

**WOODBURY COUNTY, IOWA, CONSERVATION BOARD
MINUTES OF THE TUESDAY, APRIL 16, 2019, BOARD MEETING**

The following is a true copy of the minutes of the meeting of the Woodbury County, Iowa, Conservation Board held on Tuesday, April 16, 2019, at the Dorothy Pecaut Nature Center beginning at 4:00 p.m.

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT

Chris Zellmer-Zant, Cindy Bennett, Neil Stockfleth and Suzan Boden

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT

Aaron Gehling

STAFF PRESENT

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

OTHERS PRESENT

Rick Schneider

CALL TO ORDER

Chairperson Zant called the meeting to order at 4:05 p.m.

CORRESPONDENCE ITEMS

None

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

None

ITEM R1. APPROVE CONSENT AGENDA

MOTION by Neil, second by Suzan.

To approve the consent agenda.

VOTE: Aye: Chris Zellmer-Zant, Cindy Bennett, Neil Stockfleth & Suzan Boden

 Nay: None

 Absent: Aaron Gehling

Consent agenda was approved and involved the following items:

ITEM C1. Approve minutes of the March 7, 2019 monthly meeting.

ITEM C2. Approve March 2019 claims and expenditures.

ITEM C3. Receive and place on file the March 2019 financial/budget report and 3rd Quarter FY19 Reserve Fund Report.

ITEM C4. Acceptance of Gifts/Donations

1. Pearl M. Wobbema Trust - \$2,000 for Nature Center
2. Nancy Rutter-Spriggs - \$500 for Raptor adoption.
3. Bomgaars – 700 pounds of birdseed and sweet feed donation

ITEM R2. 99 County Parks Kickoff – Informational – Dan/Dawn

Dan reported that the kick-off for the “99 Counties, 99 Parks” statewide initiative through Iowa Tourism and Iowa’s County Conservation System will be taking place on Monday, April 22nd, at

the Nature Center. The event is open to the public, although it hasn't been advertised much so that media will be interested in covering it. Speakers will include Debi Durham of the Iowa Economic Development Authority, Tom Hazelton of Iowa's County Conservation System, Dan Heissel and representatives from the Iowa Tourism Office and Iowa Healthiest State Initiative. Staff have been working hard to prepare for the event. Highlights will include meeting the animals, hiking, visiting the playscape, making your own trail mix, and taking pictures at the two selfie stations.

ITEM R3. Rifle Purchase Retiring Employee – Dan - Action

Dan informed the board that Don Haahr, who will be retiring on March 17th, has asked to purchase his rifle. This was offered to all officers last year when the rifles were purchased, but only two took advantage of it at the time. Dan spoke with the Auditor's office staff to ensure that the money would be held in reserve to purchase a replacement rifle. They have approved it this one time. Brian has reworked the contract to be paid off in six months with a clause to take the balance due from the last paycheck if he retires early.

MOTION by Suzan, second by Cindy.

To approve and allow Resource Manager, Don Haahr, to purchase his duty rifle through payroll deduction over a six-month period.¹⁵⁻¹⁹

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

ITEM R4. Brown's Lake – Land Acquisition – Jolin Glass property update (Heissel)

Dan stated that the City of Sioux City has confirmed interest in purchasing the Jolin Glass property but noted that it wouldn't be used for at least 10 years. Discussions were held regarding possibly leasing 40 acres from the City to plant habitat on the cropland and manage the wetland for hunting. Once the City is ready to develop the property, hunting would cease but the habitat and wetland would remain in place. The board asked Dan to pursue it further. Chris expressed concern about the County's interest in the property, and Dan will check with David Gleiser.

ITEM R5. Capital Improvement Projects Update (Dan)

Dan gave an update on the following projects:

1. DPNC – HVAC

By May 3rd, the contractors will be done with all activity in occupied places and then work behind the scenes only. Suter will be firing up and testing the big HVAC unit on April 24th. Louvers still need to be installed on the outside. Some water issues came up with the hot water not getting to the bathrooms and the water running very dirty. The old water heater was 11-12 years old, so it was replaced with a new Marathon heater. The low-flow nozzles on the bathroom sinks were replaced. It was also discovered that the water softener unit had not been working for some time. Kinetico will re-bed the unit with new fiberglass resin and add a prefilter to keep sediment out of the head. No maintenance had been done previously but will be set up going forward. The roof project will start on Tuesday, April 23rd.

¹⁵⁻¹⁹ To approve and allow Resource Manager, Don Haahr, to purchase his duty rifle through payroll deduction over a six-month period.

2. Southwood – Earth Moving – RFP’S – Action

Brian sent out RFP’s for the Southwood earthmoving project and received five proposals. Johnston Earthmoving had the low bid at \$1.75/cubic yard for a total of \$16,900. The next highest was \$2.87/cubic yard for a total of \$27,778, and the highest bid was \$5.00/cubic yard for a total of \$48,350. The price includes removal of root ball, removal of road material and replacement of road material.

MOTION by Neil, second by Suzan.

To accept the bid from Johnston Earthmoving LLC for the earthmoving project at Southwood Conservation Area at \$1.75/cubic yard for a total price of 16,900.¹⁶⁻¹⁹

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

3. Brown’s Lake Concession Bldg. – Asbestos RFP’s

Proposals for asbestos abatement were requested based on the advice that all vermiculite should be considered contaminated. Proposals all came back quite high, the lowest being \$13,900 for the abatement alone. Brian has since been told by one of the contractors and later verified with OSHA that the state of Iowa does not require that vermiculite be treated as contaminated if it tests less than 1%. A sample was taken on Friday, and results should be back by Wednesday. The pipe wrap has been confirmed to contain asbestos and will need to be removed properly. Dan recommended delaying the building demolition until the end of the summer allowing use of the bathrooms for the summer.

ITEM R6. Board member/staff reports

1. Administrative items (Dan)

Dan reported on the following items:

a. Nature Calls Proceeds Breakout – Kayak Trailer – Dan - Action

Dan proposed that the Nature Calls proceeds be allocated 40% towards programs, exhibits, projects and equipment, 30% for interns and AmeriCorps employees, and 30% to Nature Center maintenance.

MOTION by Suzan, second by Neil.

To approve the allocation of Nature Calls proceeds at 40% towards programs, exhibits, projects and equipment, 30% towards interns and AmeriCorps employees and 30% towards Nature Center maintenance.¹⁷⁻¹⁹

¹⁶⁻¹⁹ To accept the bid from Johnston Earthmoving LLC for the earthmoving project at Southwood Conservation Area at \$1.75/cubic yard for a total price of 16,900.

¹⁷⁻¹⁹ To approve the allocation of Nature Calls proceeds at 40% towards programs, exhibits, projects and equipment, 30% towards interns and AmeriCorps employees and 30% towards Nature Center maintenance.

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

Using the approved allocation of Nature Calls proceeds, Dawn requested approval to purchase a kayak trailer at a cost of \$5,173. The trailer would hold the seven current kayaks with room for five more, as well as have storage for paddles and life jackets.

MOTION by Neil, second by Cindy.

To approve the purchase of a 12-kayak trailer for the Nature Center at a cost of \$5,173.¹⁸⁻¹⁹

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

b. Gun Range Rental – Brian – Action

The Small Town Sportsman gun shop in Kingsley has asked to rent the Stub Gray Shooting Range for an afternoon for the purpose of hosting a gun demonstration. This has been done in the past a time or two by special use permit. After some discussion, the board agreed to allow this one-time rental of the shooting range for \$100 with the stipulation that a certificate of liability insurance be provided by the renter. A public notice will be posted well in advance of the rental.

MOTION by Cindy, second by Suzan.

To approve the one-time rental of the Stub Gray Shooting Range to the Small Town Sportsman gun shop in Kingsley, Iowa, at the rate of \$100 for the day and stipulating that the renter will provide a certificate of liability insurance.¹⁹⁻¹⁹

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

c. Browns Lake Beach Hours

Dan stated that at the beginning of the 2017 season, the board approved reducing the Brown's Lake beach hours, closing the beach at 6:00 p.m. rather than 8:00 p.m., with the intention to review it after one season. Little Sioux beach has continued to remain open until 8:00 p.m. with no problems. It is unclear whether the shortened hours have improved the issues at Brown's Lake. Dan would like to extend the hours to 8:00 to keep the hours uniform throughout the county and allow people who work until 5:00 p.m. time to utilize the beach. However, he had not been able to discuss it with Resource Manager, Josh VanVoorst, prior to the meeting, and he would like to do so before deciding. No action was taken.

d. Fiber Optic Update – Dan

Dan was contacted by an unsuccessful bidder on the Nature Center fiber optics installation who told him that the fiber was not buried to the required 42" depth by the

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contractor who was awarded the project. An 800' stretch was discovered to have been buried only at 27-36". Apparently, the contractor's staff ran into problems with buried railroad ties but didn't tell the contractor. The contractor will run a new duct at 4' and move that section of fiber. The fiber move is scheduled for Monday, April 29th, which will leave the Nature Center without phones or internet connection for several hours that day.

e. Snyder Bend Lake Mtg – DNR, Corp of Engineers – Informational

Discussion was held regarding an informational meeting held by the DNR to talk about plans for shocking and restocking Snyder Bend Park lake to rid it of problem fish like the Asian Carp. Dan, Brian and Snyder Bend Park staff attended the meeting.

f. Set May meeting date

The next meeting was set for 4:00 p.m. on Thursday, May 9, 2019, at the Dorothy Pecaut Nature Center. Summer meetings will be held in the parks beginning in June.

g. Other

Dan reported that he submitted a Gilchrist grant request for \$100,000 to be applied towards the handicap fishing pier and shoreline improvements at Brown's Lake – Bigelow Park. A MHRD grant will be pursued for the remainder of the estimated \$250,000 project.

2. Nature Center Activities

Dawn reported on the following park activities:

- The programs and visitors report for March was distributed.
- Day camp signups have begun. Registrations have been slower than normal. There will be five satellite camp sessions at the parks which will be led by the two AmeriCorps naturalists.
- The quarter-time AmeriCorps employee will begin on May 13th, and summer interns will begin at the end of May.
- WCCB and Woodbury County Soil & Water Conservation District are partnering to distribute trees to fifth graders again this year.
- Plans are underway for the Volunteer Awards Dinner to be held on Thursday, May 16.
- A Master Conservationist program is being developed in cooperation with the Iowa State University Extension and Monona, Plymouth and Woodbury County Conservation Boards.
- The Dorothy Pecaut Nature Center is the launch site for the "99 Counties, 99 Parks" public awareness campaign partnership with Iowa Tourism & Iowa's County Conservation System on Monday, April 22nd.
- Nature Calls packets were distributed to board members. Media sponsors have been lined up but still waiting to hear about beer sponsor. Over \$3,000 has been received in donations so far.
- The Siouxland Chamber event at the Nature Center is coming up on July 18th. Looking for other chamber members to partner with for the food.

3. Park Activities

Brian reported on the following park activities:

- Staff have been getting parks ready for camping season, prepping burn units and shocking wells.
- Spring flooding affected Snyder Bend Park and Little Sioux Park but with only minor damage to trails.
- The contractor finished the shoreline enhancement project by installing handrails for the handicap accessible sidewalk. Staff felt there should be rails at the end of the resting platform for safety, so those will be added. Staff will also be adding guard posts along the parking lot.
- Southwood staff have been clearing the area for the earthmoving project.
- The archery range has been completed and was opened on April 15th.

4. Board

Nothing to report.

5. Closed Session- Update on Employee Administrative Leave

Dan requested a closed session to give an update on an employee administrative leave matter.

The board went into closed session at 5:40 p.m. by motion from Suzan and second by Cindy. Chairperson Zant held the roll call vote: Aaron Gehling – Absent, Cindy Bennett – Aye, Suzan Boden – Aye, Neil Stockfleth – Aye, Chris Zellmer-Zant – Aye.

A motion was made by Neil to come out of closed session, which was seconded by Suzan and carried unanimously by roll call vote: Aaron Gehling – Absent, Cindy Bennett – Aye, Suzan Boden – Aye, Neil Stockfleth – Aye, Chris Zellmer-Zant – Aye.

No action taken.

ITEM R7. Adjournment

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

The above minutes were recorded by Dawn Bostwick.

Recording Secretary, Dawn Bostwick

Board Secretary, Aaron Gehling

Board President, Chris Zellmer-Zant