

CALL TO ORDER

The regular meeting of the Clayton County Conservation Board was held Tuesday, July 13, 2021 at the Bloody Run County Park shelter house.

Vice-chair, Daryl Landsgard, called the meeting to order at 2:00 p.m. Members present were Larry Stone and Pam Vaske. Members absent were Gary Kregel and Marilyn Lenth. Staff present were Jenna Pollock, director; Kenny Slocum, naturalist/resource manager; and Molly Scherf, office manager. Guest present was John Hanson of Ursus Iowa.

AGENDA

Vaske made a motion to approve the agenda, second by Stone, unanimous approval. Passed.

MINUTES

Vaske made a motion to approve the 6/8/2021 meeting minutes, seconded by Stone, unanimous approval. Passed.

CLAIMS

Stone made a motion to approve all claims, second by Vaske, unanimous approval. Passed.

FINANCIAL REPORT & ENDOWMENT STATEMENT

The financial report and endowment was reviewed by the board.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Presentation from Ursus Iowa John Hanson–

Hanson is a Linn Co. Conservation board member and teacher in Marion. He gave presentation about black bears having no legal standing in Iowa. He would like to make this a game animal so the DNR would have a management plan for when the bears start to populate this area of the state. Currently there is no law against someone shooting a bear in Iowa.

2. Consider request from CC Soil & Water Conservation District- Placing TRWMA signs at Osborne –

TRWMA board would like to put signs in each district. Fayette already has some up. Placing at Osborne would be an educational opportunity but is it the best place when so far away from Turkey River. The board isn't opposed but Big Springs and Turkey River Park may be other options.

3. Consider approval of two UMGC grant applications for Osborne Campground Initial Construction Phase and Motor Mill Inn –

Stone made a motion to approve conservation staff applying for the UMGC grant for the Osborne Campground Initial Construction Phase and authorizing the board chairman to sign the documents, seconded by Vaske, unanimous approval. Passed.

Stone made a motion to approve conservation staff applying for the UMGC grant for the Motor Mill Inn and give the Motor Mill Foundation board chair authorization to sign the documents, seconded by Vaske, unanimous approval. Passed.

4. Consider timber management option-Pleasant Ridge, Natural Resource Report, Kenny Slocum –
Slocum had shared a document with the board of his resource management plan. One area at Pleasant Ridge needs to either have young walnuts removed or leave them. This in in the old orchard area that is surrounded by mature walnuts so these have been naturally seeded. This is an area that is hard to get equipment to so maintenance is an issue. The board agreed to let this come up in walnuts.

OLD BUSINESS

1. Motor Mill Trail Updates--
Pollock reported that this project is next on the DOT close out list. Signs cannot be lowered until project is closed out unless we want to pay the contractors. Staff will be spraying and mowing shoulders soon. A map sign has been designed but we are waiting for IA Prison Industries to begin printing again.
Feedback on the trail hasn't been all good. Some want it paved, others upset with larger rock, while some are just wanting a printed brochure with map. Slocum will begin a brochure map.
2. Pony Hollow Trail Extension--
State Rec. Trail Grant has been submitted. Still waiting to hear on Covid Rec. Trail Grant. Federal Rec. Trail grant will be due in September so hoping to hear on the other two before then.
3. Elkader-Elgin TRRC Trail Planning Update –
No updates. TRRC hasn't heard from MSA in a few months.
4. Motor Inn Update –
Pollock met with Elkader City Council Monday night to discuss them funding 1% of the total project cost = \$4,500. The CAT grant requires city commitments. The city approved paying \$4,500 in FY23.
July 19-August 13th there will be a Community Challenge Grant happening online where we need to raise \$3,000 in that window to be eligible for the \$100,000 award.
Pollock asked Gary Kregel to approach the Farm Bureau to see if they would be willing to commit as a business. Pollock plans to ask artisan groups as well as Adam Sadewasser of Turkey River Rentals.
Pollock also met with Alpine Communications to see how their funding options would work with our projects. They suggested the Rural Services Grant which is a \$5,000 plus Alpine match and use it for campus wi-fi and security cameras.
5. Osborne Campground Update --
The Shive Hattery designer is on vacation but when back she will come help mark out areas, trees to remove, etc. We will then put bids out. Slocum mentioned that an archeology survey needs to be done because of receiving the LAWCON grant.
Scherf is applying for the UMGC and plans to also apply for the REAP grant to gain more funding for the campground project.

UPCOMING PROGRAMS/EVENTS

Available at www.claytoncountyconservation.org

Director's Report/Updates/Communications

Welcome Center numbers included 355 groups and 1294 individuals, 15 different states. Environmental Education Programs totaled 32 including 289 youth and 83 adults for 85.5 hours.

Pollock spoke to M.J. Smith about the Dr. Zichal family endowment. This is a true endowment, if cashed in now it means \$1,200-1,500 grant dollars yearly. Otherwise waiting it could be a \$5,000 grant/year. Smith recommends leaving it in for more value in the future.

Conservation is accepting Fish Habitat bids next month and has also sent out truck bids with no deadline.

Mike Plumbley called about adding another river access on the Turkey River so people could fish while kayaking, pull out before Motor Mill, and ride a bike back to Elkader on the Pony Hollow Trail. The area he describes is on private land. The board didn't express any interest in adding an additional access.

ADJOURNED

Stone made a motion to adjourn the meeting, second by Vaske, unanimous approval. Passed.

NEXT MEETING August 10, 2021, 2pm Joy Spring County Park