

BREMER COUNTY CONSERVATION BOARD

Regular Meeting

December 1, 2021

Conservation Board Office

1104 South Main Street Tripoli, IA 50676

Members Present: Mandie Sanderman, Chair; Kevin Korman, Vice Chair; Richard Harms, Stacey Snyder, and Larry Pavelec

Members Absent: none

Also Present: Andrew Hockenson, Director; Heather Gamm, Naturalist; Kip Ladage, Allen Blasberg

Meeting called to order at 6:58 PM by Chairman Sanderman.

Harms moved to accept the minutes from the November 3, 2021 regular meeting as presented.

Seconded by Pavelec and approved unanimously.

Misc. Correspondence and Announcements: Pat Hyde and Heather Gamm were presented certificates for 20 years of service during a county employee recognition ceremony at the courthouse. The latest newsletter has been finished. Iowa Surveillance Team in Waverly would like to donate surveillance items after seeing a post about recent vandalism to the bird blind at Babcock Woods.

Area Reports and Updates:

- **Wildlife Areas:** Allen Blasberg was present to request permission to drive along the trail through the Wapsie River Greenbelt Island Access to reach his property. A list of trail rules and a permit application were created and presented for discussion along with the request. The access permit shall be up for renewal on a yearly basis. After discussion, Harms moved to allow gate access with the presented rules and permit. The motion was seconded by Snyder and approved unanimously.

Upper Wapsi & Cedar River Watershed Management Authorities Update and Shell Rock River

Watershed Coalition Discussion: Kip Ladage provided an update on the Upper Wapsi and Cedar River Watershed Management Authorities, and suggested thinking of possible projects in both areas for potential future grant funding. He also requested a letter of support and letter of financial support for the Shell Rock River Watershed Management Coalition's Application for the IDNR Comprehensive Water Quality Management Planning Grant 2021. Snyder moved to send letter of support for the grant. The motion was seconded by Korman and approved unanimously. The financial request for the grant will be tabled until the January meeting.

Area Reports and Updates Cont.:

-**Wildlife Areas:** A request was made by Brian Meyer for ½ the costs of replacing tile along the

property line at the Wapsie River Greenbelt Bark Access. The request of \$703.50 was for replacing tile on the edge of his property that was believed to have been damaged by tree roots from county lands. After discussion, Snyder moved to deny the request. The motion was seconded by Korman and approved unanimously.

Firebreaks and trail work has been completed at Price Access, Ringneck, Plum Creek, and the lane at Bark Access. A fall burn was done at Warren Township Cemetery and Wartburg's Lageschulte Prairie.

- **Parks:** Pavelec as drilled holes for the cable and added angle iron to the walk bridge piers at Alcock Park.

Additional dirt work has been done on the natural playscape site at North Woods Park.

-**Other Areas:** no report

Open Meetings Communication Plan: Hockenson will post upcoming conservation board meeting agendas and minutes to better inform the public on department activities and discussions. The National Fish Passage Program Informational discussions with the US Fish & Wildlife Service will be held off until a spring or summer meeting.

EE Coordinator/Naturalist Report: The EE coordinator/naturalist report was reviewed. The report contained recent program numbers given. Heather was present to answer any questions. Heather arranged presenters for a Native American Stories and Dart Frogs programs. Edible vivariums were made during a program. The wreath making workshop will take place in December. Several updates were made to the Facebook page. Work was done on several BCNA related tasks including preparing for and attending a virtual meeting. Heather worked on an article to include in the newsletter. There was a motion by Korman to approve the report. The motion was seconded by Pavelec and approved unanimously.

Recycling Educator/Naturalist Report: The recycling educator/naturalist report was then reviewed. The report contained recent programs given. The Fall Newsletter has been completed and distributed. Much time was spent preparing for, scheduling, and conducting in person programs. Angie made a Facebook post for America Recycles Day; she also attended a BCNA virtual meeting. There was a motion by Pavelec to approve the report. The motion was seconded by Harms and approved unanimously.

Open Discussion: The closing on the Snyder Property will take place on December 10. Harms provided an update from his role on the state committee tasked with finding the right replacement(s) for Tom Hazelton, CEO of the Iowa County Conservation System, after retirement.

Bills/Purchases: Motion by Harms to approve the bills. The motion was seconded by Snyder and approved unanimously.

Next meeting 7:00 PM January 5, 2022 at the Conservation Board Office in Tripoli.

With no other business, the meeting was declared adjourned by Chairman Sanderman at 8:43 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Andrew Hockenson
Director

Approved: Mandie Sanderman, Chairman
