

BREMER COUNTY CONSERVATION BOARD
Regular Meeting January 2, 2025
Conservation Board Office
1104 South Main Street Tripoli, IA 50676

Members Present: Larry Pavelec, Chair; Mandie Sanderman, Vice Chair; Stacey Snyder, Kevin Korman and Patricia Spowart

Members Absent: none

Also Present: Andrew Hockenson, Director; Kip Ladage

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

Korman moved to accept the minutes from the December 4, 2024 regular meeting. Seconded by Sanderman and approved unanimously.

Misc. Correspondence and Announcements: The Bremer County Board of Supervisors has appointed Patricia Spowart to serve as the newest conservation board member, replacing Richard Harms.

Election of 2025 Officers: After discussion, Snyder 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 Korman making a motion to appoint Sanderman for the position. Snyder 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 2025.

Area Reports and Updates:

- **Parks:** Hockenson discussed 2025 park user fees and compared them to rates from surrounding counties with similar amenities. Sanderman moved and Snyder seconded increasing camping and firewood user fees. All approved. The 2025 user fees will be as follows: Cedar Bend camping \$15/night non-electric, \$20/night electric, \$22/night gravel pads, \$410 (grass) and \$485 (gravel) per 30 consecutive nights; Alcock and North Cedar camping \$15/night non-electric, \$20/night electric, and \$410 per 30 consecutive nights; North Woods camping \$15/night non-electric, \$20/night electric, \$25/night gravel sites, \$410 (grass) and \$485 (gravel) per 30 consecutive nights; dumpstations \$5 for non-registered campers; showers \$2 for non-registered campers; firewood at Alcock, North Woods, and North Cedar \$6 per specified amount; shelters \$25/day; and Eagle Lodge \$75/day.

- **Wildlife Areas:** The Bremer County Pheasants Forever committee has a memorial donation of \$10,000 that can be put toward converting 35 acres of former pasture ground in the Wapsie River

Greenbelt to an upland habitat prairie planting. Board members agreed to move forward with this conversion project at this site utilizing the donated funds.

- **Other Areas:** The Bremer County Conservation Board has been awarded a Water Recreation Access Cost Share (WRAC) grant for constructing a new boat ramp and river bank armoring at North Cedar Park in the amount of \$20,625. 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 WRAC Project #25-678. The motion was approved unanimously.

FY25/26 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. After reviewing and discussing wage figure options, they were set at 5% with associated wage related increases based off that value. Sanderman made a motion to submit the budget as proposed once all figures related to the 5% wage increase were entered. The motion was seconded by Spowart and approved unanimously.

Naturalist Report: The combined Naturalist report was reviewed. The report contained recent programs and participant numbers. Snyder assisted with a winter solstice hike at North Woods Park with Ten Wasps . Angie worked with Liz showing her program files, tubs, and information to help with preparing for programs and presentations. They also worked together reviewing upcoming scheduled programs Liz will feel comfortable presenting while Angie is off on extended leave. Liz is now also caring for a salamander given to us by Fayette County Conservation. There was a motion by Korman to approve the report. The motion was seconded by Snyder. All approved

Open Discussion: Ladage provided information on two potential FEMA buyout properties. Given both properties locations, conservation board members would have an interest in management if put into county ownership.

Pavelec continues to work on the promotional song he has written and copyright information.

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

Next meeting 7:00 PM February 5, 2025 at the Conservation Board Office in Tripoli.

With no other business, the meeting was declared adjourned by Chairman Pavelec at 9:17 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Approved: Larry Pavelec, Chairman

Andrew Hockenson
Director
