

CLAYTON COUNTY CONSERVATION BOARD

Minutes

September 13, 2016

The regular meeting of the Clayton County Conservation Board was held at the Osborne Conservation Center on Tuesday September 13, 2016. Vice-chairman Gary Kregel called the meeting to order at 6:00 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.

AGENDA

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

MINUTES

Stone noted an error in the date of the meeting, and a typo in the updates. Kregel suggested deleting mention of a specific business from the shop discussion. Stone moved to approve the minutes of the August 9 meeting with those corrections. Lenth seconded. Carried.

COMMUNICATIONS

Pollock received notification from Silos and Smokestacks that the Conservation Board was awarded a \$10,000 grant for interpretive displays. The Board also received a \$1,000 grant from the Iowa Tourism Association, Iowa economic Development Authority, for promoting the interpretive displays at Motor.

Pollock traveled to Des Moines Sept. 13 to observe the scoring process for REAP applications. Clayton County had applied for a grant for river accesses, but we did not receive it. There was only \$1.2 million available, with more than \$3.4 million being requested.

Following an earlier meeting with the Board of Supervisors, Pollock met with the Clayton County Development Group to discuss the County Active Transportation Plan. The board discussed the supervisors' mention of ATV/UTV trails.

Pollock has talked with the Iowa Natural Heritage Foundation about Clayton County's possible interest in the Girl Scout Camp Tahigwa in Allamakee County. She told INHF that Clayton County does not have an interest in the property.

The Board received notice from the both renters on the Becker property that they do not wish to continue their leases after expiration. The Board will solicit new bids later this year.

CLAIMS

Luster reviewed the September claims. Stone moved to approve the claims as presented. Landsgard seconded. Carried.

FINANCIAL REPORT

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

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OLD BUSINESS

SHOP CONSTRUCTION

Pollock, Landsgard, and Kregel met with Mike Tucker of Gardner Architecture to discuss shop costs and options. Tucker said he is having trouble designing a facility that would not be more expensive than the Board's budget.

Pollock said County Engineer Rafe Koopman has offered to have the Secondary Roads staff help with site preparation.

Pollock said the Board might be able to use some Conservation Reserve funds if the shop project surpasses the original budgeted amount.

The Board agreed to delay further debate until Mike Tucker could come to a Board meeting – perhaps in November.

RETZ UPDATE

Lenth moved to grant a request from The Nature Conservancy to split the closing costs of the transfer of the Retz tract from TNC to the County. Landsgard seconded. Carried.

ENO UPDATE

The Iowa Natural Heritage Foundation board is studying the implications of retaining the Eno property, rather than completing the transfer from Clayton County at this time.

MOTOR MILL TRAIL UPDATE

The Iowa DOT has approved an alternate route along State Highway 13 and Grandview Road. The DOT noted that the trail along Highway 13 should be promoted as a bike lane, rather than a pedestrian trail. The Board will be submitting a revised trail concept statement to IDOT.

NEW BUSINESS

FLOOD – August 23-26, 2016

Pollock presented the following damage estimates for county areas affected by the recent floods: Friedens Park, \$1,568.42; Turkey River Park, \$1,655.70; Pony Hollow Trail, \$57,799.12; Motor Mill Park, \$1,898.24; Bloody Run Park, \$424.56.

Pollock will be meeting with a FEMA representative on September 15.

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TIMBER MANAGEMENT POLICY

The board discussed a draft Timber Management Policy for county areas. Pollock prepared the policy with input from DNR forester Dave Asche and other County Conservation Boards.

The policy calls for forestry plans that sustain healthy, productive forests while allowing timber harvesting for timber stand improvement, economic gain, and demonstration of good woodland management.

Pollock agreed to bring a final plan to the board for approval at a future meeting.

FIVE-YEAR STRATEGIC PLAN

Pollock noted that the Board of Supervisors has directed the Upper Explorerland Regional Planning Commission to update the Clayton County Comprehensive Plan. She suggested that this would be an opportune time for the Conservation Board to hire Upper Explorerland to update our 5-year Strategic Plan. The estimated cost would be \$2,500.

Stone moved to hire Upper Explorerland to do the Strategic Plan update. Lenth seconded. Carried.

Upcoming Programs

9/15- Mystery Mingle, Munch, Mob

9/24–National Public Lands Day- Well’s Hollow Trail, Bloody Run Park

10/8-10/9 42nd Annual Osborne Heritage Days

10/20- Mystery Mingle, Munch, Mob

10/28 –Scary stories being told in the dark (Osborne)

11/17- Mystery Mingle, Munch, Mob

12/1- Holiday Walk

12/19 – Winter survival skills workshop (Osborne)

Updates

Mulford, Anderson, and Burlage finished dressing the Turkey River Park Shelter, Closed Park for Flood, conducted routine maintenance as well as additional maintenance for wind storm and flooding event

Schoulte and Kraus assisted with park updates due to flooding on social media and the website

Luster, Kraus and Schoulte welcomed over 531 guests in August

Anderson and Pollock assisted campers with registration, cleaning and restocking amenities

Slocum and Harkrader presented 29 programs to 173 youth and 174 adults in August

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Pollock submitted Resource Enhancement and Protection Grant (REAP), Upper Mississippi Gaming Corporation Grant (UMGC) and is assisting the City of Volga with a Marine Fuel-Tax Application for the Volga River Access

All Seasonal Staff concluded their service with the Conservation Board for Summer 2016

ADJOURNMENT

Lenth moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:27 p.m. Landsgard seconded. Carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Larry A. Stone, secretary
Clayton County Conservation Board