

**BREMER COUNTY CONSERVATION BOARD**  
**Regular Meeting September 4, 2024**  
**Conservation Board Office**  
**1104 South Main Street Tripoli, IA 50676**

**Members Present:** Larry Pavelec, Chair; Mandie Sanderman, Vice Chair; Richard Harms, and Stacey Snyder

**Members Absent:** Kevin Korman

**Also Present:** Andrew Hockenson, Director; Heather Gamm, Naturalist; Angie Auel, Naturalist; Patricia Spowart, and Mike Stevens

Meeting called to order at 7:03 PM by Chairman Pavelec.

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

**Misc. Correspondence and Announcements:** The 1999 and 1994 Chevy pickups will go on auction September 10. ICCS Fall Conference is coming up Sept. 17-19. The Rugged Toad Triathlon was held August 24 on portions of Ingawanis Woodland trails. Hockenson received reports of target shooting during the biking portion of the race close to the property line.

**Area Reports and Updates:**

- **Parks:** Hockenson had placed a notice in the local papers seeking interested vendors to supply firewood bundles to Cedar Bend Park. As of the September 4 meeting date, no vendors had provided a written proposal, however one had shown interest. Discussion will continue during the October 2 meeting.

Hockenson provided costs for purchasing 9-disc golf baskets for North Woods Park. He will place the order and once they arrive, will utilize the approved BCNA donation toward the purchase.

- **Wildlife Areas:** With dry conditions, mowing in the parks has slowed. Staff members will begin mowing and clearing firebreaks in the wildlife areas.

- **Other Areas:** Hockenson met with DNR Fisheries Biologist Dan Kirby to discuss the boat ramp at North Cedar Park. With the recent river channel change, the ramp is continually becoming less usable. After looking into a few sites within the park and on the other side of the river, constructing a new ramp on the north end of the campground could be a feasible location. Hockenson will look into applying for a state Water Recreation Access Cost-share program (WRAC) grant. If successful, the grant would cover 75% of costs.

**Review Naturalist/EE Coordinator Job Description:** After Heather announced her resignation to become the Fayette County Conservation Board Director, the Board reviewed job descriptions. With the EE Coordinator/Naturalist and Naturalist/Recycling Educator job descriptions being very similar, the Board discussed having one title and one job description for both Naturalists. After review and discussion, Harms moved to accept the updated Naturalist job description. The motion was seconded by Snyder and approved unanimously.

**Naturalist Position Hiring Process:** The Board discussed getting the Naturalist position posted as soon as possible, and putting a posting end date of Friday October 4, 2024. The wage range was discussed in detail, with Snyder making a motion to advertise the position with a starting wage range of \$44,000-\$49,000 plus county benefits. 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 and Angie led a trip to Rockford Fossil Park and began taking program requests for the school year. Heather picked up 3 new BCNA funded kayaks, paddles, life jackets, gear bags, and stand up paddle boards. She did many BCNA related tasks and made several Facebook posts including announcing her resignation. She also attended an ICEC virtual meeting, wrote newsletter articles, and is helping plan the kayak portion of the ICCS Fall Conference. There was a motion by Sanderman to approve the report. The motion was seconded by Snyder who also made a note of appreciation to Heather for all her years with the Bremer County Conservation Board. All approved

**Recycling Educator/Naturalist Report:** The Recycling Educator/naturalist report was reviewed. The report contained recent programs and participant numbers. Both Angie and Heather worked on scheduling upcoming school programs. Angie finished the fall newsletter and attended a NE IA Association of Naturalists and District II meeting. There was a motion by Sanderman to approve the report. The motion was seconded by Snyder and approved unanimously.

**Open Discussion:** none

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

Next meeting 7:00 PM October 2, 2024 at the Conservation Board Office in Tripoli.

With no other business, the meeting was declared adjourned by Chairman Pavelec at 8:19 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Approved: Larry Pavelec, Chairman

Andrew Hockenson  
Director

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