

Boone County Conservation Board regular meeting
Tuesday, September 17, 2024
Boone County Courthouse, 4th floor conference room

Members present: Randy Johnson, Jennifer Schieltz, Gary Nystrom

Members absent: Pat Hagan, Marilyn Jordan

Employees present: Chris Call, Cooper Sanor, Zach Stevens, Kyle Neuendorf

Acting Chair Johnson officially called the meeting to order at 6:15 pm.

Schieltz made a motion to approve the agenda, 2nd by Nystrom. Motion passed.

Nystrom motioned to postpone approval the minutes of the previous meeting until next month, seconded by Schieltz. Passed.

Zach Stevens presented the monthly bills totaling \$21,854.78. Bills this month included repair of a mower and a large order of paper products for both Don Williams and Swede Point. Johnson made a motion to approve the monthly bills, seconded by Nystrom. Passed.

Naturalist Kyle Neuendorf gave his quarterly update. Since June, Kyle put on three summer camps for kids in 1st through 6th grades. Public programs included events at Ericson, Madrid and Ogden libraries and Blank Park zoo. He also worked with the ISU Extension Master Conservationist program. Lots of school programs are ongoing now. He is also working on conservation activities related to the remnant prairie at Don Williams, bumble bee diversity, and smooth green snakes.

Old Business:

ATVs in parks – Ranger Cooper Sanor presented a proposed change to the BCCB rules and regulations that would allow registered all-terrain and off-road vehicles to be operated on roads in our county parks. The county attorney has looked over this proposed language. State law recently changed to allow these vehicles in State Parks. This change to our regulations would mirror this, so the policy is consistent between state and Boone county parks. These vehicles are still not allowed OFF-road. Nystrom made a motion to approve. Johnson seconded. Motion passed.

New Business:

County safety coordinator Tim McGlynn discussed AEDs and PPE. He recently inspected the 8 AEDs at both parks (Don Williams and Swede Point). Three are new. Some of them are serviceable but need new pads and batteries. Three of them are discontinued models with expired pads and batteries and need to be replaced. He has applied for grants to purchase several new AEDs and is waiting to hear back. He also addressed the condition of the plastic floating boat docks at Don Williams. A sales rep came to look at the dock recently and estimated that 15-20 of the sections need replaced. There is a grant opportunity available through the Iowa DNR. The public dock (the part with no boats) is already eligible for this grant. The large section where boats rent spots is not currently eligible, but could possibly be reconfigured to add more public fishing spots and/or an accessible kayak launcher to make it eligible for the grant. Other issues:

Back in February Tim did a safety inspection and there is some concern with exposed wiring in the ceiling of the main maintenance shed at Don Williams. We need an electrician to come out and look at it and address it. The Ogden fire chief will be coming out Thursday morning to look at things and note anything that needs updated/ fixed. Tim also shared a proposed 12-month training schedule so the staff if meeting all of their training requirements (per OSHA and the DNR).

Don Williams ranger residence septic line discussion – Ranger Sanor alerted the board that last year he had to have Roto-Rooter address backup issues with the septic tank at his ranger residence several times. They then looked more closely at the septic line and they found that roots were coming through. They cut roots out a year ago, but noted that the problem could come back and recommended installing a liner, estimated at around \$8,280. Ranger Sanor wanted to bring this issue back to the board’s attention to work on long term planning for fixing this. Member Nystrom has some experience in this area and would like to come look at it to see what he thinks the most economical solution would be.

Last year cabin 3 was rented through the winter by an employee, who would like to rent it again this winter. Before making a final decision, member Nystrom would like to discuss this during tomorrow’s special session with the two members who are not in attendance tonight.

Special events permit applications were received from the Knights of Columbus “Our Lady of Victory rosary walk” and the Huntington’s disease association of America Iowa chapter “Team Hope” event both on October 26. Nystrom made a motion to approve both, seconded by Johnson. Passed.

Other Board Discussion: Member Nystrom was contacted by the Boone Convention and Visitor’s Bureau. They have a bus tour coming up and would like to come to Don Williams and Swede Point/the High Trestle trail on October 9. They are requesting someone join them on the bus to speak to the group about our parks.

Someone also asked if there ever been a discount for veterans to play golf. The board will discuss this at a future meeting.

Schieltz moved to adjourn, Johnson seconded. Meeting adjourned at 7:33 pm.

Marilyn Jordan, Chair

Jennifer Schieltz, Secretary

Action Items

- Gary go out to Don Williams ranger residence to look at septic line
- Determine timing and then identify who will speak to the CVB bus tour Oct 9
- Discuss rental of cabin 3 for winter with Marilyn and Pat and make final decision
- Get quotes from a few electricians for addressing the exposed wiring in Don Williams shed

- Cooper, Zach, Kyle continue to work with Tim McGlynn on grant applications for AEDs and boat dock
- Inform the two special event permit applicants that their events are close together in time on Oct 26 and make sure they are ok with that.