

Clayton County Conservation Board

Minutes

April 11, 2017

The regular meeting of the Clayton County Conservation Board was held Tuesday, April 11, 2017, at the Osborne Conservation Center. Chairman Gary Kregel called the meeting to order at 6:02 p.m. Other members present were Daryl Landsgard, Marilyn Lenth, and Larry Stone. Pam Vaske arrived about 6:20 p.m. Board director Jenna Pollock also attended. Michelle Barness of the Upper Explorerland Regional Planning Commission was a guest.

AGENDA

Landsgard moved to approve the agenda, with the addition of an item on the "mobile architecture for communications handling" (MACH). Lenth seconded. Carried.

MINUTES

Stone moved to approve the minutes of the March 14, 2017, meeting as distributed. Landsgard seconded. Carried.

COMMUNICATIONS

Pollock reported on continuing communications with our insurance carrier and the insurance company representing a Bloody Run Park visitor whose vehicle was damaged by a falling tree limb.

CLAIMS

Lenth moved to approve the April claims as presented. Landsgard seconded. Carried.

FINANCIAL REPORT

Pollock reported that the final paycheck for the former office manager, who recently retired, was higher than expected. She will follow up with the county auditor to suggest possible changes in policies to avoid the situation in the future.

Pollock said we have received \$51,000 from FEMA for damages from the floods of August-September 2016. Additional payments are pending.

Naturalist Kenny Slocum secured a \$500 grant from the Iowa Native Plant Society for use on the Grau Savanna restoration at Motor Mill.

Naturalist Abbey Harkrader and Board member Larry Stone helped secure the Silos and Smokestacks Intern grant for 2017 to host a Motor Mill Intern.

Lenth moved to accept the financial report. Stone seconded. Carried.

OLD BUSINESS

FIVE-YEAR PLAN

Michelle Barness of Upper Explorerland Regional Planning Commission led a discussion on the process for updating the board's 5-year plan. She said the board should be using the plan as a guide to help make decisions.

Topics included: the need for goals and objectives in the interpretive plan; discussions of the board's goals, objectives, strengths, weaknesses, and threats; how to distribute and evaluate a survey of potential users of our programs and facilities; the need for a more focused vision statement.

Barness tentatively plans to meet with the board and staff at the June or July meeting to review preliminary data and suggestions.

ENO PROPERTY UPDATE

The Iowa Natural Heritage Foundation (INHF) has suggested seeking a declaratory judgment from a judge that would clarify whether the Conservation Board is bound by the terms of John Eno's will.

After some discussion, the board delayed action to allow Pollock to contact the county attorney and INHF to seek more information about the implications of a declaratory judgment.

BUDGET FY18

Salary Scale – The board reviewed the current salary scale, which is based partly on longevity and on percentages of the director's salary. Board members discussed whether longevity is a fair criterion, but took no action.

FY18 Salary Increase Comparisons – The board received a list of staff salaries for conservation boards in five other northeast Iowa counties.

Asset inventory replacement schedule – The board received a list of conservation board assets ranging from firearms to vehicles to office furniture. The projected life expectancies and replacement years and costs should help with future budgeting.

NEW BUSINESS

PAYROLL CHANGES

Pollock will meet with the auditor about changes in the county's payroll procedures.

RFP FOR MOISTURE PROBLEMS AT OSBORNE CENTER

Pollock has learned that the Decra shingles on the visitor center were installed improperly, which probably has been the cause of water leakage.

Landsgard moved to hire Cory Wilker to do repairs. Vaske seconded. Carried.

Lenth moved to authorize Pollock to hire a contractor to repair the basement drywall that has been damaged by the water leak. Stone seconded. Carried.

TRRC/MEDICOM ADVERTISING

For the past few years, Clayton County, Fayette County, and the Turkey River Recreational Corridor (TRRC) have partnered to buy advertising through Medicom. The cost is \$2,520 for each partner for 3360 spots of 30 seconds each for six months starting in May.

Stone moved to authorize the board chair to sign a contract to continue the arrangement. Vaske seconded. Carried.

MOBILE ARCHITECTURE FOR COMMUNICATIONS HANDLING (MACH)

County law enforcement officials have requested that MACH software be installed on Tucker Anderson's patrol computer. Lenth moved to approve the installation. Landsgard seconded. Carried.

UPCOMING PROGRAMS/EVENTS

April 13 – Opening of bids for shop construction

April 17 – Public hearing for approval of shop bids, 1 p.m., Osborne

April 28 – Garlic mustard cook-off

June 2 – Disc golf tournament

Updates

Harkrader and Pollock attended the Silos & Smokestacks Annual Mtg representing Motor Mill

Slocum received notice of Grant Award from Iowa Native Plant Society for Youth Conservation Corp Program

Harkrader grant award notice for Silos & Smokestacks Intern Grant and Clayton County Foundation for the Future Grant

Kraus and Luster welcomed 179 individuals to the Osborne Conservation Center in March

Slocum and Harkrader presented 102 programs to 1,993 youth and 207 adults for 67.5 group hours

Mulford woke up the bear, conducted regular maintenance and chores, and handled several specialty projects

Anderson responded to Motor Mill vandalism and provided report, attended and lead trainings

ADJOURNMENT

Lenth moved to adjourn the meeting at 9:12 p.m. Stone seconded. Carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Larry A. Stone, secretary