

Boone County Conservation Board regular meeting
Monday, March 11, 2024
Don Williams Park Office and via Zoom

Members present: Marilyn Jordan, Pat Hagan, Randy Johnson, Jennifer Schieltz

Members absent: Gary Nystrom

Employees present: Ex. Dir. Katie Taylor, Ranger Cooper Sanor, and Operations Manager Zach Stevens

Chair Jordan officially called the meeting to order at 6:03 pm.

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

Johnson made a motion to approve the minutes of the previous meeting. Jordan seconded. Passed.

Ex. Dir. Taylor presented the monthly bills totaling \$51,075.45. This included the purchase of two slightly used zero turn mowers from Van Wall in Madrid to replace some that are failing. There was also a \$12,850 charge related to rebuilding of the cart shed that will be covered by our insurance and added back via a budget amendment to FY 23-24. Motion made by Hagan to approve the bills, seconded by Johnson. Passed.

Old Business:

Fiscal Year 24/25 budget update: Ex. Dir. Taylor again noted that the supervisors are concerned about changes made by the state legislature that will reduce the amount of money coming to counties and have asked all departments to try to cut their budget proposals. She has asked the supervisors if they will accept the money we were supposed to receive back from the Purple Wave auction we conducted last year to sell old equipment instead of cutting our budget. We have not heard back from them yet on this.

Don Williams clubhouse remodel update: 10Fold architecture says they will work on getting the design to a milestone to review with the board before sending out for bids. We asked them to pull out the demolition, soil borings, and septic system as separate items, rather than including them as part of a bid package. They say there should be no issue getting the project ready for bidding by June/July, allowing for construction to begin in the Fall.

New Business:

County Safety Program: Ex. Dir. Taylor noted that a county safety person, Tim McGlynn, has been hired recently. He came out and spent a day looking over our facilities and noting OSHA compliance. He was generally impressed by our shop and identified a few small things, such as labeling and lights, that can be further improved.

Ex. Dir. Taylor, Ranger Sanor, and Operations Manager Stevens gave a recreation season preparation update. They are getting ready to open in the spring. They are working on cleaning up some trees and shrubs in the park and along the property line between Don Williams and one of our neighbors. Water will get turned on in the next couple weeks. They hope this will allow us

to find and fix any leaks before campers start showing up. All lease agreements have been sent out. People can now pay online or still send checks. Staff also just finished interviews for seasonal jobs and have good candidates for all positions. In an effort to be in alignment with what the state does, we have adopted their campground host application and will then run background checks. That application is open until March 18 on our website.

There is interest from some in a county employee golf membership discount. The board discussed a possible 25% off discount on golf memberships for full time county employees, but they would still pay for cart rental.

Iowa Sportsman magazine advertisement: we normally pay for a ¼ page ad each month, May through October. This magazine now has 400,000 subscribers. Instead of paying for each month, this year they have offered us a one-time cover photo, as well as full-page ad for the same price. The board is in favor of this.

Other Board Discussion: the board discussed putting up some crisis hotline signs on the High Trestle Trail bridge to try to help address any possible suicide attempts. In the past, there were monitoring cameras on the bridge, but they got old and there are none right now. Ex. Dir. Taylor noted it would cost around \$4,000 per camera to get new ones. We do not have this in our budget, but could consider writing a grant for this.

In the past, we have had a lease with Seven Oaks for a parking area on L Avenue. We lease this land from the Army Corps of Engineers and then sub-lease to Seven Oaks. The current version of the paperwork appears to have never officially been sent to the Army Corps for their approval. So Ex. Dir. Taylor is going through this paperwork now and updating it to get a new version signed and sent to the Corps.

Several years ago, Fareway committed to match up to \$150,000 for trails in Boone County. We hope to use this money for the next section of trail (phase 1b) into Swede Pointe Park. Ex. Dir. Taylor discussed the need to maybe form a sub-committee with the Trails advisory committee to explore how to properly recognize Fareway for this donation on the trail.

A special event permit application has been submitted by the Boone County Hospital for an event on the High Trestle Trail on June 15. We now require a certificate of insurance to be attached with these permit applications.

The board discussed how to wrap up the cart shed rebuild bills and insurance claims.

Meeting adjourned at 7:35 pm.

Marilyn Jordan, Chair

Jennifer Schieltz, Secretary