

The Tama County Conservation Board met in regular session on Wednesday, April 4, 2018, at the Tama County Nature Center, Otter Creek Lake & Park. The meeting was called to order by Chair Keenan at 7 p.m.. Members present were: Adolphs, Atchison, Keenan and Wrage. Also present: Etzel and Wise.

Minutes from the regular session of March 7, 2018, were read. It was moved by Adolphs, seconded Atchison to accept the minutes as read, carried. (All voting aye)

The following bills were presented:

TO BE PAID FROM GEN'L FUND		Amount of Bill	Category Total
0001-22-6100-100-661			
Salary- Director			
Etzel, Robert	9-Mar-18	2,049.25	
	23-Mar-18	<u>2,049.25</u>	
		4,098.50	4,098.50
0001-22-6100-000-41200			
Postage			
Etzel, Robert	as per three (3) receipts	22.19	22.19
0001-22-6100-000-41400			
Telephone			
Verizon	1Mar18, 484-2231 (office)	16.23	
Windstream	19Mar18, 484-2231 (office), 484-4157 (payphone)	78.37	
	19Mar18, 484-5314 (shop)	<u>60.52</u>	
		155.12	155.12
0001-6110-100-22-223			
Salary- Main Supervisor			
Wise, Craig	9-Feb-18	1,806.40	
	23-Feb-18	<u>1,806.40</u>	
		3,612.80	3,612.80
Salary- Conserv Tech/Park Ranger			
Ryan Rieger	9-Feb-18	1,551.20	
	23-Feb-18	<u>1,551.20</u>	
		3,102.40	3,102.40
Salary- Naturalist/Park Ranger			
Roberts, Logan	9-Feb-18	1,551.20	
	23-Feb-18	<u>1,551.20</u>	
		3,102.40	3,102.40
	TOTAL ALL PAYROLL	9,817.60	
0001-22-6110-000-25450 Mt Veh- Minor Repair			
Van Wall Equipment	#797577 air filter, throttle cable (weedeater), #807853 oil filters, mower blades	183.43	
J&V Auto Parts	#516479 wiper blades - '08 and '14 Ford trucks	<u>47.96</u>	
Menards	#81219 Painter's 3 pc brush set	<u>23.96</u>	
		255.35	255.35
0001-22-6110-000-29050 Min Equip- hand tools			
Central Iowa Distributing	#163645 mop combo, mop handle; #163644 comet wet mop	158.90	
J&V Auto Parts	#516479 multi-purpose lamp, safety shield	<u>43.48</u>	

		202.38	202.38
0001-22-6110-000-29252			
Main & Supplies			
Central Iowa Distributing	#163645 drain clnr, roll towels, urinl screens, terry cleaning cloths	812.00	
Dolezal Farm Supply	#0113516 6-1/2' steel posts (25) @ \$5 ea	125.00	
Etzel, Robert	Menards- Cedar Rapids boiler drain faucet (basement- residence)	9.99	
Menards	#81303 EE supplies;#81219 concrete patch, stain, liner, galv nipples, etc	193.94	
Poweshiek Water Assoc.	Water, OCP- West,19Mar18: meter read, Prev: 1248K, Cur: 1249K, Used: 1K	41.50	
	Water, OCP- East, 19Mar18: meter read, Prev: 701K, Cur: 702K, Used: 1K	41.50	
	Water, OCP- Residence 19Mar18: meter read,, Prev: 86K, Cur: 890K, Used: 3K	52.30	
RC Systems	#94712 Nature Center- motioin detector- basement, detect, rapair, replace	405.00	
Tama County Solid Waste	Landfill fees- March	23.50	
Tama-Toledo Ace Hardware	#014021 metal cut wheel, wheel grind, spray paint, micro SD cards for trail cams	33.24	
VISA	From Uncle Jim's Worm Farm, 250 Super Reds European Night Crawlers,	31.06	
	#1744 IA State Forest Nursery 50 white pine,50 Norway spruce, 25 Jack Pine	65.18	
Wendling Quarries	#719193 46.96T 1" rd stone @ \$10.15/T, Tickets #3090869, 3090879,3090893	<u>476.65</u>	
		2,310.86	2,310.86
0001-22-6110-000-43100			
Electricity			
Grundy Co REC	OCP thru 1Mar18, 7,381 KWH- meter #1		
	Meter #2 (NC), 8,579 kwh		
	Monthly service chg	39.00	
	Energy chg	792.42	
	Aux meter	573.08	
	Security lights	28.00	
	Maintenance light	<u>128.00</u>	
		1560.50	1,560.50
Total Bills Submitted, Gen'l Budget			18,422.50
FROM NATURE CENTER TRUST			
0031-22-6120-000-29272			
Main & Supplies			
Fareway Stores	#00018663 misc supplies for March OWLS program	31.47	
Ty Smedes	#566 OWLS Program 13Mar18	<u>188.00</u>	
		219.47	219.47
0031-22-6120-000-29672			
Art Supplies			
Larry Zach Wildlife Art	Art for Fun Night- Egreat at Rest, Dream Bucks III	334.00	
OMP (Outdoor Marketing Products)	#31368 various pieces for auctions	417.97	
Wild Wings	#343324, 343432, 343797 various items for Fun	<u>842.65</u>	

	Night		
		1,594.62	1,594.62
Total Bills Submitted, Nature Center Trust			\$ 1,814.09
Total All Bills Submitted			\$20,236.59

Moved by Wrage, seconded Atchison to approve bills as presented, carried. (All voting aye).

Reports and Correspondence. Maintenance Report Wise updated the Board on work started or completed during March. The work included: **Otter Creek Park and Hansen Addition** invasive species removal (trees, Autumn Olive), install play safety surfacing, put in t-dock and boat dock, open kiosk, cut willows in wetland- Parcel B&C- Hansen Addition, burn west prairie, move snow, repair picnic tables, rebuild and place Purple Martin house, repair weed eater, **Manatt's Landing** blade and rock road, **TF Clark Park** open for the season. **/Naturalist Report** The monthly report for March drafted by Logan Roberts, Naturalist, was presented to the Board./ **Seasonal Staff** Tentative offers have been tendered and accepted for one of the Conservation Aide positions and the Seasonal Park Ranger positions pending clearance of their driving record and background check. Etzel is still seeking a person to fill the other Seasonal Conservation Aide position./ **Fun Night for the Nature Center** The event was postponed on March 24 due to the winter storm. The event is slated for this Saturday, April 7./ **Izaak Walton Shooting Facility Signup Meetings** Etzel reported that two meetings will be held in the near future. Meetings are scheduled for Monday, April 9 at 7 p.m. and Saturday, April 14 at 8 a.m. at the Tama County Nature Center. These meetings are required for people to become authorized to shoot at the facility from now until December 31, 2019./



Emerald Ash Borer Confirmed Trees located north of LeGrand in both Marshall and Tama County were confirmed infested with Emerald Ash Borer (EAB). All ash trees within a 15 mi radius of the trees are considered at an elevated risk. The fifteen-mile arc includes the towns of Garwin, Gladbrook, Otter Creek Lake and Park, Tama, Toledo and Montour.



Etzel reported they will be working with Tama County Extension to organize an EAB Workshop at the Nature Center in the near future. Possible dates being considered are April 17 or 19./ **Middle Cedar Watershed Management Authority- Planning Meeting** Etzel reported he had attended a meeting on April 3 in LaPorte City regarding developing a long range plan for the Middle Cedar Watershed Management Authority.

Tama County Community Foundation Etzel relayed that a grant application submitted to the Tama County Community Foundation was accepted. The request was to help fund acquisition of eight canoes, paddles, life jackets, and trailer for use by the environmental education program. The Foundation granted \$4,000 to the cause. Etzel shared a financial breakdown for the project.

He shared that the funding was less than requested and the county conservation board will be required to fund an estimated \$6,355. Etzel indicated the county share would come from the Nature Center Trust account. After discussion it was moved by Atchison, seconded Wrage to accept the Tama County Community Foundation grant and give staff clearance to acquire the equipment as requested, carried. (All voting aye)



OMG/Cessford Tract- ROW discussion Etzel reported that he had met with adjoining landowners Bob McCoy and Terry Hinegardner and others on March 28 to discuss right-of-way (ROW) needs and other issues regarding the recently acquired property. Etzel explained a suggested ROW for McCoy to move cattle from his property lying east of the tract to his property to the west. A graphic outlining the preferred ROW corridor set-up was reviewed by the Board.

Information was relayed regarding Terry Hinegardner's needs for a ROW corridor to access his property to the north of the tract. Hinegardner requests access along the west fenceline to the far NW corner of the county's property. Etzel shared points that were discussed with Hinegardner.

After considerable discussion it was moved by Adolphs, seconded Wrage that a ROW easement agreement between Tama County and Terry Hinegardner and Bob McCoy be pursued. The agreement will be between the two people and the county with a requirement that terms would be renegotiated upon any future title transfer of their properties, carried. (All voting aye)

Otter Creek Lake and Park- Tent Camping Policy The Board discussed proposed changes in the rules for tent camping at Otter Creek Lake & Park. Suggested language was presented to the Board as follows:

14. CAMPING AREAS Camping is allowed only in areas designated for camping. Only tents, small popup campers, camper vans and truck campers are allowed in the primitive camp section located in the SW corner of the park. All camping units are welcome in the electrical camp section.

15. PROPER PARKING/PITCHING OF CAMPING UNIT IN ELECTRICAL CAMP SECTION

- A. In the electric camp section all RV camping units must be parked with the outlet side of the electric pedestal facing the camping unit. (**IMPORTANT:** If any part of your camping unit or motor vehicle extends behind the electric pedestal you are parked incorrectly.) RV camping units are defined as motorhomes, campervans, caravans (also known as travel trailers and camper trailers), fifth-wheel trailers, popup campers and truck campers.
- B. If possible please park your RV unit to allow another camping unit to use the pedestal. Our pedestals can accommodate two camping units if space allows. (**NOTE: DOES NOT** apply to Sites 30- 40)
- C. Also, the camping unit must be parked in a manner so as to not block any portion of the access or camp loop roads.
- D. **TENTS** The motor vehicle of a tent camper shall be parked as stated in “A” (see above) with the outlet side of the camping pedestal facing the motor vehicle and the motor vehicle parked parallel to the camp loop road. Up to two tents can be pitched on one site. All tents will pay the same rate (per tent) as any other camping unit in the electrical camp section. Tents must be pitched within the campsite lawn area designated by the pedestal and cannot infringe on adjoining campsites.



Considerable discussion ensued as this was a proposed change in a policy that has been in place for over four decades. Concerns with this change and the impact on RV campers that had become used to the restrictive policy were voiced. Also voiced was a fear that tents could overwhelm the RV camping units by sheer numbers. On the positive side the policy shift would allow equal access for all campers to the electrical camp section and the amenities in that area of the park (beach, playground, showerhouse, etc.) Also, it is possible that a spike in camp revenues may occur as tents camping in the electrical camping section would be paying the same rate as the RV camping units.

It was agreed that a change would present challenges and issues that would have to be worked through over the course of the camping season. Also, board members agreed that the policy could be evaluated before the 2019 camp season if changes were warranted.

Otter Creek Lake and Park- Update of Park Rules The Board continued discussions regarding additional proposed changes in the Park Rules for Otter Creek Lake and Park.

Following discussions of the changes proposed it was moved by Adolphs, seconded Wrage to accept the park rules as presented. Roll call vote: Adolphs: aye, Atchison: nay, Keenan: aye, Wrage: aye (motion carried)

Columbia Wildlife Area- Consider Bids for Crop Lease The Board considered one bid that was submitted to enter into a crop lease for a 4.5 (more or less) acre field at the Columbia Wildlife Area. The bid is for a three year lease on the field with the following requirements: crop rotation of beans-corn-beans, must leave 10% of the field standing as a food plot, and must plant a cover crop each year.

The following bid was submitted:

Bidder	Amount Bid (three year lease)	Per Acre Bid
Calvin Richardson	\$1,822.50	\$135

It was moved by Atchison, seconded Wrage to enter into a three-year lease with Calvin Richardson for the 4.5 acre crop field at Columbia Wildlife Area, carried. (All voting aye)

After discussion of several conservation topics it was moved by Adolphs, seconded Atchison to adjourn, carried. (all voting aye) Adjourned 9:05 p.m.

CHAIR

VICE-CHAIR