

CLAYTON COUNTY CONSERVATION BOARD

Minutes

August 9, 2016

The regular meeting of the Clayton County Conservation Board was held at Turkey River County Park on Tuesday, August 9. Vice-chairman Gary Kregel called the meeting to order at 2:05 p.m. Other board members present were Daryl Landsgard, Marilyn Lenth, and Larry Stone. Conservation Board director Jenna Pollock and office manager Harry Luster also attended. Clayton County Supervisor Ron McCartney was a guest.

AGENDA

Lenth moved to approve the agenda as printed. Landsgard seconded. Carried.

MINUTES

Stone moved to approve the minutes of the July 12 meeting. Lenth seconded. Kregel suggested adding language that the board acknowledged the resignation of Liz Jaster, and had referred the matter to the board of supervisors. The board agreed. Carried.

COMMUNICATIONS

Pollock received an invitation from Northeast Iowa RC&D for board members to attend a recognition dinner in Postville on August 25. Those who plan to attend should RSVP Pollock by August 19.

Stone told of comments from a person who was upset because they could not ride horses at Osborne.

Pollock received a note from a visitor who complained that there was no toilet paper at Frieden's Park.

CLAIMS

Luster reviewed the July claims. Landsgard moved to approve the claims as presented. Lenth seconded. Carried.

FINANCIAL REPORT

Luster reviewed the expenditures and revenue for July 2016. Lenth moved to accept the report. Stone seconded. Carried.

OLD BUSINESS

PONY HOLLOW TRAIL/ROBERTS CREEK STABILIZATION

Landsgard looked at Pony Hollow Trail erosion problems with Gary Siegarth. Pollock also visited the area with District Conservationist Pat Schaefer of the NRCS.

All agreed that some rock work might be needed to protect the trail from further erosion, but the extent of work needed remains unclear.

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Lenth moved to table to matter, pending receipt of an erosion-control plan from Schaefers. Landsgard seconded. Carried.

TIMBER MANAGEMENT

Pollock reported on her discussions with Iowa DNR district forester Dave Asche about a possible timber salvage harvest at the Becker Property and the Pleasant Ridge Wildlife Area. Asche urged that any money from a sale should be spent on improving the timber stand on the properties. He noted that there had not been adequate follow-up after our timber harvest at Buck Creek a few years ago.

Pollock asked if board expects timber harvesting to be a source of revenue.

McCartney said the Board of Supervisors believes the Conservation Board should have better timber management plans. He said timber should be a cash crop to generate money for other projects, such as replacing the shop at Osborne.

McCartney also urged the Conservation Board to use timber management as an educational opportunity to help small landowners learn how to better manage their woodlands.

Landsgard suggested that the Conservation Board do as much management as financially possible, up to a cost equal to income generated from timber harvests.

McCartney asked whether the Board's goal should be revenue neutral harvesting income and woodland management expense, or to use timber income for other projects.

The board and McCartney agreed that a woodland inventory is needed to better understand what woodland resources we have, and the potential for better management.

SHOP CONSTRUCTION

The staff has obtained potential cost estimates for a new shop at Osborne. McCartney urged the Board to consider a 40x60 structure, built with the flexibility to allow future expansion.

Kregel acknowledged that the current shop is woefully inadequate and somewhat dangerous.

The Board discussed whether a new shop would require engineered plans, and whether competitive bidding would be required.

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Lenth moved that the Board authorize Pollock, Kregel, and Landsgard to meet with an engineer to discuss preliminary plans for a shop. Stone seconded. Carried.

NEW BUSINESS

LUNAR COW DATABASE

Pollock said the Clayton County Development Group has worked with the "Lunar Cow" company to prepare an online database of travel and tourism information.

MOTOR MILL ACCESS

Turkey River Outfitters has been storing equipment at the Motor Mill canoe landing, which has sometimes restricted access for other users and emergency services. The board discussed the need for a written agreement to cover liability concerns and conditions TRO should be expected to follow.

Pollock agreed to meet with Turkey River Outfitters and the County Attorney to discuss the situation.

MILLVILLE ACCESS/BECKER PROPERTY

Pollock has received questions/comments about possible plans for a campground on the Becker property. Kregel noted that a modern campground probably would not be appropriate, although a primitive site might be desirable.

Kregel noted the recent death of a renter on the Becker property, and suggested that Pollock check with the remaining renter and the terms of the lease.

HERITAGE DAYS

1 - Vendor fees – The vendor fee for exhibitors at Heritage Days has remained at \$15 per day for many years. The board briefly discussed changing to a percentage of sales, but agreed that would be too cumbersome.

Landsgard moved that the fee be raised to \$30 per day, or \$50 for the weekend. Lenth seconded. Carried.

2 – Food stand – The Elkader Lions Club will no longer operate the food stand at Heritage Days. Pollock is working with Elkader and Strawberry

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Point fire departments to find a possible replacement. The other option is to find a commercial vendor.

3 – Volunteers – Pollock asked for volunteers to work at Heritage Days on Oct. 8 or 9.

Upcoming Programs

8/9 – Geocaching with Jesse, 6 pm, Osborne Pond

8/13 –How It Came to Be (Pike’s Peak state park, 10 a.m.) Geology!

8/18- Mystery Mingle, Munch, Mob

9/2 – Monarch release party, Osborne

9/15 – Mystery Mingle, Munch, Mob

9/24 – National Public Lands Day, trail opening at Bloody Run

10/8 – 10/9 – Heritage Days

Updates

There was some damage from high water and a few branches down at Bloody Run Park from a recent storm.

Luster, Kraus and Schoulte welcomed 856 visitors to Osborne in July

The naturalists and summer naturalists hosted 33 programs, 47 sessions, for 333 youth and 94 adult participants

Slocum and Anderson collaborated with the Timber crew for Bloody Run Park hiking trail. Map and designation coming.

Burlage, Anderson, Mulford and intern crews mowed, cleared debris, trash pickup, firepit cleaning, high water clean-up

Mulford, Anderson and Pollock conferred with the construction crew at Turkey River Park picnic shelter

Pollock attended G0191 and G0402 Emergency Management Trainings, FEMA certifications

Slocum and Pollock International Mountain Biking Association single-track trails, maintenance and objectives workshop

ADJOURNMENT

Lenth moved to adjourn the meeting at 4:10 p.m. Stone seconded. Carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Larry A. Stone, secretary
Clayton County Conservation Board