

BREMER COUNTY CONSERVATION BOARD
Regular Meeting May 1, 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

Members Absent: none

Also Present: Andrew Hockenson, Director; Heather Gamm, Naturalist; Patricia Spowart

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

Korman moved to accept the minutes from the April 3, 2024 regular meeting. Seconded by Harms and approved unanimously.

Misc. Correspondence and Announcements: The Conservation Board continues to look for additional seasonal help, with one current seasonal employee accepting a full-time position in another county. Hockenson provided an update on legislative bills that passed, such as allowing ATV/UTV's on state park roads; and that any bills related to the Forest Reserve Program have failed.

Area Reports and Updates:

- **Parks:** All parks have been opened for the season. Alcock, North Cedar, and North Woods Parks were able to be opened on April 29, while Cedar Bend opened May 1.

- **Wildlife Areas:** The Bremer County Conservation Board has been awarded a Habitat Stamp Grant in the amount of \$15,000 for the development of a 1.4 acre wetland at Ringneck Wildlife Area. There was a motion by Korman and a second by Sanderman to enter into a Cooperative Grant Agreement with the Iowa Department of Natural Resources for Wildlife Habitat Stamp Project #24-08W. The motion was approved unanimously.

The wetland project at Ringneck Wildlife Area as begun, just ahead of several rounds of rainfall. Final grading and seeding will take place as conditions allow.

The Board discussed the cattle grazing lease as a follow up to David Rader's questions from the April meeting. No changes to any part of the lease were made at this point. Hockenson will continue to monitor vegetation growth and site conditions throughout the summer.

Future Wildlife/Fish Habitat Stamp grant projects were discussed, which included looking into deepening ponds at Hay/Buhr Accesses.

- **Other Areas:** Hockenson shared text messages and emails received from neighbors of Ingawanis Woodland, which included some of trespassing and a message from a neighbor not adjoining the property. As a response to one message, the Board wanted to make clear that trails and parking lot were on the property prior to county ownership. Area closed from 11:00PM-5:00AM have been placed at both parking lots.

Hockenson provided aerial maps of the property lines at Horton Road Ponds, and informed the Board of one neighbor expressing an interest in purchasing a portion of land around their property. This would provide a wider area on the back side of their house and expand their property. No action taken at this time.

FY 25 Wages: After discussion, Harms made a motion to approve wages for full time employees as budgeted for in the new fiscal year. 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 continues to plan and finalize the 5th Grade Field Day. She is also working with several teachers finalizing May field trips. She attended the NAI/IAN Conference in Council Bluffs and did many BCNA related tasks. Heather and Angie worked on setting up portions of the playscape. The annual crane count was held in April. There was a motion by Sanderman to approve the report. The motion was seconded by Korman and approved unanimously.

Recycling Educator/Naturalist Report: The Recycling Educator/naturalist report was reviewed. The report contained recent programs and participant numbers. Angie is getting registrations for the summer camps. She also attended the BCNA meeting and helped with the crane count. There was a motion by Snyder to approve the report. The motion was seconded by Harms and approved unanimously.

Open Discussion: Pavelec provided an update on the cabin fundraising. He has some meeting planned with different organizations.

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

Next meeting 7:00 PM June 5, 2024 at the Conservation Board Office in Tripoli.

With no other business, the meeting was declared adjourned by Chairman Pavelec at 8:18 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Approved: Larry Pavelec, Chairman

Andrew Hockenson
Director
