

BREMER COUNTY CONSERVATION BOARD

Regular Meeting

April 5, 2023

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; Kip Ladage, Heather Gamm, Louise Mauldin, Mike Stevens, & Mark Bohner,

Meeting called to order at 6:58 PM by Chairman Pavelec.

Harms moved to accept the minutes from the March 1, 2023 regular meeting as presented. Seconded by Sanderman and approved unanimously.

Misc. Correspondence and Announcements: Bremer County hosted the District II meeting on March 29. Hockenson had finished entering the Land Inventory Database information as required by SF 2323, as well as discussed other legislative items. The Motus tower is now in full operation. Hockenson reported the Alcock flume bridge FEMA project has been closed out.

Louise Mauldin, USFWS: Informative Presentation on National Fish Passage Program: Louise Mauldin with the USFWS provided an informative power point presentation on the National Fish Passage Program, which covers the Upper Mississippi River basin consisting of the Shell Rock, Wapsipinicon, and Upper Cedar Rivers in Bremer County. One goal of the program is to restore or improve passage for aquatic species by reconnecting habitats that have been fragmented by barriers such as dams. Louise provided an overview of the program, projects she has worked on with other county conservation boards, and potential funding sources.

Area Reports and Updates:

- **Parks:** Staff members have been working in the parks preparing for an April 28th opening to allow for a full first weekend of camping. A request was made on clarification of allowing walk-in primitive camping in the parks during the off season. Consensus of the Board was this is ok; however, gates, electricity, water, and restroom facilities will remain closed during this time.

The decking has been placed on the Alcock Park walk bridge and the side netting is over half done. The stairs are being constructed and will be installed once complete.

Discussion on a cabin at Cedar Bend park continued. Mike Stevens provided an update on his efforts to assist with fundraising. The capital improvement request to the Board of Supervisors during budgeting was not approved.

- **Wildlife Areas:** Controlled burns have been completed along the Wapsie River Greenbelt at Brewer Access and Cedar River Wildlife Area. Additional burns are planned if weather and time permits.

- **Other Areas:**

Vehicle Bids: Hockenson provided state bid results for purchasing a new ½ ton pickup as budgeted for in FY2024. After reviewing specs and pricing, Korman made a motion to approve the low bid provided by Karl Chevrolet for a 2023 crew cab 1500 4-wheel drive work truck. 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 continues to prepare for the 5th grade field day in May. Several updates were made to the Facebook and MyCountyParks.com pages about summer programming. She did many BCNA related tasks, including preparing for the annual banquet held March 25. Heather helped clean Kestrel boxes, contact past participants for the Crane Count, and write a grant to Prairie Rapids Audubon Society. She also attended District II, State Science Leadership Team, and WAPHL meetings. Heather discussed an email she received about the Midwest Bat Hub research project, which could be placed at 7-Bridges. There was a motion by Harms 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 and Heather finalized the summer programs list and finished the spring newsletter. Angie attended the District II meeting, attended the BCNA banquet, and completed two safety training videos. There was a motion by Sanderman to approve the report. The motion was seconded by Snyder and approved unanimously.

Open Discussion: Kip provided updates to the Upper Wapsie and Upper Cedar River Watershed Management Authorities.

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

Next meeting 7:00 PM May 3, 2023 at the Conservation Board Office in Tripoli.

With no other business, the meeting was declared adjourned by Chairman Pavelec at 8:43 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Approved: Larry Pavelec, Chairman

Andrew Hockenson
Director
