

Boone County Conservation Board regular meeting
Wednesday, January 11, 2023
(*date and time change from Jan 9 due to scheduling conflict)
Boone County Courthouse 4th floor conference room

Members present: Jennifer Schieltz, Marilyn Jordan, Greg Stotts, Pat Hagan, Brandon Moe
Members absent:
Employees present: Ex. Dir. Katie Taylor

Chair Jordan officially called the meeting to order at 9:06 am.

Hagan made a motion to approve the agenda, 2nd by Moe. Motion passed.

Motion to approve the minutes of the previous meeting made by Moe, seconded by Stotts.
Motion passed.

Ex. Dir. Taylor presented the monthly bills totaling \$10,817.40. Motion made by Moe to approve the bills, seconded by Stotts. Passed.

Old Business

Bill Grieser gave an update on behalf of the Friends of Don Williams group. They are interested in renovating or replacing some of the structures on the golf course and are working on a grant application to cover the materials costs, while their members could provide matching “labor” contributions.

2023 user fees discussion: The board discussed options for increasing some user fees for golf, camping, cabins and shelter rentals for 2023 at the December meeting. Ex. Dir. Taylor adjusted these fees in a spreadsheet so we can see what those new rates will look like. One change is that our rates will now be set to come to a whole dollar amount *including* tax, which will make it easier for people to pay with cash and not have to worry about change and coins.

County GIS specialist Penny Vossler has been working on an online payment system for dock and cart shed rentals which should be ready to go soon. This will allow people to pay online and cut down on mailing checks. Member Moe advocated for setting a date early in the season, such as June 1, that dock and cart shed rentals must be paid or the person loses their spot and we move to the next person on the waiting list. Hagan moved and Moe seconded to approve the new rates for 2023. Motion passed.

New Business

Fiscal year 2023/24 budget discussion: Ex. Dir. Taylor provided a proposed conservation board budget for review. She is proposing a 12% increase to our budget from last year, due to some long-term deficits and several significant cost increases this year such as LP and cart rental. The supervisors have also approved a cost of living increase for all county employees and we approved the wage step increase plan for our employees which increases their base salary upon completion of 1, 2, 3, and 5 years of employment. There are also required FICA, IPERS, and health insurance parts of the budget. Ex. Dir. Taylor is suggesting we increase the hourly rate we pay seasonal employees as we have had considerable trouble finding enough seasonal employees

in recent years. The board was in favor of the new seasonal rate of \$14 per hour. She expects to get these positions posted in the next few weeks. Members again addressed the need to sell some of our old or outdated equipment to free up space in our sheds. Any money made from selling equipment goes back into the county general fund, so we also discussed asking the supervisors about options for us to recoup that money to buy needed new equipment. We will vote on approval of this proposed 2023/24 budget next month before it is presented to the supervisors.

Other Board Discussion: Member Hagan showed the board a quote from Shive-Hattery for overseeing the bidding and construction of a new golf course clubhouse at Don Williams. The board was a bit confused and surprised about the price they would charge. The board is concerned about signing/ moving forward with Shive-Hattery's proposal until we get more clarification on a number of things from the County Attorney, Engineer and Supervisors.

Ex. Dir. Taylor is working on a staff on-call policy. If we require someone to be on call, we have to pay them. She is talking to HR about how this compensation would work, and expressed concerns about budgeting for this. The board will consider options and discuss again at next month's meeting.

Ex. Dir. Taylor also mentioned that following the deep freeze and then rapid thaw a few weeks ago, there were burst pipes in the two smaller cabins at Don Williams causing water to spew out. Employees had to be called in to shut off the water and then dry everything out. This reinforces the need for an on-call policy and also the need to better insulate or weather-protect the cabins.

Motion to adjourn by Hagan, 2nd by Schieltz. Passed. Meeting adjourned at 10:27 am.

Marilyn Jordan, Chair

Jennifer Schieltz, Secretary