

**BREMER COUNTY CONSERVATION BOARD**

**Regular Meeting**

**June 7, 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; Heather Gamm, Naturalist

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

Snyder moved to accept the minutes from the May 3, 2023 regular meeting as presented. Seconded by Sanderman and approved unanimously.

**Misc. Correspondence and Announcements:** The new Chevy Traverse has arrived and has been picked up. The Iowa County Conservation System Fall Conference is planned for September 19-21 in Harrison & Pottawattamie Counties. Bremer County is implementing a new electronic timecard entry system that will be going live for every employee in July.

**Area Reports and Updates:**

- **Parks:** Camping numbers were strong for the Memorial Day weekend with numbers similar to previous years.

The concrete footings have been poured for the steps to the walk bridge at Alcock Park. Staff members will place rock above the footings and around the pillars and steps. A short rock trail will go from the bridge to the mowed area on the west side. Hockenson presented a list of bridge guidelines/rules for discussion. After reviewing the list, Korman made a motion to approve the list with the addition of "NO JUMPING FROM BRIDGE". The motion was seconded by Sanderman and approved unanimously.

The Bremer County Nature Alliance met at the North Woods playscape for a volunteer clean up outing in preparation for the scheduled June 8<sup>th</sup> grand opening event. Staff members added mulch and placed new signs at the site. Sumner Building Center donated and delivered two child size picnic tables to add to the playscape area.

Hockenson reported discussing the cabin project with Black Hawk Gaming representatives and, at this point, did not submit a letter of intent to apply for a grant. The grant request will look much better once further into the project. A donation letter and brochure will be going out soon to potential donors.

- **Wildlife Areas:** The 20.8 acres of former crop ground on the north end of Plum Creek Wildlife area have been seeded to native prairie grasses and flowers. Soil conditions have been very dry, so the new seeding will be monitored.

- **Other Areas:** Hockenson met with Mike Rosteck, neighbor to Shell Rock Access, in regards to trespass issues and the need for a new walk bridge on the area. Staff members will plan to utilize the skidsteer to construct a shallow water crossing at the original bridge location.

Repairs to the short bridge at Wilson Grove were also discussed. The Bremer County Secondary Roads Bridge Crew are removing a bridge near 7-Bridges Wildlife Area that could be utilized as a replacement. New pilings would have to be purchased and driven, but a majority of the replacement materials could come from the bridge being removed. The Engineer has offered the assistance of the bridge crew for this project. After further discussion, Snyder moved and Korman seconded to have the bridge crew replace the bridge at Wilson Grove. All approved.

**EE Coordinator/Naturalist Report:** The EE coordinator/naturalist report was reviewed. The report contained recent programs and participant numbers. 5<sup>th</sup> Grade Field Day was successful with nice weather and dry conditions. Several updates were made to the Facebook and MyCountyParks.com pages about summer programming. Heather assisted Darrin Siefken with his Wartburg Outdoor Rec. class. Registrations for summer outdoor explorer camps and picnic in the parks are coming in. She did many BCNA related tasks, and attended WAPHL and IA Conservation Education Coalition meetings. There was a motion by Korman 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. Many fishing programs were presented this month, and time was spent fixing fishing poles. Angie and Heather met at Sumner Library to talk about a story book walk at North Woods. They also have scheduled the summer library programs. There was a motion by Sanderman to approve the report. The motion was seconded by Snyder and approved unanimously.

**Open Discussion:**

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

Next meeting 7:00 PM July 5, 2023 at the Conservation Board Office in Tripoli.

With no other business, the meeting was declared adjourned by Chairman Pavelec at 8:16 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Andrew Hockenson  
Director

Approved: Larry Pavelec, Chairman

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