

**BREMER COUNTY CONSERVATION BOARD**

**Regular Meeting**

**January 4, 2023**

**Conservation Board Office**

**1104 South Main Street Tripoli, IA 50676**

**Members Present:** Mandie Sanderman, Chair; Larry Pavelec, Vice Chair; Richard Harms, Stacey Snyder (7:15 arrival) and Kevin Korman

**Members Absent:** none

**Also Present:** Andrew Hockenson, Director; Heather Gamm, Naturalist

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

Harms moved to accept the minutes from the December 7, 2022 regular meeting as presented.

Seconded by Pavelec and approved unanimously.

**Misc. Correspondence and Announcements:** The budget meeting for the conservation department will be Jan. 16 at 1:00 pm. Stacey Snyder has been reappointed to serve another 5-year term. Board member terms were reviewed.

**Area Reports and Updates:**

- **Parks:** Hockenson discussed 2023 park user fees and compared them to rates from surrounding counties with similar amenities. Korman moved and Pavelec seconded retaining all 2023 user fees at the current level. All approved. The 2023 user fees will be as follows: Cedar Bend camping \$12/night non-electric, \$20/night electric, \$22/night gravel pads, \$410 (grass) and \$485 (gravel) per 30 consecutive nights; Alcock and North Cedar camping \$12/night non-electric, \$18/night electric, and \$360 per 30 consecutive nights; North Woods camping \$12/night non-electric, \$18/night electric, \$20/night gravel sites, \$360 (grass) and \$460 (gravel) per 30 consecutive nights; dumpstations \$5 for non-registered campers; showers \$2 for non-registered campers; firewood \$5 per specified amount; shelters \$25/day; and Eagle Lodge \$75/day.

**Election of 2023 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. Harms 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 2023.

### **Area Reports and Updates:**

- **Parks (continued):** Discussion on a cabin at Cedar Bend park continued. Pavelec created a draft floorplan which was used to gather cost estimates for budgeting purposes. Members reviewed the drawings and provided suggestions for edits. Hockenson also talked with other counties with cabins, as well as manufacturers of modular cabin/home options to gather additional information.

- **Wildlife Areas:** Staff members continue working on firewood in the parks and removing dead/damaged trees along park trails. Pavelec suggested looking into a tree puller attachment for working in the wildlife areas.

- **Other Areas:** none

**Trailer Replacement:** Hockenson discussed the 1991 S&S deck over trailer and maintenance repair estimates from the secondary roads' mechanics. Making needed repairs would cost approximately half the value of replacing with new. Korman made a motion and Snyder seconded the motion of pricing out a new trailer for the February meeting. All approved.

**FY23/24 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. Slight increases have been proposed in fuels and natural & LP gas, while other line item values were slightly decreased. All other line items in departments 22,13,19,81, and 96 will remain the same or similar to the previous year. Wages were set at 5% with associated wage related increases based off that value. After further discussion, there was a recommendation to increase the revenue line item for Cedar Bend camping by \$3,500. With that change, Korman made a motion to submit the budget as proposed. The motion was seconded by Sanderman and approved unanimously.

Capital expenses were next discussed. Hockenson presented a capital purchase of a ½ ton extended cab pickup to replace the 1994 and 1999 pickups, and \$25,000 to go toward a cabin at Cedar Bend. The board further discussed the cost of constructing a new cabin, and suggested increasing that value to \$50,000. Snyder made a motion to submit the capital expenditure budget as proposed with the increased value of \$50,000 for the cabin at Cedar Bend Park. The motion was seconded by Sanderman and approved unanimously. Hockenson will present the proposed budgets to the Board of Supervisors.

**EE Coordinator/Naturalist Report:** The EE coordinator/naturalist report was reviewed. The report contained recent programs and participant numbers. Yearly totals of 810 programs and 14,000 participants were also provided in the report. The wreath making program was very successful. Heather helped with the IAN/ICEC Award Selection. She also was elected to ExCom of the ICEC. Several updates were made to the Facebook page. Heather did many BCNA related tasks. 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 then reviewed. The report contained recent programs and participant numbers. Angie is working on nature playscape and entrance sign ideas, and continues taking care of the composting worms. The Winter Newsletter is ready for printing. 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 Korman and approved unanimously.

Next meeting 7:00 PM February 1, 2023 at the Conservation Board Office in Tripoli.

With no other business, the meeting was declared adjourned by Chairman Sanderman at 8:49 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Approved: Larry Pavelec, Chairman

Andrew Hockenson  
Director

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