

BREMER COUNTY CONSERVATION BOARD
Regular Meeting
September 6, 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;

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

Harms moved to accept the minutes from the August 2, 2023 regular meeting as presented. Seconded by Snyder and approved unanimously.

Misc. Correspondence and Announcements: Hockenson commented on a \$1000 donation made to go toward replacing picnic tables on the east side of Alcock Park. A burn ban has been set in place for Bremer County. The Fall Newsletter is being worked on and will be coming out soon. Hockenson will be conducting a hunter education field day course on September 19 at Eagle Lodge, he also recently spoke during the Master Conservationist session at Sweet Marsh.

Area Reports and Updates:

- **Parks:** A Cedar Bend cabin donation brochure has been created. Board members reviewed the brochure, providing edits that will be made prior to distribution. Once the brochure has been reviewed and finalized, a digital format will be placed on our website. Hard copies will be printed and mailed to various organizations/individuals. After discussing printing costs, Harms made a motion to have The Printery print 100 brochures, pending discussed changes to the wording and layout. The motion was seconded by Snyder and approved unanimously.

Hockenson presented a monthly maintenance checklist for the cable walk bridge at Alcock Park. Each month staff members will conduct an inspection of the cables, eye bolts, cable clamps, turnbuckles, boards, soil around the pillars, fencing, zip ties, welds, etc. on the bridge.

- **Wildlife Areas:** The flowing artesian well in the C-33 right-of-way along the Wapsie River Greenbelt was once again discussed. Hockenson attended a zoom meeting with the DNR Endangered Species Coordinator, DNR Wildlife Biologist, US FWS, and Terry VanDeWalle to discuss what the next steps are to addressing the well if need be.

The cattle grazing lease was discussed with Terry VanDeWalle as voted on during the August 2, 2023 meeting. The current language and dates of May 15 through August 15 stand. The lease agreement as written will go to the Board of Supervisors for approval at an upcoming meeting.

- **Other Areas:** The neighbor to the east of Dillion Wildlife Area is interested in doing some tile work that would replace a line running through the Dillion Wildlife Area. With this area having a wetland reserve easement in place, approval through the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) office will have to be granted along with Board approval. No action was taken.

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. She also attended different meetings in-person and online. Scheduling school programs through May is already taking place. Heather and Angie led a trip to the Rockford Fossil Park, and helped facilitate the Whitewater Kayaking trip in Manchester. Heather is preparing for Monarch tagging programs, she also assisted with the Rugged Toad Triathlon. The Halloween Hike in Bremer County will be Oct. 23. 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 and Heather attended a WaterWorks training day, and attended Summer IAN. A new program was created because of the IAN meeting. New programs are being added and included on the Teacher E.E. and Recycling programs Newsletters. Planning for the Halloween Hikes has started with Chickasaw and Butler Counties. Angie worked with Girl Scout Troop 1243 to build a shelter at the North Woods playscape. There was a motion by Sandermann to approve the report. The motion was seconded by Harms and approved unanimously.

Open Discussion: none

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

Next meeting 7:00 PM October 4, 2023 at the Conservation Board Office in Tripoli.

With no other business, the meeting was declared adjourned by Chairman Pavelec at 8:20 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Andrew Hockenson
Director

Approved: Larry Pavelec, Chairman
