Hamilton & Webster CCB's

The IACCB Annual Conference will be held September 15-17, 2016. The registration deadline is August 15.

c. Set date/time for August meeting

The next board meeting will be held on Thursday, August 4, 2016, at Brown's Lake.

ITEM R5. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 6:00 p.m.

The above minutes were typed by Dawn Bostwick.

Recording Secretary, Dawn Bostwick

Board Secretary, Neil Stockfleth

Acting Board President, Suzan Boden