

Boone County Conservation Board regular meeting
Wednesday, July 10, 2024
Boone County Courthouse, 4th floor conference room

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

Members absent:

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, 2nd by Johnson. Motion passed.

Nystrom motioned to approve the minutes of the previous meeting, seconded by Johnson. Passed.

Ex. Dir. Taylor presented an expense summary for the now-completed fiscal year 2023/2024. This included the budget amendments for the cart shed replacement. Revenue for fiscal year 2023/2024 was also shared, but is not yet finalized with all revenue through the end of June 2024. Ex. Dir. Taylor then presented the monthly bills for July totaling \$42,345.35. This is the first set of bills on the new fiscal year budget. Bills this month included the yearly contracts for golf cart rental and propane. \$5000 to INHF is our yearly contribution to the High Trestle Trail maintenance fund. A few bills have not yet come in for the month. Hagan made a motion to approve the monthly bills, seconded by Nystrom. Passed.

Old Business:

Clubhouse remodel/ new build discussion: Member Nystrom reported that someone is currently reviewing preliminary plans that have been drawn up by Jensen for a new clubhouse, to make sure that construction of this structure will be within our budget. The next step will be to draw up final plans and put it out for bid. An exact location for the new building has not yet been determined.

New Business:

Communications tower update: Emily McCoy was unable to come to tonight's meeting. Ex. Dir. Taylor provided an update on her behalf about the proposed new tower they want to build at the northeast corner of Don Williams. Under current regulations for a tower of this height, the setback from the road would need to be 225 feet. They are going to try to apply for a variance to allow a setback of only 100 feet. The way the tower is built, if it were to collapse, it would collapse in on itself, so there is no worry of it falling onto the road. The board was supportive of applying for this shorter setback. Johnson made a motion, seconded by Hagan to approve moving forward with applying for a setback variance. Motion passed.

Friends of Don Williams update from Bill Greiser: Bill shared a drawing of plans for a new shelter house on hole 8. They have volunteers ready to start building this, but will need some more materials. Nystrom made a motion to spend up to \$750 on these materials. Seconded by Johnson. A new shelter is also needed on hole 6. After the shelter is completed on 8, the board would like to see a cost estimate for the shelter on 6 before proceeding with it.

Bill also addressed again his desire for us to have more golf carts available for rent on busy weekends. He shared some numbers he put together about how many people left on several weekends because there were no more golf carts available. We currently rent 15 carts for the season. Ex. Dir. Taylor has looked into the cost for us to rent more carts either for the season, or just on select weekends, but this would be a significant expense. The board is not sure that we would recoup this cost. An alternative was discussed if any members want to rent out their privately-owned carts when they are not using them. Ex. Dir. Taylor discussed this option with county attorney Speers. He listed several insurance and liability waiver items that would need to be signed/ adhered to if we wanted to move forward with this.

Farm property/ Don Williams drainage discussion: a landowner on the east side of Don Williams reported that the tile drainage coming out of his property and into Don Williams (draining into the lake) was blocked on our land and was causing water to backup on his land, preventing him from planting. He stated that in the past the conservation board had paid to fix/clear the blockage. Ex. Dir. Taylor said she agreed to pay for tree root removal and clearing the blockage this time (at an estimated cost of \$3,567.50 from Dayton Farm Drainage), but wants the board to discuss how to handle this situation moving forward. This is a private tile, on private land, and not part of a drainage district. The board felt that we should not be paying to maintain this tile. We are in favor of asking the county attorney to communicate with the landowner that from this point forward we will not pay for any maintenance or repairs on this tile and he is responsible for any future costs.

Special event permit application for Mid-Iowa Council District Cub Scouts High Trestle Trail bike ride on September 22, 12:30pm-5:30pm. Johnson made a motion to approve, seconded by Hagan. Passed

Other Board Discussion: Chair Jordan discussed implementing a process for the board to conduct year-end reviews. She will be bringing forward more details on this at a future meeting.

Ex. Dir. Taylor confirmed that there are fire extinguishes in the upper cart shed. They will look into updating the electrical outlets to GFI. They are also getting quotes on gutters for the new lower cart shed to direct rain away from the building. Our rescue boat is now ready to go on Don Williams lake. Sherriff Godzicki is appreciative of this.

We are switching from CINTAS to City Clean for our first aid kits, as their prices are much lower. Ex. Dir. Taylor will also look into the cost for buying some new AEDs from them.

The Boone County Conservation employee/ volunteer appreciation picnic will be Wednesday, July 31st at 6:00pm at the Ronald Good Shelter at Don Williams lake.

Member Hagan asked about safety of the pontoon boat dock and noted that some of the floats underneath have taken on water and it is slanted, so can be dangerous to walk on. This is something that really needs replaced, but will be expensive. Board members asked if there is anything we can do in the short term to make it safer and then noted a need to talk to the supervisors about funding for capital improvements to actually replace this.

The board then moved into closed session at 7:30pm, pursuant to Iowa code 21.5 (i).

The meeting moved out of closed session at 8:56pm.

Schieltz moved to adjourn, Johnson seconded. Meeting adjourned at 8:59 pm.

Marilyn Jordan, Chair

Jennifer Schieltz, Secretary

Action Items

- Check if we can move our monthly meeting to the 3rd Tues of the month. Email confirmation about next month's meeting date
- Get list from Bill of additional materials needed to build shelter on hole 8, then purchase these materials (up to \$750) so volunteers can begin construction
- Have county attorney send letter to landowner about Don Williams tile drainage
- Call other parks with marinas to ask who they use to repair/assess their docks
- update the electrical outlets to GFI in upper cart shed?
- Finish getting quotes on gutters for the new lower cart shed; bring options to board to move forward on one
- Get quote from City Clean on the cost for buying some new AEDs?
- Meet with HR about creating a communication protocol/plan