

BREMER COUNTY CONSERVATION BOARD
Regular Meeting November 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; Patricia Spowart, and Kip Ladage

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

Korman moved to accept the minutes from the October 2, 2024 regular meeting. Seconded by Sanderman and approved unanimously.

Misc. Correspondence and Announcements: Hockenson provided at Hunter Ed field day course on Oct. 15. He also attended the County Conservation Peace Officer Association Fall Workshop at Camp Dodge in Johnston, IA

Area Reports and Updates:

- **Parks:** Final camping and firewood revenue numbers were presented. Camping revenues at Cedar Bend were up from 2023, while Alcock and North Cedar were both down, partially due to flooding over holiday weekends. North Woods saw its second highest camping revenue just behind the 2023 season. Firewood revenue remained consistent with previous years.

- **Wildlife Areas:** Unwanted trees and brush have been mowed at Winzenburg Prairie and portions of Horton Road Ponds. Firebreaks/access trails have also been mowed at Brewer and Jurgensen Accesses. Staff will be finishing up the firebreaks at Hay/Buhr, Brase, and Frahm areas.

- **Other Areas:** The Bremer County Bridge Crew has completed replacing the bridge at Wilson Grove.

Promoting Bremer County Conservation: After attending the Fall Conference Fayette County tour, Pavelec presented a Bremer County Conservation song and video idea that could be posted on our social media outlets as a way to promote what Bremer County has to offer. After hearing and discussing the idea, all felt it would be best to gather further information before moving forward.

Naturalist Position Hiring Process: Hockenson and Auel set up interviews with 4 applicants. An offer was presented and accepted by Liz Wilgenbusch. Her anticipated start date will be December 2.

Naturalist Report: The Naturalist report was reviewed. The report contained recent programs and participant numbers. Angie presented at all three Halloween Hikes. All were very well attended. She continues cleaning both offices and re-organizing file cabinets. Angie also helped review Naturalist position applications and during the interview process. There was a motion by Snyder to approve the report. The motion was seconded by Sanderman. All approved

Open Discussion: Ladage expressed his concern for dogs off leash at Babcock Woods. Additional signage and potentially placing trail cameras may be needed.

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

Next meeting 7:00 PM December 4, 2024 at the Conservation Board Office in Tripoli.

With no other business, the meeting was declared adjourned by Chairman Pavelec at 8:07 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Approved: Larry Pavelec, Chairman

Andrew Hockenson
Director
