

BREMER COUNTY CONSERVATION BOARD

Regular Meeting

June 1, 2022

Conservation Board Office

1104 South Main Street Tripoli, IA 50676

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

Members Absent: Mandie Sanderman

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

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

Korman moved to accept the minutes from the May 4, 2022 regular meeting as presented. Seconded by Harms and approved unanimously.

Misc. Correspondence and Announcements: Hockenson provided an update on the Eagle Scout projects. Two seasonal employees have been hired and begun work. The Iowa County Conservation System CEO position is also being advertised with a potential September announcement of who will be taking over the statewide role.

Area Reports and Updates:

- **Parks:** Camping numbers were strong for the Memorial Day weekend with numbers similar to last year.

Staff members continue working on the nature playscape at North Woods. Many of the items are in and open for use. Additional items will be placed in the future to continue enhancing the site.

- **Wildlife Areas:** The Board was approached by a land owner with an interest in selling 15 acres of timber along the Wapsie River Greenbelt. The landlocked property does adjoin a county parcel and would make a nice addition to the wildlife Area. After discussion, Korman moved to verbally offer \$2,200 per acre. The motion was seconded by Snyder and approved unanimously. This item will be included on the July agenda for further updates after discussing with the landowner.

- **Other Areas:** Bremer County's Bird Friendly Iowa renewal is due within the next few months. The Conservation Board and Board of Supervisors were in agreeance of submitting the renewal application.

Chevy Traverse damage, dump truck repairs: Hockenson provided pictures of the 2020 Chevy Traverse that sustained rear-end damage from a tree after 5th Grade Field Day. Repair estimates were received from two different auto shops. With the high estimates received, and after discussing with the Board of Supervisors, it was decided to pursue selling the vehicle as is, and purchasing new. Discussion also took place in regards to the International Dump truck needing an engine overhaul and a transmission replacement. The Bremer County Secondary Roads Dept. provided repair costs for both. After discussion, it was decided to go ahead with having both items repaired at the same time.

EE Coordinator/Naturalist Report/Colorado Trip Request: The EE coordinator/naturalist report was reviewed. The report contained recent program numbers given. Several programs had to be canceled due to weather and scheduling. 5th Grade Field Day took place May 10. Several updates were made to the Facebook page. Other meetings were attended in person. Heather is working on preparing for summer field trips, and provided numbers from birding programs for the Bird Friendly IA renewal. Heather picked up books from Sumner Library for the little library at North Woods Park. There was a motion by Harms to approve the report. The motion was seconded by Korman and approved unanimously. Heather was in attendance to request assisting with the Wilderness Studies Colorado trip again next summer. Snyder moved to approve the request of chaperoning the Wilderness Studies trip to Colorado June 12-23th 2023. The motion was seconded by Korman and approved unanimously.

Recycling Educator/Naturalist Report: The recycling educator/naturalist report was then reviewed. The report contained recent programs given. Registrations are coming in for the upcoming summer field trips and picnic in the parks. Time was spent preparing for, scheduling, and conducting in person programs. There was a motion by Snyder to approve the report. The motion was seconded by Harms and approved unanimously.

Open Discussion: Work will begin soon on the flume bridge at Alcock Park. All three food plots have been planted again this year. Kip provided updates on the watershed management authorities. He also discussed placing signs at our parks with information on how park users can sign up for weather or emergency related alerts. It was decided this would be a benefit to park users, therefore, Harms moved to work with Kip on getting the signs made for all 4 parks. The motion was seconded by Snyder and approved unanimously.

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

Next meeting 7:00 PM July 6, 2022 at the Conservation Board Office in Tripoli.

With no other business, the meeting was declared adjourned by Vice Chairman Pavelec at 8:18 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Approved: Larry Pavelec, Vice Chairman

Andrew Hockenson
Director
