

Boone County Conservation Board regular meeting
Monday, February 13, 2023
Boone County Courthouse 1st floor conference room

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

Acting Chair Stotts officially called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm.

Moe made a motion to approve the agenda, 2nd by Schieltz. 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 \$13,292.05. Ex. Dir. Taylor noted that new electric pedestals are still not available due to supply chain issues, so we are using the funds that had been earmarked for upgrading the Swede Point camping pedals to renovate the Swede Point shelter house instead. Motion made by Moe to approve the bills, seconded by Stotts. Passed.

Old Business

Ex. Dir. Taylor gave an ARPA funding request update. She and members Moe and Hagan met with new county engineer Johnathan Bullock last week to try to find a way to reduce the cost from what Shive-Hattery quoted us for overseeing the new clubhouse bidding and construction process. Bullock will reach out to Shiver-Hattery and hopefully get back to us in the next week or two. Once we lock in a price, we can move forward to the bidding process. This meeting also discussed the Don Williams water line project that the County Supervisors have previously designated money toward. County engineer Bullock reviewed the plans and had several ideas to help shorten the length of line that needs to be put in in some places. Next they will move forward with an RFP that can be put out to contractors for this project.

New Business

Clubhouse contractor discussion: Ex. Dir. Taylor presented several different options for how we could provide additional compensation to a clubhouse contractor to help make this position more appealing. The options included a percentage of total sales, \$1 per round, \$1 per cart rental, or payment installments equivalent to one seasonal worker for 40 hours per week for six months. Last year's contractor Randy Johnson suggested an alternative that would include significant startup costs and the county hiring seasonal staff for him. This may not be possible if these employees would be selling alcohol. Ex. Dir. Taylor needs to meet with the county attorney to see what is even feasible (legally and liability-wise). Board members also discussed the need to meet with the county supervisors to see which of these options (if any) they would be willing to support. Ex. Dir. Taylor is meeting with the supervisors on Wednesday and will share all of these options to get their feedback. These additional costs would need to be added to our budget.

PRN Park Aide position discussion: We have 5 full time staff. We also typically hire 6 or 7 seasonal workers for 6 months each summer. The board and Ex. Director have tried to push for a

sixth full time staff member for many years, but the supervisors have to date not approved adding a 6th full time person. To partially compensate for this, Ex. Dir. Taylor is proposing hiring a Park Aide position that would be full time in the summer and continue into the winter with reduced hours. This would take the place of one of the 6-month seasonals. We would have to pay for some benefits for this PNR Park Aide, but not full year health insurance, which saves a significant amount of money (essentially half the price) over hiring a year-round full time position. This would also provide continuity and reduce turnover in our staff. Moe made a motion to approve including this position in this year's budget that will be presented to the supervisors. Schieltz seconded. Motion passed. Seasonal positions for this coming summer have now been advertised. They include one seasonal specifically for the golf course. Applications are open now.

Fiscal year 2023/24 budget discussion: Ex. Dir. Taylor provided an updated budget proposal that includes the PNR Park Aide position. Some costs, such as LP, golf cart rental and port-a-potties are going up and have been adjusted. Ex. Dir. Taylor has not yet included anything in this budget proposal for additional compensation to a clubhouse contractor. Due to this uncertainty, the board is not able to approve a proposed budget at this time. We will need to have a special session after speaking with the county supervisors about the clubhouse concessionaire issue.

Other Board Discussion: Ex. Dir. Taylor and members Moe and Stotts met with the county supervisors about selling unused equipment such as mowers and a ditch-witch that are currently housed at Don Williams. The supervisors were supportive of this and agreed to let us keep any proceeds from these sales and use those funds to buy new equipment. Ex. Dir. Taylor will work on listing these items for sale. The board discussed several website options or companies that we could use for this.

Dock rental and cart shed rental lease agreements have been mailed out, but there is also now an online option for payment through the county website. County GIS specialist Penny Vossler put this system together. Lessees are already using this system and it is working well. Cart shed renters who want to pay by cash or check need to go to the clubhouse when it is open to hand these over and get a receipt rather than mail them in.

Ex. Dir. Taylor is meeting with someone this week to talk about the bait shop concessionaire position. Hopefully we will have someone in that position soon.

Several audience members asked about eventual plans for a new irrigation system for the golf course. We are currently getting information on what a brand new irrigation system would cost. This would then have to be budgeted or fundraised for and then put out for public bid, similar to the clubhouse.

Motion to adjourn by Schieltz, 2nd by Stotts. Passed. Meeting adjourned at 6:57 pm.

Greg Stotts, Acting Chair

Jennifer Schieltz, Secretary