

CLAYTON COUNTY CONSERVATION BOARD

Minutes

September 13, 2011

The regular meeting of the Clayton County Conservation Board began at the Osborne Visitors Center, Tuesday, September 13, 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, Harry Luster, Office Manager, and Brian Gibbs, Naturalist, were present.

AGENDA

Joe Ihm moved to accept the agenda as printed. Liz Jaster seconded. Motion carried.

MINUTES

Liz Jaster moved to approve the minutes of the August 9, 2011 meeting. Larry Stone seconded. Motion carried.

CLAIMS

Claims were reviewed. Joe Ihm made the motion to approve payment of claims. Larry Stone seconded. Motion carried.

APPROVAL OF CONSULTANT FOR THE MOTOR MILL TRAIL

Tim Engelhardt presented a Pony Hollow Trail Cost Study for 2011, using FEMA rates. The four-mile Pony Hollow Trail costs approximately \$2,908.48 to maintain per year.

The recommendation of the selection committee from Clayton County for Consultant was Tekippe Engineering, and this was forwarded to the DOT, who needed to confirm the choice. The DOT has confirmed Tekippe Engineering as the choice. Tekippe's fee for consulting is higher than the budgeted estimate, but may include items such as permit fees, etc. Tim Engelhardt has started the process of reviewing the contract with Tekippe. The contract will then be reviewed by the County Engineer and Board of Supervisor's. Larry Stone made the motion to approve Tekippe Engineering as consultant for the Motor Mill Trail pending review of the contract by the Executive Director, County Engineer and the Board of Supervisors. Liz Jaster seconded. Motion carried.

WETLAND MITIGATION BANKS

Tim Engelhardt presented information about wetland mitigation banks. The criteria for land for the wetland mitigation bank is an area of 25 acres or larger where a wetland has been created. As existing wetlands are destroyed by development or other acts, it is now required that the acres of wetland destroyed are mitigated. By developing present land into wetland, the CCCB could conceivably use the wetland developed as wetland credits that could be purchased by those needing to mitigate destroyed wetlands. The wetland would continue to be owned by Clayton County. Tre Wilson, of Snyder and Associates from Ankeny, met with Tim Engelhardt to review possible sites to develop wetlands on CCCB property. Tre Wilson reported that at present there is not an area amenable to the criteria to develop and maintain as a wetland.

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The Becker property, which is not now owned by the CCCB, may be a potential future site. Tre Wilson and Tim Engelhardt met with the Board of Supervisors to inform them of their findings.

GARLAND PROPERTY

Tim Engelhardt has been working with Brian Fankauer of the Iowa Natural Heritage Foundation (INHF) on the Garland property located in Millville Township. The property currently has a conservation easement held by the Clayton County Conservation Board due to unique features on the property. The property is for sale. To preserve the cultural integrity of the property, a potential plan for purchase of the property by INHF, with future plans for CCCB to purchase the property from INHF, has been developed. With grants, it is possible the 87 acres could be purchased by CCCB for approximately \$17,400. The area is forested, with some prairie plants. A plant survey could potentially reveal unusual and/or rare species. It was noted it could also make an area available for hunting in that area of the county. Larry Stone make the motion to approve the Executive Director continue negotiation and discussions with INHF to acquire the Garland Property. Joe Ihm seconded. Motion carried.

OSBORNE WATER SYSTEM

The water system at Osborne Park is experiencing higher than accepted coliform bacteria levels. Repeated water samples show elevated coliform bacteria. The staff has made numerous efforts to resolve the situation, including shocking the well and water system with no elimination of bacteria. Shawver Well Drilling has reviewed the records and today pulled the pump and pumped well water on the ground before taking water samples from the well at intervals. Results of the water samples will help indicate where bacteria is entering the system. It is believed the well casing is not leaking. The DNR has been notified. Tim Engelhardt has prepared a Public Notification of the problem. The drinking fountains and water supply at the Visitors Center are posted to inform the public and staff that the water may not be safe for all individuals. With numerous visitors expected at Heritage Days on October 8 and 9, the safety of the water is of special concern. The consensus of the CCCB was that the Executive Director continue to pursue the cause of the problem.

MOTOR MILL MOA FOR RESIDENTIAL HOUSE

Tim Engelhardt met with FEMA and associated parties regarding the demolition of the white residential house at Motor Mill. The request for asbestos survey RFP has been sent. The MOA (Memorandum of Agreement) with the agencies was sent to CCCB members for review. A schedule for the demolition of the house was reviewed, with the planned demolition complete in December 2011. Frank Phippen has been contacted to be site monitor. Other historic, prehistoric and archeological professionals are available. No action by the CCCB is needed at this time.

MOTOR MILL CANOE RAMP

The local chapter of White Tails Unlimited would like to make a donation to have the Motor Mill Canoe ramp re-worked. It was suggested that the canoe ramp be re-worked to

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its original state. However, the ramp was damaged by flood water, and it is anticipated that any canoe ramp at that site will also be damaged by future floods. Discussion was held on moving the site, waiting till the bridge is completed to see if a potential site could be developed on the other side, or altering the river bank to prevent flood damage to the ramp. Tim Engelhardt will be meeting with a representative of White Tails Unlimited on September 14 to discuss the ramp.

UPDATES

Luster has completed several surveys for the IACCB. The IACCB Board of Directors plan to use these surveys, more to come yet, to develop a platform for what CCB's provide for the state of Iowa and the investment counties have made to the state's outdoor recreational infrastructure.

The August Hunter Safety Classes have been completed and paperwork submitted.

Visitation to the Osborne Welcome Center is down slightly from last year at this time.

Several staff have been taking some vacation time during the month of August before the big fall push.

Gibbs has conducted 10 classroom presentations on Monarch butterflies. Each class is raising and tagging their own monarchs.

Gibbs is making preparations for the Osborne Off-Road Fun Run scheduled for Saturday September 17.

Fall Field Trips are being scheduled and planned.

The Newsletter will be coming out soon.

Engelhardt met with Brian Fankhouser INHF and John Eno on August 19. Very good discussion and looked at the property. Eno has been cleaning up the house. Eno would like the board to consider long term care of the Eno cemetery if funds are provided.

We had a very hot, wet, stormy, sunny and cool Labor Day Weekend. Sunday and Monday had lots of visitors at Osborne and Motor Mill. Bloody Run and Motor Mill campgrounds were near capacity Saturday and Sunday nights.

The Motor Mill Foundation will develop a capital fund campaign center just around the Motor Mill Bridge. Campaign will be kicked off in September with a media blitz, individual letters a individual visits.

Engelhardt will be in Des Moines for the review of the REAP grant which was submitted for the Motor Mill bridge on Wednesday September 7.

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Engelhardt will be attending the IACCB Conference in Buchanan County on September 16 and 17.

Engelhardt was able to take some vacation time off toward the end of August.

All the seasonal staff have finished up for the year.

Now that Labor Day has passed the staff's fall schedule has started.

Heritage Days planning and prep work is well underway.

Work has been down to the water system and testing continues. This process consumes a lot of time.

Mulford and Anderson are now mowing and park work themselves.

Recently was inspected by the USDA for our annual inspection for the animal exhibit. Things turned out well.

Our REAP grant application ranked 9th out of 21. As a result we received what funds were left after awarding the first 8 grants plus one county returned unused funds from the 2010 grant round. We have now received \$462,869.75 for the Motor Mill Bridge. We can not advertise until after October 13. The Commission needs to approve the recommendations first.

Regarding the bridge, it now appears FEMA needs additional paperwork to make the bridge an improved project. I had started the process in January 2011, but failed to follow up. We have now reached the point that it needs to be done. This may be a good thing, since the project has been better developed and we can show additional funding and support.

Harkrader wrote and recorded radio program while Engelhardt was on vacation.

Naturalists conducted 3 public programs with a total of 48 participants, and 5 outreach programs with 60 plus participants.

The end of August is traditionally a transitional month from summer to fall and staff has made that transition and flipped to fall activities.

ADJOURNMENT

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

Respectfully Submitted,
Deanna Krambeer, Secretary