

BREMER COUNTY CONSERVATION BOARD
Regular Meeting April 3, 2024
Conservation Board Office
1104 South Main Street Tripoli, IA 50676

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

Members Absent: none

Also Present: Andrew Hockenson, Director; Mike Stevens, Roy Peterson, David Rader

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

Harms moved to accept the minutes from the March 6, 2024 regular meeting. Seconded by Sanderman and approved unanimously.

Bremer County Fairgrounds Update/Future Projects: Roy Peterson, Fundraising Chair for the Bremer County Fairgrounds was in attendance to update the Board on progress of the new fairgrounds. Currently 44 camping spots have been added as well as some buildings, underground utilities, etc. Future site plans and potential partnerships were also discussed.

Misc. Correspondence and Announcements: David Rader briefly questioned the status of the lease agreement he has for grazing cattle on the Wapsie River Greenbelt. He is asking to consider extending the lease from August 15 through September 15. No action taken. Hockenson presented email correspondences from neighbors of Ingawanis Woodland. Trail camera photos of trespassing and dogs of leash were shared from neighboring landowners. Staff members continue to address these issues by posting an article in the papers, contacting those found in violation, and signage. Hockenson also provided a legislative update and will be attending a Black Hawk Gaming Association Grant workshop.

Area Reports and Updates:

- **Parks:** Staff members are beginning to prepare the parks for opening May 1. With that date falling on a Wednesday, plans will be to begin opening them on Monday April 29.

- **Wildlife Areas:** Spring work plans for the wildlife areas include prescribed burns at various locations, planting food plots at Plum Creek and Brewer, Zell, and Hay Accesses. Stump grinding will also take place at Snyder Access.

The Board received 10 bids for constructing the shallow water wetland at Ringneck Wildlife Area. After reviewing and discussing all bids, Korman made a motion to accept the low bid of \$13,500 from Matt Construction. The motion was seconded by Harms and approved unanimously.

Hockenson brought up aerial imagery and informed the Board of illegal ATV/UTV usage at J.J. Lynes and Sons Wildlife Area. A letter to immediately cease use of ATV/UTVs on the area will be written and addressed to the landowner believed to be involved.

- Other Areas:

FY2022/23 Annual Report: Hockenson presented the fiscal year 2022/23 annual report. Sanderman moved to accept the annual report as presented. The motion was seconded by Korman and approved unanimously. Hockenson will submit the report to the Board of Supervisors.

Snow Plow: The Board discussed pricing for a snow plow to be mounted on the Ford F-250 pickup. After reviewing plow options and potential usage, Korman made a motion to proceed with a 7.5ft. Snow Ex regular duty straight edge plow. The motion was seconded by Sanderman and approved unanimously.

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 in preparation for the banquet. She is continuing to prepare for 5th grade field day. She also attended a State Science Leadership Team meeting in Ankeny as well as a Biking and two NAI-IAN conference meetings on zoom. She wrote and received a grant for \$470 through Prairie Rapids Audubon Society. Mike and Heather worked together cleaning the Kestrel boxes and entering data. Heather and Angie have finalized the summer programs which will be posted on Facebook and MyCountyParks.com. There was a motion by Sanderman 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 distributed the winter/spring newsletter. She also assisted with the Bird House program. Summer camp registration is now open. The compost worms were taken to St. Pauls PK. Angie also attended the BCNA banquet. There was a motion by Harms to approve the report. The motion was seconded by Sanderman and approved unanimously.

Open Discussion: Members commented on the BCNA banquet. Mike Stevens provided an update on the cabin fundraising.

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

Next meeting 7:00 PM May 1, 2024 at the Conservation Board Office in Tripoli.

With no other business, the meeting was declared adjourned by Chairman Pavelec at 8:48 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Approved: Larry Pavelec, Chairman

Andrew Hockenson
Director
