

BREMER COUNTY CONSERVATION BOARD

Regular Meeting

August 2, 2023

Conservation Board Office

1104 South Main Street Tripoli, IA 50676

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

Members Absent: Mandie Sanderman

Also Present: Andrew Hockenson, Director; Darius Robinson, Co. Attorney; Heather Gamm, Naturalist; Kip Ladage, David Lehman,

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

Korman moved to accept the minutes from the July 5, 2023 regular meeting as presented. Seconded by Harms and approved unanimously.

Misc. Correspondence and Announcements: Hockenson informed the Board of a recent grant distribution from the Restore Our Wapsipinicon River (ROW) Endowment Fund, which is established within the Community Foundation of Northeast Iowa. As a beneficiary of the fund, the conservation board will receive an annual distribution based on the amount available to grant from the fund each year. Grant money must be used on projects on and along the Wapsipinicon River from the Chickasaw County line to Alcock Park.

Area Reports and Updates:

- **Parks:** Staff members recently converted 7 of the grass sites at Cedar Bend Park to gravel. Work on sites E,F,G also took place to level and extend them to make them better suited for larger campers. Most of the new sites quickly filled once completed.

- **Wildlife Areas:** County Attorney Darius Robinson introduced himself to the Board and discussed a recent email from an Environmental Specialist with the Iowa DNR in regards to the flowing artesian well in the C-33 right-of-way along the Wapsie River Greenbelt. Having the well plugged was part of the discussion, however that brought up many concerns for the reptiles and amphibians that need the area to remain wet. Darius has made an official request to the DNR for an environmental review to better understand how altering the well may affect endangered, threatened, and/or species of greatest conservation need.

The cattle grazing lease is up for renewal. Harms moved to extend the lease 2 more years as it is currently written, contingent on a conversation with Terry VanDeWalle. The motion was seconded by Korman and approved unanimously.

- **Other Areas:** The repairs to the Crane Creek bridge pillars has been completed. Hockenson will work with Roadside Manager David Lehman to reseed the trail and road right-of-ways disturbed by the project.

EE Coordinator/Naturalist Report: The EE coordinator/naturalist report was reviewed. The report contained recent programs and participant numbers. Several posts were made to the Facebook page. Heather did many BCNA related tasks including preparing items to hand out at the BCNA booth at the fair, and picking an Adopt a Highway location along Hwy 3. She also attended Project Wild and IA Cons. Education Coalition meetings via zoom. She wrote a day 5 summary of the Colorado Wilderness Trip to be included in the newspaper. Time was also spent preparing for July and August Outdoor Explorer programs. There was a motion by Korman to approve the report. The motion was seconded by Harms and approved unanimously.

Recycling Educator/Naturalist Report: The Recycling Educator/naturalist report was reviewed. The report contained recent programs and participant numbers. Angie worked on creating new Outdoor Explorer programs. Only one biking program had to be canceled due to low attendance. There was a motion by Harms to approve the report. The motion was seconded by Snyder and approved unanimously.

Open Discussion: Kip Ladage and Darius Robinson provided an update on recent pipeline meetings and discussions. Snyder commented on negative Facebook posts she had seen regarding the Alcock cable walk bridge. Hockenson reported a very positive phone call he had taken from a couple from Polk County who were very pleased with Alcock Park.

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

Next meeting 7:00 PM September 6, 2023 at the Conservation Board Office in Tripoli.

With no other business, the meeting was declared adjourned by Chairman Pavelec at 8:19 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Approved: Larry Pavelec, Chairman

Andrew Hockenson
Director
