

CLAYTON COUNTY CONSERVATION BOARD
MINUTES
February 13, 2018

The regular meeting of the Clayton County Conservation Board was held at the Osborne Conservation Center on Tuesday, February 13. Chairman Gary Kregel called the meeting to order at 6 p.m. Other board members present were Daryl Landsgard, Pam Vaske, and Larry Stone. Conservation Board director Jenna Pollock also attended.

AGENDA

Stone moved to accept the agenda as printed. Landsgard seconded. Carried.

MINUTES

Landsgard moved to approve the minutes of the January 9 meeting as printed. Stone seconded. Carried.

CLAIMS

Pollock reviewed the January claims, noting that items for telephone and electricity differ slightly from the auditor's figures, perhaps because of billing cycles. Stone moved to approve the claims as presented. Vaske seconded. Carried.

FINANCIAL REPORT

Pollock reviewed the financial report. She pointed out that the recent tractor purchase used \$9,500 of the \$15,000 budgeted for construction and maintenance equipment. An old mower needs repairs that could cost \$6,000. A new mower would cost about \$18,000. The board agreed that Pollock should discuss the matter with the board of supervisors before we decide how to proceed. Stone moved to accept the financial report. Vaske seconded. Carried.

COMMUNICATIONS

Pollock said the court has accepted an agreement with the Conservation Board, the Iowa Natural Heritage Foundation, and the Eno heirs that makes it clear that the buildings at the Eno site do not have to be maintained.

The Turkey River Recreational Corridor's Iowa Great Places designation has been renewed.

Pollock will invite board members of the Motor Mill Foundation to the March CCCB meeting to discuss better coordination between the two boards.

OLD BUSINESS

FIVE-YEAR PLAN UPDATE

The board reviewed and edited the five-year plan that Pollock and the staff have been revising. Some changes included adding a “vision” statement, consolidating the “values,” and some minor changes in wording to specify ongoing programs and needs.

BYLAWS UPDATE

At the January meeting, the board reviewed the bylaws and suggested these changes:

Permit a phone connection to reach a quorum;

Remove prohibition on officers succeeding themselves;

Make minutes and financial reports available from CCCB office and auditor, rather than in annual report;

Election of officers in January, rather than December.

Stone moved to approve the bylaw changes. Vaske seconded. Carried.

ANNUAL REPORT

Stone moved to approve the annual report as distributed. Landsgard seconded. Carried.

POND PLAN

Pollock said Clayton County has become eligible for a \$29,xxx fish habitat grant after Jones County could not use the money. She said the NRCS has estimated the cost to dredge the pond and build silt basins. The DOT will be working on the shoulders of highway 13 in 2018, but that should not cause any silt to enter the pond.

The board agreed that Pollock should actively pursue plans for the pond restoration project for 2018.

NEW BUSINESS

PUBLIC AWARENESS CAMPAIGN

Pollock discussed several options for better promotion of CCCB programs, including Inspired Magazine, Mediacom, Iowa Outdoors, Iowan Magazine, Silos Visitor Guide, and Iowa Sportsman.

Pollock recommended Mediacom, which offers 3,360 30-second commercials on eight networks from May through October. Vaske moved to partner with the Fayette County Conservation Board for the Mediacom package, with each county paying \$2,520. Landsgard seconded. Carried.

KANN CONTRACT EXTENSION

The Becker property renter, Joe Kann, proposes to interseed alfalfa to improve an existing hay field. The board agreed to the request, with a new 5-year contract to replace current 3-year contract. Landsgard moved to approve the new contract. Stone seconded. Carried.

SHELTER RESERVATION POLICY

The staff has suggested changes in the shelter reservation policy. The price in advance for one-half day (4 hrs) would be \$20, with \$40 charged for a full day (8 a.m.-10:30 p.m.) The fee would be forfeited if a cancellation is made less than one week before the reserved date.

The fee for a wedding on CCCB areas would be \$100, with a \$100 refundable damage deposit and additional \$100 deposit if alcohol will be available.

Stone moved to approve the new schedule. Landsgard seconded. Carried.

UPCOMING PROGRAMS

March 3 – Bluebird house workshop

March 17 – Motor Motor 5K race

April 21 – Foraging workshop – McGregor/Marquette

April 22 – Earth Day, Osborne

DIRECTOR'S REPORT AND UPDATES

Four staff members attended the Iowa Association of County Conservation Board Employees Winterfest workshop in Waterloo Jan. 23-25. Several programs covered prairie management.

Pollock and Scherf are working with the auditor to ensure proper budget coding.

Pollock will work with the Motor Mill Foundation to ensure better communication and collaboration with the CCCB.

Clayton County's workmen's compensation claims have been low, so the cost of insurance has declined. The Secondary Roads Department will likely be rewarded with the \$100,000+ that was saved.

The Iowa DNR is exploring the purchase of a parcel of tax-sale property on the Volga River near Mederville.

The staff is waiting for more favorable weather to negotiate the purchase of a cougar for the animal exhibit.

ADJOURNMENT

Stone moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:08 p.m. Vaske seconded. Carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Larry A. Stone, secretary
Clayton County Conservation Board