

## February 2021

The Tama County Conservation Board met in regular session on Wednesday, February 10th, 2021 at the Tama County Nature Center. The meeting was called to order at 6:40 pm by Chair, Atchison. Members present were: Adolphs, Atchison, Keenan, Wacha and Wrage. Also present: Craig Wise (Staff).

Minutes from the January 2021 regular meeting were reviewed. It was moved by Wrage, seconded by Adolphs to approve the minutes as recorded, carried, all voting aye.

Bills were presented to be paid from the month of January 2021. It was moved by Keenan, seconded by Adolphs to approve bills, carried, all voting aye.

### Staff Reports

Staff reports for Maintenance work completed during the month of January were read. Work included repairs to the wing plow, servicing vehicles, snow removal and damages to well house pipes from freezing and furnace. Staff has halted work on storm cleanup due to the snow depth. Repairs on some of the damaged buildings has been stopped due to weather and will continue in the spring. Due to COVID-19, Environmental Education events in person are not happening, but reports were shared on virtual programming. Scheduling and planning for 2021 are in progress. The staff held an ice fishing tournament on the 16th that resulted in 55 teams of two. It was for Yellow bass only and went by total weight.

### Lake Restoration Project

Wise reported on the lake restoration update. The board agreed to the final draft proposal of the beach parking lot and road alignment as presented by FYRA Engineering. Wise indicated that it would be best suited to wait until Phase 3 to apply for the LWCF grant due time constraints and the requirements of the grant. We will also be applying for Fish Habitat and Water Access grants at that time as well.

### COVID-19 Response

The board discussed staff and operations changes due to COVID-19. The restrooms will be open, the nature center offices have reopened. Masks will still be required for entry. Nature center rentals are still not available, but persons may call or email to be penciled in for a date when it reopens.

### FEMA Update

Wise reported that the 2019 emergency flood disaster has been completed and closed out. The quarterly reports have been filed. We are awaiting finalization on the 2020 Derecho applications.

PWA The board has met its water usage agreement with PWA for the meter pit located at the old house location. It has been decided to continue to pay the minimum at a 50% rate to ensure future use of the water service at that location and will be reinstated at the board's discretion.

Director Position The board discussed the hiring of the new director. Applications were reviewed and narrowed down to two qualified candidates for interviews. The interviews will be conducted the week of February 15<sup>th</sup>-19<sup>th</sup>.

With no further discussion items, it was motioned by Keenan, seconded by Wacha to adjourn the meeting at 8:00 p.m.

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