

Boone County Conservation Board regular meeting  
Monday, November 8, 2021  
Boone County Courthouse 4<sup>th</sup> floor Conference Room

Members present: Jennifer Schieltz, Greg Stotts, Al Treloar, Pat Hagan, Marilyn Jordan  
Employees present: Interim Ex. Dir. Katie Healy

Chair Stotts officially called the meeting to order at 6:08 pm

Motion made by Hagan to approve the agenda, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Treloar, Passed.

Motion to approve minutes of the October 2021 meeting by Treloar, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Jordan. Passed.

Interim Ex. Dir. Healy reviewed financial information and bills for the month. Hagan moved and Treloar seconded a motion to approve monthly bills totaling \$17,870.08. Passed.

Old business:

Interim Ex. Dir. Healy gave an update on the American Rescue Plan funds available from the county. She submitted an application to the Board of Supervisors for all new water lines at Don Williams. The Trails committee also put in an application thru Snyder & Associates for funding the trail segment from the High Trestle Trail to Swede Pointe park. We are now waiting for the Supervisors to review applications and decide which to fund.

Interim Ex. Dir. Healy also talked to Xenia water about the option of switching to them from Ogden Municipal Utilities to service Don Williams. Unfortunately, Xenia said their infrastructure and water supply cannot meet our needs, so they are not an option. The board discussed new options for dealing with maintenance and leak detection in the five miles of water line between Don Williams and Ogden.

Interim Ex. Dir. Healy discussed the Boone County Trails advisory committee and their current fundraising efforts. There are now signs along the trail with QR codes that people can scan to donate money.

New Business:

Don Williams golf course and clubhouse discussion: Interim Ex. Dir. Healy provided numbers related to yearly revenue for the last 5 years and estimated costs associated with running the golf course. Costs to run the clubhouse, including fulltime and seasonal staff, fuel, chemicals, etc. is a **minimum** of \$100,000 a season. Revenue for the past 5 years ranges from a low of \$78,344 in 2017 to a high of \$143,306 in 2021. This brings up the concern of if the golf course is even covering its own expenses. Other noted issues include possible retirement in the spring of the groundskeeper, habitual problems with clubhouse contractors, and the poor state of the clubhouse building. The board discussed the options for moving forward. The need for a meeting with the Board of Supervisors and an open forum with the public to discuss issues and options were noted.

The board agreed on the need to have another meeting to continue talking about these issues before the December monthly meeting and scheduled an additional board meeting for November 22 at 4:30pm at Don Williams.

Open Discussion:

Katie Healy was contacted by Wolf Creek Race Management out of Pennsylvania, a group that puts on marathons and races and they want to put on a half marathon and 5k race on the High Trestle Trail on July 9, 2022. They need to know by January 1 if we are going to say yes or no to this event. The board discussed concerns with this event and decided to tell the company "no" for this year, but we would entertain the idea of an off-season date. The board also advised that the company needs to contact Iowa DOT about their planned route crossing highway 17.

Marilyn Jordan discussed that she heard from some people who think that the Conservation Board owns the old county home property on Nature Road and are not happy it is being sold. The conservation board does not own or manage this property. The board confirmed that the county Board of Supervisors are the owners and the ones who are selling this property.

Treloar moved and Hagan seconded a motion to adjourn at 7:48 pm. Passed.



Greg Stotts, Chair



Jennifer Schieltz, Secretary