

BREMER COUNTY CONSERVATION BOARD
Regular Meeting October 4, 2023
Conservation Board Office
1104 South Main Street Tripoli, IA 50676

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

Members Absent: none

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

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

Snyder moved to accept the minutes from the September 6, 2023 regular meeting as presented. Seconded by Sanderman and approved unanimously.

Misc. Correspondence and Announcements: Pavelec and Snyder provided an update from the Fall Conference. The region 7 REAP assembly will be held October 24 at Hartman Reserve.

Area Reports and Updates:

- **Parks:** An updated brochure for the cabin project at Cedar Bend was reviewed. At this point, no changes were suggested. The current brochure will be sent out for printing.

The pillars for the Alcock walk bridge have been sandblasted and painted. Staff members also added two small cables along the sides of the bridge. They have been working on cleaning up the dirt mounds around the pillars and filling stump holes throughout the park. Much of the new dirt has been seeded.

Gary Bergmann of Frederika was in attendance to discuss the possibility of putting in a canoe/kayak launch on the west side of Alcock Park. Hockenson will meet with Bergmann to determine the best location and what the project may entail. He also mentioned repairing the east shelter versus taking it down. With its current condition, repairs would be too costly, however other options for the site will be explored. Instead of a pickle ball court, constructing a smaller shelter on part of the concrete and leaving the other portion open, may be an option.

Large rocks have been placed as barricades at 7-Bridges Wildlife Area, eliminating the ¼ mile section of lane that cuts through the center.

- **Wildlife Areas:** The flowing artesian well in the C-33 right-of-way along the Wapsie River Greenbelt was once again discussed. Hockenson attended an on-site meeting with the DNR Endangered Species Coordinator, DNR Wildlife Biologist, DNR Water Quality Specialists, and Terry VanDeWalle to

discuss the next steps to addressing the well if need be. From that meeting, it sounded as if the well may not need to be capped, however repairs and additional water sampling still may need to take place.

The trails through Island Access and Plum Creek Wildlife Area have been cleared and mowed. Firebreaks have also been mowed at Brewer and Brase Accesses and Ringneck Wildlife Area.

- **Other Areas:** The Board was approached by a landowner with an interest in selling 12 acres of timber along the Wapsie River partially adjoining Snyder Access. After discussion, Korman moved to verbally offer \$1,250 per acre (\$15,000) for the property. The motion was seconded by Sanderman. Vote yea: Korman, Sanderman, Harms; vote nay: none; Abstain: Snyder. The motion carried. This item will be included on an upcoming agenda for further updates after discussing with the landowners.

An update on the potential tile line running through Dillion Wildlife Area was provided. At this point the landowners will need to have additional information provided to the NRCS office before any action from the Conservation Board can take place.

EE Coordinator/Naturalist Report: The EE coordinator/naturalist report was reviewed. The report contained recent programs and participant numbers. Heather did many BCNA related tasks. She also attended different meetings in-person and online. She submitted an RFP for the IAN Wilderness Committee to present at the NAI Conference. The WaterWorks grant items have arrived. Angie and Heather went through and repaired the fishing poles after being used this summer. They also worked on Halloween Hike skits and costumes. Monarch tagging this year was not very productive because of the dry conditions. Heather and Darrin Siefken met to determine the best way to store and transport the cross-country skis. There was a motion by Harms to approve the report. The motion was seconded by Sanderman and approved unanimously.

Recycling Educator/Naturalist Report: The Recycling Educator/naturalist report was reviewed. The report contained recent programs and participant numbers. Angie is working on registering people for the Halloween Hike on October 23. The BCNA is funding a Charcuterie Board Class and Lights & Shadows program, which are both new. She also continues to work on the newsletter, which will be mailed out this month. There was a motion by Korman to approve the report. The motion was seconded by Snyder and approved unanimously.

Open Discussion: Kip Ladage provided an update on the watershed management authorities. He also gave an update on the pipeline project, which is temporarily suspended while other litigations in different state gets decided.

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

With no other business, the meeting was declared adjourned by Chairman Pavelec at 8:42PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Approved: Larry Pavelec, Chairman

Andrew Hockenson
Director
