

BREMER COUNTY CONSERVATION BOARD

Regular Meeting

July 5, 2023

Conservation Board Office

1104 South Main Street Tripoli, IA 50676

Members Present: Larry Pavelec, Chair; Mandie Sanderman, Vice Chair; Richard Harms, and Kevin Korman

Members Absent: Stacey Snyder

Also Present: Andrew Hockenson, Director; Kip Ladage

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

Sanderman moved to accept the minutes from the June 7, 2023 regular meeting as presented.

Seconded by Harms and approved unanimously.

Misc. Correspondence and Announcements: The new Chevy Silverado pickup has arrived and been picked up. Plans are for the 2014 F-150 to go to Cedar Bend and be fitted with fuel tank and tool boxes. At some point, the 1994 and 1999 Chevy pickups currently at Cedar Bend will be disposed of, potentially through auction. The Iowa County Conservation System Fall Conference is planned for September 19-21 in Harrison & Pottawattamie Counties. The Bremer County Pheasants Forever Chapter is donating funds for a skidsteer tree puller attachment and hand powered augers, totaling approximately \$3,500. A REAP meeting will be scheduled August 2, 2023 at 6:30 PM with the regular conservation board meeting to follow.

Area Reports and Updates:

- **Parks:** Camping numbers were a bit lower than last year for the 4th of July holiday, however Alcock had strong numbers similar to years past.

The contractor is set to begin the roofing projects at Alcock Park.

With the drier than normal conditions, mowing in the parks has slowed. Staff members plan to begin working on converting 7 of the grass campsites to graveled pads at Cedar Bend Park. Once the sites have been graveled, the rate will change from \$20/night to \$22/night for gravel pad sites in Cedar Bend.

- **Wildlife Areas:** Iowa DNR Wildlife Biologist Jason Auel provided cost estimates based off total cubic yard excavation to construct a 1.4ac wetland at Ringneck Wildlife Area as a potential Habitat Stamp grant project. Estimates ranged from .5ft depth to 2ft. depth. After discussion, the Board gave direction to work with the 2ft. depth numbers when applying for the grant.

Rob Walters has requested approval to volunteer mow at Brewer Access. Firebreaks are mowed on the area in the fall, however Rob would like to keep a ¾ mile loop mowed throughout the summer using his own mower. Rob would be provided a map of what is to be mowed during the months of May-Aug. After discussion, Harms moved to allow the volunteer work. The motion was seconded by Korman and approved unanimously.

- **Other Areas:** Repairs to the short bridge at Wilson Grove were also discussed. The county engineer had gotten pricing on 30' and 40' steel and wood beams for the bridge. After further discussion, Korman moved to go with the lowest price 30' beam option. The motion was seconded by Sanderman and approved unanimously.

Contractors are set to begin working on the concrete repairs to the Crane Creek Grump Trail bridge pillars. The project was able to be moved up a few months to take advantage of the low water levels.

EE Coordinator/Naturalist Report: The EE coordinator/naturalist report was reviewed. The report contained recent programs and participant numbers. Pictures and posts were made to the Facebook page. Picnic in the Park programs began in June. BCNA members had a work day and meeting at North Woods Park in preparation for the playscape grand opening. Heather did many other BCNA related tasks. She also attended other meetings via zoom and in person. She prepped for and went on the Colorado Wilderness Trip for 12 days. There was a motion by Sanderman to approve the report. The motion was seconded by Harms and approved unanimously.

Recycling Educator/Naturalist Report: The Recycling Educator/naturalist report was reviewed. The report contained recent programs and participant numbers. Angie worked on creating many new programs. Some fishing programs with North Star had to be re-scheduled due to wildfire smoke. Summer camp letters were sent out as well as other communications for the June programs. Picnic in the Park programs continue to grow. There was a motion by Harms to approve the report. The motion was seconded by Korman and approved unanimously.

Open Discussion: Kip Ladage was in attendance to provide updates to the watershed management authorities.

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

Next meeting 7:00 PM August 2, 2023 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
