

BREMER COUNTY CONSERVATION BOARD
Regular Meeting
January 5, 2022
Conservation Board Office
1104 South Main Street Tripoli, IA 50676

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

Members Absent: none

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

Meeting called to order at 7:00 PM by Chairman Sanderman.

Korman moved to accept the minutes from the December 1, 2021 regular meeting as presented. Seconded by Pavelec and approved unanimously.

Misc. Correspondence and Announcements: The Winterfest Conference will be held January 25-27th in Coralville. The budget work session with the Board of Supervisors is scheduled for Jan. 24. Hockenson informed the board of new human trafficking training guidelines for lodging, which include hotel/motel and cabin stays. Kevin Korman has been reappointed to serve another 5-year term. The Bremer County Pheasants Forever chapter will be hosting the annual Governors Pheasant Hunt November 5, 2022.

Election of 2022 officers: After discussion, Harms made a motion to retain Sanderman as Chair. The motion was seconded by Korman and approved unanimously. The office of Vice Chair was then discussed with Korman making a motion to nominate Pavelec for Vice Chair. Snyder seconded the motion which was unanimously approved. Sanderman and Pavelec accepted their nominations and will service in their respective roles for 2022.

Area Reports and Updates:

- **Wildlife Areas:** Kip Ladage provided an update on the Shell Rock River Watershed Management Coalition's Application for the IDNR Comprehensive Water Quality Management Planning Grant 2021. He feels the grant has a good chance of being approved. At this point no financial commitment from the board is being discussed. Kip also suggested thinking of possible projects in the Upper Wapsi and Cedar River Watershed Management Authorities.

Over the winter months, staff members continue splitting firewood and have plans to continue using the skidsteer and mulcher to remove brush in the wildlife areas.

- **Parks:** Hockenson discussed 2022 park user fees and compared them to rates from surrounding counties with similar amenities. Pavelec moved and Snyder seconded setting the 2022 user fees at the increased rates as presented. All approved. The 2022 user fees will be as follows: Cedar Bend camping \$12/night non-electric, \$20/night electric, \$22/night gravel pads, \$410 (grass) and \$485 (gravel) per 30 consecutive nights; Alcock and North Cedar camping \$12/night non-electric, \$18/night electric, and \$360 per 30 consecutive nights; North Woods camping \$12/night non-electric, \$18/night electric, \$20/night gravel sites, \$360 (grass) and \$460 (gravel) per 30 consecutive nights; dumpstations \$5 for non-registered campers; showers \$2 for non-registered campers; firewood \$5 per specified amount; shelters \$25/day; and Eagle Lodge \$75/day.

The improved project request for the flume bridge at Alcock Park has been approved by FEMA.

-**Other Areas:** Hockenson will be meeting with IA DNR Avian Ecologist Anna Buckardt Thomas to discuss potential locations for a MOTUS bird tracking tower. The tower and antenna would be utilized to better track migrating birds within a 9-mile range. The Prairie Rapids Audubon Society would assist with expenses associated with purchasing the tower.

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. Summer programming is already being discussed and planned. Wreath making was a successful program. The BCNA purchased 8 new kayaks. The annual fishing pole report was completed. The BCNA Winter Picnic is planned for Feb 6. Several updates were made to the Facebook page. Work was done on several BCNA related tasks including preparing for and attending a virtual meeting. Other meetings were attended in person and virtually. 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. Angie helped host and attended the NE Iowa Naturalist meeting. A tour was set up at Warburg College's science department. Much time was spent preparing for, scheduling, and conducting in person programs. Angie 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.

FY22/23 Budget: Hockenson discussed initial guidelines sent out by the Board of Supervisors such as a 3.5% wage increase for staff, health insurance figures, and FICA and IPERS rates. Slight increases have been proposed in official publications, employee expenses, dues & memberships, and road aggregates line items. Funds were also again budgeted for an open FEMA project if not completed by June 30, 2022. All other line items in departments 22,13,19,81, and 96 will remain the same or similar to the previous year. Hockenson also recommended a capital purchase of a roughly 75 hp tractor to be utilized in the parks and wildlife areas, replacing the John Deere 4430, and moving the New Holland TL80 to the County Farm. After considerable discussion including high inflation costs, Pavelec moved to increase the submitted wage value from 3.5% to 4% with associated wage related increases. The motion was seconded by Korman and approved unanimously. After further discussion, Harms moved and Pavelec

seconded to submit the budget with those salary changes. All approved. The capital expenditure was discussed. Harms made a motion to submit a budget of \$65,000 in capital expenditures to replace the John Deere 4430 with a roughly 75 hp tractor. The motion was seconded by Korman and approved unanimously. Hockenson will present the proposed budgets to the Board of Supervisors.

Open Discussion: none

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

Next meeting 7:00 PM February 2, 2022 at the Conservation Board Office in Tripoli.

With no other business, the meeting was declared adjourned by Chairman Sanderman at 8:40 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Approved: Mandie Sanderman, Chairman

Andrew Hockenson
Director
