

Boone County Conservation Board regular meeting  
Monday, March 20, 2023 (rescheduled from March 13)  
Boone County Courthouse 1<sup>st</sup> floor conference room

Members present: Jennifer Schieltz, Greg Stotts, Marilyn Jordan, Pat Hagan

Members absent: Brandon Moe

Employees present: Ex. Dir. Katie Taylor

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

Hagan made a motion to approve the agenda, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Stotts. Motion passed.

Motion to approve minutes of the previous meeting made by Hagan, seconded by Stotts. Passed.

Ex. Dir. Taylor presented the monthly bills totaling \$25,396.57. Bills for this month include materials purchased for the renovation of the Swede Pointe shelter house. Ex. Dir. Taylor would like to have the May meeting there, so the board can see all of the improvements. When we began this renovation, it was discovered that the electrical in the building also needed upgraded. Ranger Cooper Sanor has one more month in the Iowa Law Enforcement Academy. He is doing really well and will finish April 21. Taser and rifle training are part of the fees we are paying to the academy this year. Ex. Dir. Taylor recently presented the county supervisors with a budget amendment proposal to cover the costs for the Iowa Law Enforcement Academy and an environmental site assessment for renewing our lease with the Army Corps of Engineers. If approved, this money will come back into our budget for this current fiscal year. Motion made by Hagan to approve the bills, seconded by Stotts. Passed.

New Business:

Naturalist Kyle Neuendorf then gave his quarterly naturalist update. He has been busy with school and public programs. He has been partnering with William and Beckwith adult day services to provide multiple programs to them. He has also started a Li'l Naturalist program for young children and their parents. This Thursday at the Madrid library will be a program on animal tracks.

Kyle is hoping to write a grant application to get new snowshoes for future programming. The Youth Ice fishing derby had to be cancelled this year due to thin ice. Kyle was invited to represent Boone County at the Iowa Prairie Network winter seminar at Drake University. Story County Conservation and Boone County Conservation will be partnering up on May 12 to do an outdoor classroom program for United School.

We got our seed mix return back from the Iowa DNR from our prairie plot, where we helped grow and collect seed last year for this mix. We received seed for 19 species of native prairie plants. He is brainstorming summer projects now. We got a DNR grant to replace some of the trees lost in the 2020 derecho at Don Williams. Madrid 4-H and an aspiring Eagle Scout have both donated bluebird houses recently. Coming up: he is getting ready for prescribed burn season, DMACC STEM Fest and a trash collection event for Earth Day at the High Trestle Trail. The board thanked Kyle for all of his work.

Old Business:

Corrected 2023 user fees – The formula for calculating the 7% sales was slightly off when we originally approved these rates. That formula has now been corrected. This only changes rates a small amount. Rates were set this year to make the total, including tax, a whole dollar amount, to make collection of fees easier on both us and the users. Hagan made a motion to approve these rates, Stotts seconded. Motion passed.

Fiscal year 23/24 updated budget per board of supervisors – After discussing our original proposed FY 23/24 budget with the County Supervisors, they asked for some changes which have now been made to our budget proposal. They asked Ex. Dir. Taylor to only include health insurance for current employees and not include any cushion for potential spousal or family additions. They also approved adding compensation to a clubhouse concessionaire of 20% of daily golf revenue up to \$25,000. Projected revenue for this year was also updated. Stotts moved to approve this updated budget. Hagan seconded. Motion passed.

Ex. Dir. Taylor gave an ARPA project update. She has been working with new county engineer Johnathan Bullock to prepare project RFPs (request for proposals) that can be sent to firms that we can then choose from. They will prepare an RFP for new water lines at Don Williams that can be sent out to firms soon. He has also been talking to Shive-Hattery about the engineering packet they put together for a Don Williams clubhouse building. We may be able to ask them to remove the topographic siting part of the project and have that done in-house, to save a little money, but he recommends we do move forward with Shive-Hattery. The board's next step is to engage Shive-Hattery in discussions about modifying the building design to lessen the total estimated cost of the project before it is put out for bid.

The clubhouse contractor position has been advertised on KWBG and Facebook and will be in the Ogden and Madrid papers this week. Only a couple people have even asked about the job and no one has applied for the position. Given that the clubhouse officially opens on April 15, the board discussed the need to have an alternative plan if no concessionaire can be found. We could try to hire additional seasonal staff to take golf fees and rent carts, but we are already having trouble filling seasonal positions and these staff would not be able to sell alcohol. We would also need to ask for more money from the county supervisors to hire this seasonal staff, as this is not accounted for in the current fiscal year budget and would likely exceed the \$25,000 we have budgeted for clubhouse concessionaire compensation in next year's budget given the number of hours needed. Ex. Dir. Taylor will plan to attend the supervisor's meeting this Wednesday to update them.

Other Board Discussion:

Ex. Dir. Taylor noted that The Boone County Conservation Foundation bylaws state that we need two Conservation board members on the foundation board. Marilyn Jordan and Pat Hagan volunteered to be these two members.

Motion to adjourn by Schieltz, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Stotts. Passed. Meeting adjourned at 8:04 pm.

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Marilyn Jordan, Chair

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Jennifer Schieltz, Secretary