

Boone County Conservation Board regular meeting
Tuesday, November 19, 2024
Boone County Courthouse, 2nd floor boardroom

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

Members absent: Marilyn Jordan

Employees present: Chris Call, Cooper Sanor, Zach Stevens, Katelynn Hensley (HR)

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

Nystrom made a motion to move item #12 (possible grooming of the High Trestle trail for snowmobile use) to the beginning of the agenda, seconded by Johnson. Motion passed.

Approximately 20 members of the public were in attendance for the meeting. Comments were taken regarding possibly allowing the Saylorville Dam Snowmobile Club to groom a section of the High Trestle Trail from Madrid to Slater in the winter for snowmobile use. Multiple people spoke both in favor and against the proposal. Several emails were also received in advance of the meeting, both for and against the proposal. The board thanked everyone who spoke. No decision will be made tonight. The board will do some further research and consider before making a decision.

County Human Resources director Katelynn Hensley (via Zoom) shared changes made to the Boone County Employee Handbook. The board has the option to adopt the handbook in full, in part, or not at all. The board adopted the previous version of the handbook in full. Nystrom made a motion to approve the new handbook in full, seconded by Johnson. Motion passed.

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

Zach Stevens presented the monthly bills totaling \$59,379.76. Bills this month included one large purchase of a new sprayer for the golf course. Sanitary and cleaning costs will go down next month now that campgrounds and cabins are closed for the winter. Schieltz made a motion to approve the monthly bills, seconded by Nystrom. Passed.

Old Business:

Tim McGlynn, county safety coordinator, shared that we have been awarded a Great Pathfinder Community Grant award to allow us to purchase four brand new AEDs, four sets of pediatric pads, and two waterproof carrying cases for Don Williams. He presented a draft letter he intends to send to the sponsor thanking them for this grant. The board approved of this letter. He also shared the good news that we have been awarded a grant from the Iowa DNR for the full \$89,011 requested for a new public boat dock at Don Williams. There will be contracts to sign forthcoming.

Don Williams ranger residence septic line discussion: member Nystrom met with a wastewater septic engineer today. It is not a repairable situation. The tank is buried 10 feet deep, which is against code, so we are not sure how it was originally put in. We will need a new septic system.

The engineer will come design and layout a new system and give us a price on his work, including get all the necessary permits from the DNR. Then we will put the project out for bids to install the new system.

The engineer also visited the Don Williams clubhouse to take a look at where we could put a new septic system there. He wants numbers from us about how many people use the clubhouse per week so he can design an appropriately-sized system.

Don Williams new clubhouse update: we are still trying to find an engineering/architecture company to design a new building for us, that is what we want, at a reasonable cost. Previous attempts have all come in way too high over the budget we have for this building. Member Nystrom is meeting with another company this week.

Campground B maximum length stay: our policy says that staff have the ability to mark camping spots as 14-day max stay. The board approved of staff marking preferred spots in campground B. The board discussed the desire to move to an online reservation and payment system for camping in the future. This would reduce some of the challenges with handling cash and in-person reservations. It could also possibly allow tiered/adaptive pricing for the most popular spots.

New Business:

Grant's Woods garage removal: the garage is in a deteriorating state and staff would like to tear it down. A community member has offered to move the garage to his property at no cost to us. He used to work on the property and use that garage years ago, before it became Grant's Woods. Ranger Call shared a memorandum of understanding we could sign with this community member. The board approved signing this, subject to it being approved by the county attorney.

Other Board Discussion: Member Nystrom asked about the status of putting railroad ties along the side of the cart shed to protect it from being driven into. The staff suggested that putting large rocks might be better.

Johnson moved to adjourn, Schieltz seconded. Meeting adjourned at 8:22 pm.

Pat Hagan, Acting Chair

Jennifer Schieltz, Secretary

Action Items

- Research on snowmobile proposal; need to check with our insurance agent, county sheriff
- Gary meet with possible engineer for clubhouse design plans
- Chris have county attorney look over MOU for Grant's Woods garage
- Staff put boulders or other barricades to prevent driving into new cart shed
- Staff: research on moving camping reservations/payment to an online system? Contact Hamilton County conservation to ask how they do it. Hopefully the new executive director can make this a priority and implement for 2025 season?