

BREMER COUNTY CONSERVATION BOARD
Regular Meeting March 6, 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; Heather Gamm, Naturalist; Kip Ladage, Mike Stevens, Rob Walters, Trevor Bridges, Laura Albert

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

Harms moved to accept the minutes from the February 7, 2024 regular meeting. Seconded by Sanderman and approved unanimously.

Misc. Correspondence and Announcements: Hockenson attended a Bremer County Community Foundation grant workshop.

Area Reports and Updates:

- **Parks:** Sumner Parks & Rec. Director Laura Albert was in attendance to begin discussion on a trail leading from Sumner to North Woods Park. An update was provided on progress of the trail system within city limits, as well as an aerial view of potential routes to the park.

Discussion continued regarding trail locations, trespass issues, south parking lot, dogs off leash, and area closing time at Ingawanis Woodland. After hearing neighbor concerns from the February meeting, some members visited the site to get a better understanding of the situation to help aid in any future decisions. There were some locations where users could potentially follow a trail or opening on private property that crosses onto public, which could lead to trespassing. After a lengthy discussion, Sanderman moved to leave trails and parking lot locations as is, to create a natural barrier on the property line in locations where private trails meet public, and to post area closed signs from 11:00PM to 5:00AM. The motion was seconded by Snyder and approved unanimously. A response letter from the Board will be addressed to the neighbors who attended the February meeting. Hockenson will also submit an article to the newspapers regarding dogs of leash problems.

- **Wildlife Areas:** Staff members have been working at removing woody vegetation from the prairie at Brase Access. Roughly 15 acres in the southwest quarter have been cleared using the forestry mulcher and chainsaws. The dead ash trees at Snyder Access have also been removed.

Mike Kirchhoff is requesting permission to remove leaning trees along the fence line of his, and portions of our Island Access and Schwartz wetland easement on the Wapsie Greenbelt. Any removed trees shall be burned and any disturbed soil leveled and reseeded on the Schwartz easement. Hockenson has inspected the potential trees for removal. After discussion, Sanderman moved and Korman seconded to allow Mr. Kirchhoff to remove leaning trees along the fence line at no charge to Bremer County. All approved.

Discussion continued regarding the land for sale on the Cedar River the Iowa Natural Heritage Foundation was originally contacted about. At this time the Board does not wish to move forward with negotiations unless the donation of ½ interest of the property can be divided off, therefore separating the second owner. Hockenson will get clarification on that.

A neighbor to Cedar River Wildlife Area inquired about the possibility of purchasing 1.5 acres lying on the east side of the Cedar River that adjoins their property. Although that portion of the property is the only section on that side of the river, the Board decided to leave it as is.

- Other Areas:

IA DNR Outdoor Skills trailer storage: The Iowa DNR has outdoor skills trailers available for County Conservation Boards or other trained organizations to utilize the equipment inside for educational programming purposes. They are searching for storage locations for these trailers and partner organizations to help with checking them in and out. Angie Auel has agreed to coordinate usage of the trailer. After discussion, Harms moved to work with the DNR for storage of one outdoor skills trailer. 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. Heather did many BCNA related tasks and made posts on our Facebook page. She is beginning to prepare for 5th grade field day by lining up volunteers and presenters. She also received a \$250 scholarship to NAI/IAN in Council Bluffs, and attended the ICEC conference in Waterloo. 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 finalized the winter/spring newsletter. She is also working on the summer camps form, and has started a new container for the compost worms. There was a motion by Sanderman to approve the report. The motion was seconded by Korman and approved unanimously.

Open Discussion: Hockenson discussed the wetland project at Ringneck Wildlife Area and will begin getting bids for next meeting. He will also look into getting prices for a pickup snow plow. Kip Ladage provided an update on the pipeline and watershed management authorities. Pavelec gave an update on cabin fundraising and has a meeting set up with the Guernsey Foundation. Snyder commented on enforcing a time limit of agenda items from individuals. Harms also commented on a recent Motus Tower article in Iowa Outdoors magazine.

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

Next meeting 7:00 PM April 3, 2024 at the Conservation Board Office in Tripoli.

With no other business, the meeting was declared adjourned by Chairman Pavelec at 8:56 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Approved: Larry Pavelec, Chairman

Andrew Hockenson
Director
