

**BREMER COUNTY CONSERVATION BOARD**

**Regular Meeting**

**March 1, 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

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

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

**Misc. Correspondence and Announcements:** Bremer County will be hosting the spring District II meeting on March 29<sup>th</sup>. The Hunter Education Instructor Workshop will also be held at Eagle Lodge that same evening. Hockenson has been updating the Land Inventory database as required under the Senate File 2323 bill signed in 2022. The BCNA banquet will be held March 25 in Denver.

**Area Reports and Updates:**

- **Parks:** Discussion on a cabin at Cedar Bend park continued. Hockenson will be meeting with Mid American Energy at some point to look into any service upgrades that may be needed. Another cabin kit option through Cedar Forest Products was discussed. Discussion on fundraising for the cabin continued. At this point it is still uncertain whether capital improvement expenditures will be approved.

Plainfield Welding is beginning to work on the metal steps for the walk bridge at Alcock Park.

- **Wildlife Areas:** Staff members plan to conduct prescribed burns on several wildlife areas this spring as weather conditions allow. Burning a portion of the Ringneck Wildlife Area is planned for this spring to allow better access to survey areas for potential wetland construction.

The 20 acres of former ag land at Plum Creek are scheduled to be planted to a native prairie mix, utilizing a portion of Jim Peters' memorial funds.

- **Other Areas:** The Iowa Natural Heritage Foundation is once again working with the Conservation Board on creating a donor panel/kiosk for Ingawanis Woodland. Hockenson provided one panel example with other options still being looked into.

**Plum Creek Wildlife Area Management Agreement with the IA DNR (Bany Tract):** Hockenson presented a termination agreement from the IA DNR for the management at Plum Creek Wildlife Area (Bany Tract). The original agreement was signed in 2012 and was to run through 2037. Maintenance on the property, and the ability of the DNR to utilize USFWS funds to manage the timber on the property, were both reasons for terminating the agreement. After discussion, Korman made a motion to terminate the agreement and turn management back over to the IA DNR. The motion was seconded by Snyder and approved unanimously.

**FY2021/22 Annual Report:** Hockenson presented the fiscal year 2021/22 annual report. Snyder moved to accept the annual report as presented. The motion was seconded by Harms and approved unanimously. Hockenson will submit the report to the Board of Supervisors.

**EE Coordinator/Naturalist Report:** The EE coordinator/naturalist report was reviewed. The report contained recent programs and participant numbers. Mike cut out birdhouses for an upcoming program. Heather is beginning to work on lining up volunteers and schools for the 5<sup>th</sup> grade field day in May. Several updates were made to the Facebook and Instagram pages. She did many BCNA related tasks, and attended different online meetings. She also applied for a STEM Scale Up grant and attended the IA Conservation Education Coalition conference in Des Moines. There was a motion by Sanderman 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 has returned to work after recovering from back surgery. Examples and pricing on sign options for the nature playscape and recreation area entrances were provided in the report. Board members provided feedback on the sign options, which included adding a symbol to go along with the word on each nature playscape activity sign for those who are not able to read or need visual assistance. There was a motion by Harms to approve the report. The motion was seconded by Korman and approved unanimously.

**Open Discussion:** Kip provided updates on the proposed carbon pipeline, stating the Board of Supervisors approved the setback ordinance. Snyder mentioned her conversation with Louise Mauldin with the USFWS about dams and national fish passage program. Discussion on having Louise present at an upcoming conservation board meeting took place. Hockenson will reach out to her for further details on her presentation and to see when she may be able to attend either on line or in person.

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

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

With no other business, the meeting was declared adjourned by Chairman Pavelec at 8:26 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Approved: Larry Pavelec, Chairman

Andrew Hockenson  
Director

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