

BREMER COUNTY CONSERVATION BOARD

Regular Meeting

May 3, 2023

Conservation Board Office

1104 South Main Street Tripoli, IA 50676

Members Present: Larry Pavelec, Chair; Richard Harms, Stacey Snyder and Kevin Korman

Members Absent: Mandie Sanderman

Also Present: Andrew Hockenson, Director; Kip Ladage, Heather Gamm, Tamara Rosol, Jody Meyer, Ann Harms, Darin Redies

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

Korman moved to accept the minutes from the April 5, 2023 regular meeting as presented. Seconded by Harms and approved unanimously.

Misc. Correspondence and Announcements: Hockenson reported speaking with the Bremer County Pheasants Forever chapter about a donation toward a tree puller attachment for the skidsteer, and gas-powered tree augers. The trellises for the playscape at North Woods are finished and will be installed on May 5.

Area Reports and Updates:

- **Parks:** As of April 28th, all parks and shower buildings have been opened for the season. Staff members continue cleaning up tree debris and filling stump holes at Alcock Park.

A donation request letter prepared by Mike Stevens was shared for the cabin project at Cedar Bend. A brochure will be created to go along with it for distribution. Black Hawk Gaming letters of intent are being accepted May 1 – May 19. Hockenson will look into submitting a request.

Members of the Alcock bridge committee were on hand to discuss the cable walk bridge. The group had raised over \$6,000 for the project and had questions on current expenditures thus far for the bridge. After reviewing the project and expenditures to date, the group presented a donation check for \$6,000 to go toward the bridge. They also talked about other potential donations for the park, which included the possibility of funds for a disc golf course. Questions were also asked about plans for the east shelter. One option included removing the shelter and utilizing the existing concrete for a pickleball court. Concrete would have to be added for regulation size, but could be a possibility.

- **Wildlife Areas:** Controlled burns have been completed along the Wapsie River Greenbelt at Hay/Buhr and Brase Accesses, Saints Lake, Plum Creek, and Ringneck Wildlife Areas.

- **Other Areas:** Hockenson provided aerial maps of the lane running through 7-Bridges Wildlife Area, and discussed its maintenance. With many dead ash trees beginning to fall, and higher road rock prices, the board discussed closing off the 1/4 mile section of lane running through the center of the area. This will continue to allow full access throughout, be less disruptive for hunters in that portion, and cut down on maintenance costs and staff time. After further discussion, Korman made a motion to close off the center lane to vehicle traffic. The motion was seconded by Snyder and approved unanimously.

FY 2024 Wages: After discussion, Harms made a motion to approve wages for full time employees as budgeted for in the new fiscal year. 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 which included a new program on wellness benefits of nature and wind energy. Heather continues to plan for the 5th grade field day May 9, and the annual crane count. Several updates were made to the Facebook and MyCountyParks.com pages about summer programming. She got recertified in Wilderness First Aid, leading up to the Colorado trip. She also attended a Yellow River camping trip with the Colorado group to help prepare. A STEM award for Waterworks was received. Three meetings were attended via Zoom. She 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 reviewed. The report contained recent programs and participant numbers. Many programs were geared toward recycling for Earth Day. The spring newsletter was mailed out. Two new programs were created. Many are signing up for summer camps and field trips. There was a motion by Snyder to approve the report. The motion was seconded by Harms and approved unanimously.

Open Discussion: Kip provided an update to the legislative session.

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

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

With no other business, the meeting was declared adjourned by Chairman Pavelec at 8:20 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Andrew Hockenson
Director

Approved: Larry Pavelec, Chairman
