

## CLAYTON COUNTY CONSERVATION BOARD

Minutes

November 8, 2011

The regular meeting of the Clayton County Conservation Board was held at the Osborne Visitors Center, Tuesday, November 8, 2011. The meeting was called to order at 6:00 PM by Chair Jim Langhus with Board Members Joe Ihm, Liz Jaster, Larry Stone and Deanna Krambeer present. Tim Engelhardt, Executive Director, and Harry Luster, Office Manager, were present.

### **AGENDA**

Joe Ihm moved to accept the agenda as printed. Larry Stone seconded. Motion carried.

### **MINUTES**

Larry Stone moved to approve the minutes of the October 11, 2011 meeting. Joe Ihm seconded. Motion carried.

### **CLAIMS**

Claims were reviewed. The Heritage Day Auction income totaled \$610.00 and the Fun-Run fees of \$680.00 totaled \$1,290.00. The staff has requested this money be transferred to the Community Foundation, Osborne Partners for Education Fund. Motion by Larry Stone to approve transfer of \$1,290.00 to the Community Foundation; Osborne Partners for Education. Liz Jaster seconded. Motion carried. Joe Ihm made the motion to approve all claims. Liz Jaster seconded. Motion carried.

### **BUDGET 2013**

Tim Engelhardt and Harry Luster presented salary options and a list of needs identified by the staff. The Social Security Administration has approved a 3.6% COLA increase for recipients this year, and this amount is often used in figuring potential salary increases. The CCCB uses a standard table for salary increases that includes a 2% per year longevity increase. Handouts of salaries with the 2 % longevity and COLA increases of 2%, 3 %, and 3.6 % were compared. Handouts with cost of FICA at 7.65% and IPERS at 9.83% for two law enforcement positions, and 8.07% IPERS for all other positions were also reviewed. The Board of Supervisors have not indicated any direction for budget issues at this time.

The staff list of needs was reviewed. Equipment items, projects, and several updates to flooring and the classroom were included. While reviewing the equipment items, it was noted that the 1999 Dodge pickup that is used to plow snow has a faulty transmission that needs to be replaced. A rebuilt transmission will cost approximately \$3,200.00. Board members expressed concern about the possible breakdown of this truck during the upcoming snow season. Board members approved proceeding with the immediate replacement of the transmission, and the claim will be approved at the next board meeting. It was also apparent that the copier is failing, but is hopefully being repaired.

After further discussion, it was decided to proceed with preparations for a budget with the 3.6% COLA / 2% longevity increase to be reviewed at the next meeting. Jim Langhus

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will contact the Board of Supervisors about the role of the CCCB in preparing the budget, to help aid the Board of Supervisors and the CCCB in this process.

Executive Director's evaluation form was distributed to board members. These should be completed and returned at the December meeting.

### UPDATES

The River Bluffs Scenic By-Way Board and the RC&D are in the process of developing a Corridor Management Plan. This plan will take about a year to develop. The Osborne Park and Motor Mill Park will become part of this plan. When completed, this may help with future grants and open more funding sources.

The five water samples after the well work came back good. Mulford then took the next quarterly sample and it came back good as well. The work completed on the well solved the problems we had been having at Osborne Park.

Engelhardt, deNeui, County Engineer Rafe Koopman and representatives of VJ Engineering met regarding the preliminary design plans for the bridge. After much discussion and a few modifications an agreement was reached to go ahead to the final design. FEMA and SHPO have been contacted and advised of the progress.

First steps on the bridge will be to move forward on the stone abutments and center pier work yet this fall while the river is still at low flow. In the meantime, additional work will continue on the design. VJ is aware of the funding sources deadlines for completion.

A large press release is planned for the entire TRRC projects in mid-November. This will include Motor Mill Projects as well.

The Contract with Tekippe Engineering and the CCCB has been approved by the DOT.

Engelhardt has met with Tekippe Engineer for a kick off meeting and to set the proposed route. Landowners are in the process of being contacted and met with for permission to survey. Next step will be Koopman, Engelhardt and Tekippe to meet to discuss the options available along Grape Road and the dead end road on Golden Ave.

Progress on the white residential house at Motor Mill is steadily moving forward with the completion date for demo being December 15.

The Motor Mill Capital Fund Campaign has been kicked off. Process is including a letter writing campaign with follow up phone calls and personal meetings, table tents will be placed throughout Clayton County and into Fayette County with information on the Motor Mill Bridge, updating the Motor Mill Website, a large press release, and ads at the Elkader Theater.

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As a result of the Motor Mill Newsletter, Foundation Members at Heritage and Larry Stone's article in the area newspapers, funds had started to trickle in before the campaign was even kicked off. There is a lot of interest and support for this project.

The Ghost Hunters visited Motor Mill on the evening of October 12. They experienced activity during the evening. A full report has not yet been received.

The estimate for the roof on the school house came in at \$3,883.78 for wood shingles and labor and the estimate for metal decra shingles came in at \$4,391.79. After the staff consulted with the board chair it was decided to go with the Decra Shingles that have a wood shingle look for the additional \$500. The contractor will be Osmundson Construction of Volga and the project should be completed this fall.

Garlic mustard spraying has started at Motor Mill and Bloody Run. A lot of progress on the fight has been made.

A meeting promoting the Osborne Partners for Education Endowment will be held on Thursday November 10 at the Osborne Center. Susie and Roy Blair will be present to share their story about Dr. Joe Hickey and MJ Smith will present on how endowments work and their advantages. A soup and sandwich lunch will follow the 11:00am program. Invitations have been sent out, but anyone is invited.

Continue work with FEMA on the removal of the white residential house at Motor Mill. Have hired an Archeological Firm with the kick off meeting with them scheduled for November 2. Working on hiring a firm for the abatement process.

The Osborne Center served 2248 signed guests for the month of October.

The archery range and Friedens Park has been closed for the season.

The well house at Motor Mill has been closed for the season.

The out parks are being winterized along with many of the smaller projects that require winterization is being completed around Osborne Park.

The last of the 4-H shooting sports has been done for year. The Central FFA also used the shooting range one day as well as part of their activities.

Staff burned the berm at the Clayton County Shooting Range.

Fall field trips at Osborne are starting to come to an end.

Naturalists are scheduling winter classroom programs.

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Gibbs working with Clayton Ridge School on their outdoor classroom and with Starmont School to develop their outdoor classroom area.

Gibbs is working with ICECE Winter Solstice Planning Committee and helping coordinate Fall IAN conference.

Heritage Days is being wrapped up with final letters and thank yous going out.

Harkrader presented two radio programs when Engelhardt was gone.

Harkrader is working on the Holiday Walk. This year's theme is "A Beary Merry Holiday Walk" which will be held on December 1.

The October OWLS program was cancelled which was a trip to Pikes Peak Park.

A garden club came to the Osborne Center for a program in September.

Guttenberg Care Center had 23 residents attend a Halloween program.

Also had tours by cub scouts and brownies over the past month.

The school house roof has been scheduled to be worked completed this fall. Contractor was hoping by the end of the week of November 14<sup>th</sup>.

Parks are being shut down for the winter, sledding hill and cross country ski trails have been prepped for the winter as well.

Engelhardt was contacted by the Scenic By-Way Board regarding additional trails money that would have to be used on the Great River Road. The County Engineer and Engelhardt looking into the possibility of a trail connected McGregor to Pikes Peak.

Working with Tekipee Engineering on some of the design work. They may be starting some of the survey work this week and into next week.

The Osborne Partners for Education Endowment lunch is scheduled for this Thursday November 10 at 11:00 am. We are planning for about 20 people.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Joe Ihm made the motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:45 PM. Larry Stone seconded. Motion carried.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Deanna Krambeer, Secretary