

**WOODBURY COUNTY, IOWA, CONSERVATION BOARD
MINUTES OF THE THURSDAY, MARCH 17, 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, March 17, 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, and Dawn Snyder

OTHERS PRESENT

Jeremy Taylor, County Supervisor/Conservation Board Liaison (via Zoom)

CALL TO ORDER

Chairperson Stockfleth called the meeting to order at 4:05 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 February 10, 2022 Regular Meeting.
- C2. Approve the February 2022 Claims and Expenditures
- C3. Receive and Place on File the February 2022 Financial/Budget Report
- C4. Acceptance of Gifts/Donations:
 - Kari Uhl for \$50 memorial for Theresa Uhl
 - Rosie Kuehne for books
 - Bill Zales for taxidermy
 - Lori Bermel & family for bird identifier in memory of Joan Jensen

ITEM R2. Consideration and Approval of Garbage Service Contracts

Brian presented proposals received for non-hazardous waste pickup service.

- Two proposals were received for waste pickup at the Dorothy Pecaut Nature Center. The lowest bid was from Gill Hauling at a cost of \$857.00, and the other bid was from Waste Management at \$1,510.76 per year.
- Two proposals were received for waste pickup at Bigelow Park and Snyder Bend Park. The lowest bid was from Gill Hauling at a cost of \$7,446.00, and the other bid was from Waste Management at \$18,967.92 per year.
- Only one bid was received for waste pickup at Southwood Conservation Area, Fowler Forest and Little Sioux Park from C.H.N. Garbage Service, the current provider, at a cost of \$11,826.

MOTION by Aaron, second by Cindy.

To accept all low bids for non-hazardous waste pickup and enter into two-year contracts with Gill Hauling at \$857.00 per year for the Dorothy Pecaut Nature Center and \$7,446.00 per year for Bigelow Park and Snyder Bend Park and with C.H.N. Garbage Service, Inc., at \$11,826 per year for Southwood Conservation Area, Fowler Forest and Little Sioux Park.²²⁻⁶

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

ITEM R3. Consideration and Approval of Nature Center Security Camera System

Dan gave a brief background of the need for a security camera system at the nature center. Brian presented the two bids received and explained the different camera options. He noted that both systems are NDAA compliant. Aaron interjected that the company that provides the cameras for his bank may be more reasonable in price. Following discussion, this item was tabled to collect additional information, expand the scope to include indoor cameras, and reach out to the Building Services department.

ITEM R4. Capital Improvement Projects Update

1. Brown's Lake Projects

a. Campground

Dan reported that the Brown's Lake campground is close to being finished by April 1st. The electrician was waiting for the grading to be done prior to installing new electric pedestals. It was suggested that bollards be added to protect the pedestals.

²²⁻⁶ To accept all low bids for non-hazardous waste pickup and enter into two-year contracts with Gill Hauling at \$857.00 per year for the Dorothy Pecaut Nature Center and \$7,446.00 per year for Bigelow Park and Snyder Bend Park and with C.H.N. Garbage Service, Inc., at \$11,826 per year for Southwood Conservation Area, Fowler Forest and Little Sioux Park.

b. Roads Project

Dan stated that Knife River is on track to start at Brown's Lake on April 1st. They will do the interior roads first and then the main road. Brian reported that trees are being removed in preparation for the roads, but there are some phone pedestals which might cause a problem when grinding out the stumps. Long Lines has been contacted to possibly reroute those lines. Dan explained the plan for homeowner ingress/egress during the road construction. Notice and updates will be given to all homeowners through email or text. Brief discussion was held regarding future internet improvements through Long Lines.

c. Concession Project

Dan stated that Deeds Construction is ready to start on April 1st. A pre-construction meeting will be held next week. Dan and Brandon have value engineered the plans and identified \$25,000 worth of deductions. The plumber has additional potential savings that he will bring forward next week. Dan will put together a change order, and those savings will be deducted from Brandon's minimum.

d. Oak Ridge Unit One Dam Repair

Dan reported that the Woodbury County Engineers stated its contractor plans to start on the Oak Ridge Unit One dam repair on April 1st. The conservation board will be responsible for 15% of the total cost.

ITEM R5. Board member/staff reports

1. Administrative items

Dan reported on the following items:

a. April Meeting Date

The next meeting will be held at 4:00 p.m. on April 21, 2022, at the Dorothy Pecaut Nature Center.

b. Briese Memo of Understanding

Dan stated that Supervisor Taylor put the Briese Memorandum of Understanding back on the agenda for the supervisors meeting, and it was approved with a three to two vote. Neil was present for the meeting and addressed the board also.

Dan mentioned that the piece between Briese and Little Sioux Park is owned by the County Engineers and is being cleared right now. It is believed that there is an agreement with the previous engineer that talks about transferring it to the conservation board, and Dan is looking for that agreement. He noted that the fact that it has been managed as a hunting area sets a precedence as well.

c. Grants Update

Dan announced that on Monday he deposited the DNR grant payment of \$777,500 into the REAP account and submitted a claim for \$854,755.31 to the Iowa Natural Heritage Foundation which will pay off the Salsness property in full. Additional grants towards this acquisition are from the county and state Pheasants Forever and the Turkey Federation. The

conservation board only had to cover \$32,255.31, due to interest, appraisals, and abstracts, and that money came from the REAP account.

Dan stated that he is still waiting for a project agreement from the DNR for the Wildlife Habitat Stamp grant on the Briese property which needs to be signed prior to starting the reimbursement process. Other grants on this property are \$50,000 from the North America Water Fowl Conservation Act, \$10,000 from the Pheasants Forever local chapter, and \$10,000 from the Pheasants Forever state council. The board's responsibility was \$176,450 (45% of the total cost), but with the additional grants, it is down to \$106,450 which will be paid from the REAP account.

Dan stressed that no tax dollars and no CIP funds were used to purchase either of these land acquisitions.

d. Acknowledge Appointment of Brodie Skinner as Peace Officer

Dan stated that Brodie's start date as a peace officer needs to be officially acknowledged in the minutes for IPERS purposes.

MOTION by Aaron, second by Cindy.

To authorize the appointment of Brodie Skinner as a peace officer effective January 18, 2022.²²⁻⁷

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

e. Acknowledge Appointment of Dan Heissel as Peace Officer

Dan stated that the same official acknowledgement is needed for himself also, because it was missed at the time he was hired. He has been contributing to IPERS at the peace officer rate since his hire date.

MOTION by Cindy, second by Aaron.

To authorize the appointment of Dan Heissel as a peace officer effective November 1, 2017.²²⁻⁸

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

f. Old Business

None

²²⁻⁷ To authorize the appointment of Brodie Skinner as a peace officer effective January 18, 2022.

²²⁻⁸ To authorize the appointment of Dan Heissel as a peace officer effective November 1, 2017.

g. Other Business

Dan reported on an opportunity to request American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 (ARPA) funds from the Board of Supervisors to be used for installing sewer hookups at the campsites at Little Sioux Park, Snyder Bend Park and Southwood Conservation Area. Jeremy stated that the county has \$10 million in ARPA funds, \$1 million of which has been designated for water and sewer infrastructure projects. Dan will work with Jeremy to put together the request, and Jeremy will add it to the Board of Supervisors agenda in the next two or three weeks. The board advised Dan to contact JEO for assistance in preparing the plans due to the short timeframe and the complexity of the systems at Southwood and Snyder Bend. The possibility of adding permanent sites was also raised.

2. Nature Center Activities

Dawn reported on the following Nature Center activities:

- The February programs and visitors report was presented.
- The WCCF annual meeting was held virtually and went well. The recording is posted on the nature center YouTube channel for viewing. Chris Jackson from Security National Bank was elected to fill the vacant position on the board.
- The Dorothy Pecaut Nature Center was awarded the #1 Tourist Destination for 2022 in the Weekender Magazine's Siouxland Choice Awards.
- Theresa has been preparing books for the Tale Trail, and installation is being planned.
- The outdoor dog-friendly water fountain has arrived. Mike Barkley will help with getting that installed.
- The foundation is applying for a small MRHD grant of \$15,000 to go toward the open shelter at the nature center.
- Aaron announced that the Siouxland Rotary Club was looking for a project, and he presented the outdoor classroom shelter as a possibility. It is going to subcommittee, and he is working with Dawn to provide more information.
- Four summer naturalists have been hired are working through the background check process.
- Dawn, Theresa and Kari attended the Iowa Association of Naturalists spring meeting in Jackson County on March 9-11.
- Part-time receptionist, Marilyn Milbrodt, will celebrate 25 years with WCCB on April 24. She has indicated that she will be retiring on May 21. Dawn is working on the job description and posting for the position.
- Dawn has reached out to the Nature Calls committee members, and everyone is on board to help with the planning. Board members should let Dawn know when they want their packets and if they have any changes to their sponsor contact lists.

3. Park Activities

Brian reported on the following park activities:

- Park staff has been working on a variety of indoor and outdoor projects depending on weather conditions.
- Staff is working on putting together burn plans.
- Applications for summer ranger and summer maintenance have been short this year, and there haven't been enough to fill the open positions so far.
- The three truck orders are still outstanding. The truck with Barry Motors is still on a waiting list, but they are hoping it will be picked to be assembled next month. The half-ton truck from Knoepfler has an assembly date of April 11th. The cab and chassis truck is still waiting for an assembly date, and they are not confident that it will even be built. Brian was told that if they do cancel the order, the price would more than likely increase if it is reordered. Dan

said that if the truck cannot be delivered by June 30th, it cannot be paid for in the current fiscal year. He suggested that another piece of equipment on the replacement list may have to be substituted if that happens.

(Tom left the meeting.)

- Brodie Skinner has passed his physical agility testing, cognitive testing (POST test) and psychological testing (MMPI-2) for the Iowa Law Enforcement Academy. He still needs to go through the FBI background screening and the DCI medical testing.
- All staff have completed their required CPR and AED training and are good for another two years.

4. Board Information

None

5. Other Business

Dan reported that he had received a call from Jake Schaben, Stone State Park ranger, requesting assistance with a 10-acre grass fire south of the nature center on March 13th. The fire was started when a landowner was burning without a screen on a burn barrel, and it got away from him. Dan and Tyler responded with the nature center fire rig, along with two Sioux City Fire Department units, three people from the DNR and three people from The Nature Conservancy. They were able to get the fire contained in about six hours, but it ended up burning 20 acres. Tyler assisted on Monday and Tuesday as well to take care of hot spots and trees that were still burning. The fire department was very impressed with the nature center fire rig. The fire chief from the Riverside fire station called the next day and asked to meet with Dan and Brian and Scott Moats from the Nature Conservancy to discuss ways to work together and share resources.

ITEM R6. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 5:44 p.m.

The above minutes were recorded by Dawn Snyder.

Recording Secretary, Dawn Snyder

Board Secretary, Cindy Bennett

Board Chair, Neil Stockfleth