

BREMER COUNTY CONSERVATION BOARD
Regular Meeting December 4, 2024
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; Patricia Spowart

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

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

Misc. Correspondence and Announcements: Naturalist Liz Wilgenbusch started on December 2, 2024. Two students from Upper Iowa University will be conducting class presentations on information gathered at the A.F. Miller State Preserve. Snyder mentioned her correspondence with Iowa DNR Ecologist John Pearson. He may visit with us at the Preserve next spring/summer to discuss management options and answer questions we may have.

Area Reports and Updates:

- **Parks:** The Board of Supervisors has agreed to transfer \$10,145 to the Land Acquisition Fund for the cabin at Cedar Bend Park from sales of the two vehicles and leftover budgeted money from the capital mower purchase.

- **Wildlife Areas:** The Bremer County Pheasants Forever committee will be meeting to discuss a potential memorial donation that could be put toward habitat or other projects. The Conservation Board discussed utilizing the potential donation toward converting 35 acres of former pasture ground to an upland habitat prairie planting. Hockenson will attend the PF committee meeting with this project and gather further information.

- **Other Areas:** Hockenson received notice that the Water Recreation Access Cost Share (WRAC) grant for constructing a new boat ramp at North Cedar Park has been approved. The grant agreement with the DNR will be on the January meeting agenda.

Promoting Bremer County Conservation: After consulting with the County Attorney on the idea of creating a song and video as a promotion piece, it was recommended we need avoid any rendition that resembles a song that has already been created.

Capital Expenditures Budget Request FY2026: After discussing capital expenditures, Sanderman moved to request \$40,000 for a new ½ ton extended cab pickup to replace the 2011 Chevy pickup, and \$40,000 for the Cedar Bend cabin project. The motion was seconded by Korman and approved unanimously.

Naturalist Report: The Naturalist report was reviewed. The report contained recent programs and participant numbers. Snyder assisted with a presentation on turtles to a library group. Angie continues to arrange and clean both offices. She attended the Fall IAN meeting, and assisted with BCNA related tasks. There was a motion by Korman to approve the report. The motion was seconded by Harms. All approved

Open Discussion: Alan Blasberg will be accessing the gate at Island Access again this year to get to his property. Snyder commented on Hockenson presenting at the Master Gardeners meeting.

Dick Harms will be parting from the Board at the end of December. He was presented with a plaque and thanked for his 19 years of service and guidance on the Conservation Board.

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

Next meeting 7:00 PM **Thursday January 2, 2025** at the Conservation Board Office in Tripoli.

With no other business, the meeting was declared adjourned by Chairman Pavelec at 8:00 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Approved: Larry Pavelec, Chairman

Andrew Hockenson
Director
