

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

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

Members Absent: none

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

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

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

Misc. Correspondence and Announcements: Sanderman has been re-appointed to serve another 5-year term. Hockenson, Pavelec, Harms, and Korman provided an update from the Dec. 12 prebudget meeting with the Board of Supervisors. The budget request meeting with the Board of Supervisors will be Jan. 16.

Election of 2024 Officers: After discussion, Harms made a motion to nominate Pavelec as Chair. The motion was seconded by Korman and approved unanimously. With no other motions, Pavelec was unanimously voted as chair. The office of Vice Chair was then discussed, with Harms making a motion to appoint Sanderman for the position. Korman seconded the motion, which was unanimously approved. With no other motions, Sanderman was unanimously voted as Vice-Chair. Pavelec and Sanderman both accepted their nominations and will service in their respective roles for 2024.

Area Reports and Updates:

- **Parks:** Hockenson discussed 2024 park user fees and compared them to rates from surrounding counties with similar amenities. Harms moved and Snyder seconded retaining all 2024 user fees at the current level. All approved. The 2024 user fees will be as follows: Cedar Bend camping \$12/night non-electric, \$20/night electric, \$22/night gravel pads, \$410 (grass) and \$485 (gravel) per 30 consecutive nights; Alcock and North Cedar camping \$12/night non-electric, \$18/night electric, and \$360 per 30 consecutive nights; North Woods camping \$12/night non-electric, \$18/night electric, \$20/night gravel sites, \$360 (grass) and \$460 (gravel) per 30 consecutive nights; dumpstations \$5 for non-registered campers; showers \$2 for non-registered campers; firewood \$5 per specified amount; shelters \$25/day; and Eagle Lodge \$75/day.

Pavel will be speaking with the Lions Club about the Cedar Bend cabin plans. Some donations have been received since last meeting.

- **Wildlife Areas:** The purchase of the 12-acre Noack property adjacent to Snyder Access has been finalized and is open to public use.

- **Other Areas:** Complaints from neighbors of trail locations and interruptions while hunting their private property around Ingawanis Woodland have been taken. All trails are within county property boundaries, however adjacent landowners would like to discuss moving/eliminating trail sections within 100 yards of property lines. Discussion will take place during the February meeting.

Vehicle Disposal: Hockenson discussed disposing of the 1994 and 1999 Chevrolet pickups, with concerns of any possible future repair/maintenance expenses. Board members agreed to limit use during the winter and dispose of them in the spring or summer.

Storage Agreement: The Risk Services Manager with ICAP, during a recent site visit, recommended entering into an agreement with the IA DNR for storage of items in the county owned Bany building. Hockenson along with the county attorney will work on an agreement.

FY24/25 Budget: Hockenson discussed initial guidelines sent out by the Board of Supervisors such as a wage increase for staff, health insurance figures, and FICA and IPERS rates. Line items in departments 22,13,19,81, and 96 will remain the same or very similar to the previous year. Wages were set at 7% with associated wage related increases based off that value. Korman made a motion to submit the budget as proposed. The motion was seconded by Snyder and approved unanimously.

EE Coordinator/Naturalist Report: The EE coordinator/naturalist report was reviewed. The report contained recent programs and participant numbers. Yearly program and participant numbers were also presented. Heather did many BCNA related tasks, made posts on our Instagram page, and attended online meetings, a work session, and virtual field day. She finished scanning all the past Bremer County Conservation Board minutes and has them stored in our Google Drive. She also worked on our 2023 Fishing Report numbers and DNR/USFWS permits. 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 and Heather are planning summer programs. She is researching where our recycling materials go after being dropped off. She is also updating current programming. There was a motion by Korman to approve the report. The motion was seconded by Sanderman and approved unanimously.

Open Discussion: Kip Ladage provided an update on the watershed management authorities. The Shell Rock River Watershed Management Plan is nearing final approval.

Sanderman, as part of the Central Rivers AED, and working with the IA DNR, will be offering a course at Eagle Lodge for teachers to become certified in teaching hunter ed.

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

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

With no other business, the meeting was declared adjourned by Chairman Pavelec at 8:35PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Andrew Hockenson
Director

Approved: Larry Pavelec, Chairman
