

**WOODBURY COUNTY, IOWA, CONSERVATION BOARD
MINUTES OF THE THURSDAY, AUGUST 9, 2018, 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 9, 2018, at the Southwood Conservation Area shop building beginning at 4:30 p.m.

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT

Chris Zellmer-Zant, Cindy Bennett, Aaron Gehling, and Neil Stockfleth

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT

Suzan Boden

STAFF PRESENT

Dan Heissel, Brian Stehr, Dawn Snyder, Don Haahr, Erik Lindsay and Dawn Bostwick

OTHERS PRESENT

Five members of the Iowa Chapter of Back Country Horsemen of America

CALL TO ORDER

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

CORRESPONDENCE ITEMS

None

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

None

ITEM R1. APPROVE CONSENT AGENDA

MOTION by Aaron, second by Cindy.

To approve the consent agenda.

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

Consent agenda was approved and involved the following items:

ITEM C1. Approve minutes of the July 17, 2018 monthly meeting.

ITEM C2. Approve the July 2018 and June 2018 accrued claims and expenditures.

ITEM C3. Receive and place on file the July 2018 financial/budget report.

ITEM C4. Acceptance of Gifts/Donations:

1. Sioux Valley Sports Club for cash donation
2. Rick Schneider for use of tiller & Nongame certificates
3. Bill Zales for taxidermy assistance
4. Rick & Angie Schneider for Shirley Hogan Memorial
5. Gregg & Rhonda Roepke for Shirley Hogan Memorial
6. Dawn Snyder for Shirley Hogan Memorial
7. Ron & Vicki Schweitzberg for Shirley Hogan Memorial
8. James & Shirley Soukup for Roger Gruber Memorial
9. Robert & Karen Jungers for Roger Gruber Memorial

ITEM R2. Brent Berry, Back Country Horsemen – Board Update

Five members of the Iowa chapter of Back Country Horsemen of America were present to give an update to the Board. They stated that this is their third year being organized in Iowa, and that they have worked in 13 Iowa parks. They had a fall work day at Southwood and installed four hitching rails in the camping and day-use areas. On their April work day at Southwood, they donated and planted six trees by the hitching rails, helped plant 28 other trees, and trimmed some trees by horseback. The group is donating a truckload of rock and will have a work day on August 26th to spread it around the hitching rails. They noted that they are applying for grants and need additional project ideas.

When prompted for their wish list, it included a trail from the day-use area, additional hitching rails across the road from the equine camping area, and the ability to reserve equine-camping sites. The board asked that they provide a prioritized wish list in writing for consideration.

ITEM R3. Approval of bid letting procedures and timeline for Fiber Optics Project (Dan) – Action

Dan reported that he had met with the Fiber Optics committee. Mapping is done, and a materials list has been compiled. The county will be purchasing the materials through a separate bid, rather than pay 10-15% markup on materials through the contractors. An informational meeting for contractors will be held in late August. Bids will be due by September 11th and will be acted on at the regular September board meeting. The installation will be bid with separate pricing for a fall installation versus a spring installation.

MOTION by Chris, second by Aaron.

To approve and authorize Director Heissel to proceed with a split bidding process for the Dorothy Pecaut Nature Center fiber optics installation and materials with either a Fall 2018 or Spring 2019 completion date.³⁴⁻¹⁸

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

Dan also noted that the Nature Center T-line bill from CenturyLink increased from \$227/month to \$410/month beginning in June due to contract expiration. In discussions with the City of Sioux City, Dan was told that when the fiber optics project is complete the Nature Center could get internet from the City and also be added to the county phone system at no charge. He will continue discussions and get details in writing.

ITEM R4. Drone Discussion (Dan)

Dan acknowledged that the Board already discussed the use of drones last fall. He later attended an ISAC presentation about drones and stated that he now could envision various useful applications for drones within the county conservation system, such as mapping, food plot and prescribed burn monitoring, law enforcement, and search & rescue situations. He mentioned the recent search for a drowning victim at Snyder Bend as an example of an incident in which a drone with thermal imaging would have been useful. Neil asked about maintenance and costs and cautioned that individuals would need to be dedicated to using it regularly to make it worth the

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investment. Dan will check the My County Parks portal to see if other counties have been using drones and what their experience has been. He will report back with more information at a later meeting.

ITEM R5. Gilchrist Grant Acceptance (Dan) – Action

Dan reported that a \$50,000 Gilchrist Foundation grant had been received for the purchase of the Flemming property. The original grant request was for \$130,000.

MOTION by Chris, second by Aaron.

To accept the Gilchrist Foundation grant in the amount of \$50,000 for use in the Flemming property purchase.³⁵⁻¹⁸

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

ITEM R6. Annual Conference Registration Deadline – Board member attendance

Dan reminded the board of the IACCB annual conference coming up in Des Moines on September 19-21 and the registration deadline of August 13th. Chris, Dan, Brian, Don and Bob plan to attend.

ITEM R7. Capital Improvement Projects Update (Dan)

1. Fiber Optics Update

Update was given earlier in the meeting.

2. Brown's Lake Update

Dan stated that a contractor had been selected, and a pre-construction meeting will be held on August 20th with JEO, the engineers, and staff. Work will start after Labor Day, and the engineer expects it to be done by November.

Dan informed the Board of the unfortunate accidental drowning incident that occurred in Snyder Bend Park lake. The victim was a 70-year-old avid paddler who had a life jacket in the canoe but was not wearing it. The autopsy indicated that no foul play was involved. Several Woodbury County deputies, DNR officers, and WCCB officers participated in the search and recovery of the body. The Sheriff's Department Sergeant remarked that the park staff did a great job during the incident. Although not of use in this case, it was noted that throwable rescue devices should be purchased and kept in the trucks at all times.

3. HVAC & Roof Update

Dan reported that he was told by the Building Services Director and the engineer that they hope to release bid documents for the Nature Center HVAC system in early August. The HVAC system will be zoned during replacement so that the building will not lose heat. The biggest issue will be moving the offices out of the lower level to an upstairs classroom during the installation process. The roof project has been pushed back until spring.

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4. Southwood – Road Repair from Fiber Optic

Dan stated that the recently rocked Southwood road was damaged during the recent fiber optics installation. Some of it has been repaired already, and the rest will be fixed when rock is brought in for the upper road to the observation deck. While the fiber was being installed, Don also had it installed down to the area identified for potential future cabins.

Dave Guggenmos is reworking his bid for the observation deck and tower. Prices will be higher due to increased cedar prices. He is available to start in the fall and complete it before winter.

5. Storage Building Plans Update

Dan stated that he talked to Brandon Deeds about the storage buildings, and he is trying to get the engineer to streamline the plans. Brandon called Clay CCB to ask for plans from a building he constructed there. Dan stated that a 60' x 120-140' is needed and proposed Southwood as the location for the first building as it has the most equipment. It can be built in November or December.

ITEM R8. Board member/staff reports

1. Administrative items (Dan)

Heissel reported on the following items:

a. Set September meeting date and location

The next meeting was set for 4:30 p.m. on Thursday, September 13, 2018 at the Dorothy Pecaut Nature Center.

b. FY20 Budget – Informational

Dan distributed copies of the final budget amounts for FY 19 and will begin working on the FY 20 budget. An initial draft will be presented at the September meeting.

c. Other

Discussion was held regarding the timing of delivering the meeting materials to board members. It was agreed that a minimum of three days was sufficient.

Dan obtained the required Board Chairman signature on the REAP grant request forms. He will be requesting \$220,000 for the Flemming property and \$389,610 for the Briese property.

2. Park activities (Brian)

Brian reported on the following park activities:

- The CCI crew finished work at Riverside Bluffs today. They removed interior fences on the north parcel and spent two days removing brush on the south piece. They also helped with prairie restoration at the Nature Center.
- Little Sioux staff have been clearing and pruning trees at the park entrance and have cleaned sand off most boat ramps along the Little Sioux river which was left from

high water. The Dixon Bridge access ramp has not been done yet and will require bigger equipment to dig it out.

- Snyder Bend and Brown's Lake staff have replaced all site number posts at Snyder Bend and have been grinding stumps from trees cut down last winter.
- Don reported that Erik has been doing a great job, has been taking over many additional duties, and is good with the public. Food plots are mostly done. Bob Farmer of the Sioux Valley Sports Club has been donating turnips and clover seed for four years. Staff have been working well with the Back Country Horsemen volunteers. He also noted that they had a good summer crew this year.
- Cattails have been filling in cells at OWEGO, and staff have been trying to manage them in one cell per year. It was noted that the drag line needs to be removed from the dike.
- Rifle training hasn't happened yet, but Brian will push the Sheriff's Department to get it scheduled soon.

3. Nature Center activities (Dawn)

Dawn reported on the following Nature Center activities:

- The programs and visitors report for July was provided.
- The interns have done a great job and will be finishing this week with a campfire program at the Nature Center on Friday and a meteor program at Southwood on Saturday.
- Attendance was good at the Woodbury County Fair.
- A Nature Calls sponsorship update was distributed.
- Brianna has been creating Facebook posts which have been driving increased traffic to the Nature Center page. Dawn will be on the radio next week.
- Nature Calls tickets will be available online soon.
- The Urban Youth Corps crew will be done tomorrow. Mark Peterson came out of retirement for five weeks to lead this crew in a partnership with the Boys & Girls Club. They replaced all of the railroad tie stairs that had been identified, as well as several others, and replaced planking on the big bridge. They also did some brush cutting and habitat work, as well as some educational activities.
- The Nature Center will be one of the 50 nonprofits to benefit from the "Siouxland Big Give" an online day of giving through the Siouxland Community Foundation to be held on October 9th. The web page will be available to browse on September 25th.
- The Foundation will be the fiscal agent again for Trees for Siouxland "Plant Some Shade" in cooperation with MidAmerican Energy. Delivery will be Thursday, October 18th, from 4:30-6:00 p.m. at Riverside Park. A press conference is scheduled for September 7th.
- The Nature Center was named as a memorial for Roger Gruber, and several checks have been received.

4. Other

Aaron spoke to a family regarding property near Smithland that may become available. He will follow up with the family when they are closer to a decision.

Dan announced that he picked up the Traverse yesterday, and it has been getting just over 29 mpg on the highway so far. Board members were offered the opportunity to view the Traverse and the new Southwood tractor following the meeting.

ITEM R9. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 6:30 p.m.

The above minutes were recorded by Dawn Bostwick.

Recording Secretary, Dawn Bostwick

Board Secretary, Cindy Bennett

Board President, Neil Stockfleth