

## May 2021

### Call to Order

The Tama County Conservation Board met in regular session on Wednesday, May 5<sup>th</sup>, 2021 at the Tama County Nature Center. The meeting was called to order at 6:30 pm by Chair, Atchison.

**Board Members present:** Adolph, Atchison, Wacha, and Wrage.

**Staff Members present:** Mayne, Wise, and Kelly.

**Public present:** Supervisor Faircloth

### Approval of Meeting Minutes

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

### Approval of Bills

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

### Reports & Updates

**Public Comment:** Board of Supervisor Member, Bill Faircloth, attended the meeting.

**Maintenance Report:** Wise's report included; met with the University of Iowa Archeologist for the Lake Restoration Project study, replaced broken parking lot posts at Columbia and fixed the cable at Ike's Shooting Range, ordered Porta Pots for Otter Creek Lake and Park and Ike's Shooting Range, cleaned all restrooms, opened the campgrounds (including replacing light bulbs, testing outlets, turning on the water, flushing hydrants, cleaning the shower house as well replacing shower and sink faucets and drain traps), cleared the trail on the west side of the lake, serviced the mowers and replaced the batter in the F-150, added "Park Ranger" stickers to the Ranger, Naturalist, and Director trucks, swapped trucks and tool boxes between directors truck and ranger truck, replaced picnic tables in the campgrounds as needed, began mowing rotations, Nature Center building alarm updated and replaced, returned swimming ropes to the beach.

**Environmental Education Report:** Kelly's report included; field trip schedules & planning, public program advertising and preparation, classroom programming planning, summer day camp planning, live animal care, Nature Center Basement renovation planning, live animal display designing for Nature Center Basement, began construction to the base of the live animal display, met with Troop 214 scoutmaster from the Boy Scouts out of Cedar Rapids via phone to discuss potential Eagle Scout projects that would expedite the basement renovation, had a meeting with the Iowa State University Extensions and Outreach 4-H department to discuss upcoming summer programming, had a meeting with the Iowa Valley Community College to finalize planning for the Outdoor Adventure Camp on July 8<sup>th</sup>. Kelly mentioned that he hosted and participated in 2 public events in the month of April as well as getting a few aquariums and grow beds donated from Marshalltown Community College.

**Meetings Attended:** Mayne's report included; zoom meeting on April 9<sup>th</sup> with Marshalltown Community College regarding the Federal work/study program, since then, they have reported they received full funding to fill our new position, the Lake restoration public meeting on April 13<sup>th</sup>, a new director's orientation with Tom Hazelton on April 20<sup>th</sup>, and a meeting with the Linn County director on May 5<sup>th</sup>.

## **Old Business**

**Lake Restoration Project:** Wise stated the DNR received phase 2, including BMP 2,5, and 6 as well as drop structure bids. DNR meeting on May 16<sup>th</sup> to approve low bid. Once approved, our board will approve the DNR approval of bid. Contractor can start anytime after June 1<sup>st</sup>, will affect closure date of the west side, no affect on the east side. West side to be closed mid-June. Phase 3 to begin in September, including BMP 15, directly affecting east side camping. No new rentals after August 30<sup>th</sup>. Rentals already scheduled for September will be honored. Wise informed FYRA that the park roads are Iowa public roads, this results in the contractor to be responsible to repair and damage to the park roads. Mayne contacted Paul Sleeper in regards to fish in the lake. Sleeper stated that promiscuous fishing will be applied after he and his crew come out to electroshock. Press releases will be sent out.

**COVID-19 Response:** Mayne reported no new updates.

**FEMA Update:** Wise filed dates with FEMA for when the clean up efforts were done at Clark Park, Otter Creek, and Boat Ramps. Boat Ramps needed exact GPS locations of debris removed.

**Boat Ramp Dock:** Wise stated the new dock will be invoiced and the dock will be held until after the restoration. Wise will turn the invoice into insurance to cover most of the dock payment. Wrage **motioned** to approve the invoice of the dock upon, Atchison second. All in favor, Aye.

**Boat House Replacement:** Wise requests to move the boat house from current location to where the hog house sits. Waiting on concrete estimates. 30'x40' concrete slab to be poured for the new boat house. Must be done approved by August.

## **New Business**

**Basement Exhibit:** Kelly mentions that the base of the live animal display is completed. Kelly and Mayne visit PolymerShapes on May 4<sup>th</sup> while in Cedar Rapids to get a quote on the cost of the acrylic for the tanks. Kelly also mentions that there are a few Boy Scouts from Troop 214 that will be taking on Eagle Scout projects in the basement such as the bat cave, mobile displays, and potential indoor bee hive/ant hill.

**Seasonal Jobs:** Mayne announced that a seasonal ranger has recanted his acceptance. A replacement interview is on Monday. Both conservation techs are ready to go.

**Campgrounds and Camping Coupons:** Mayne questions whether we can honor camping coupons for 20 and 21 for 23. Wacha questions the repercussions of not selling coupons at all. All favored to not sell camping coupons at all.

**Property Deeds:** Mayne spoke with the auditor's office on where to store the original property deeds for Tama County Conservation properties. Mayne suggests to keep deeds at the auditor's office instead of at the nature center. Wrage recommends to photocopy all deeds and turn the deeds into the auditor's office. Wacha motions to move property deeds and documents to auditor's, Atchison seconds motion. All in favor, Aye.

**Oxbow Bottoms:** Wise brings up the status of Oxbow Bottoms. Faircloth questions what the intentions of the ground is going to be. Wise states that the ground will be restored into oxbows and prairie and

then put into public hunting. Wacha questions legal status. Wise states last year the west fence had been put in and padlocks installed, McCoy cut the locks. There is to be an easement put into the grounds to allow the movement of cattle between properties. McCoy has not done his half of the easement. Wacha recommends to address the county attorney to discuss legal action. Wise informs about the attorney out of Traer to settle fence dispute. Wacha suggests to take easement out of new contract.

### **Adjourn**

With no further discussion items, it was motioned by Wacha, seconded by Keenan to adjourn the meeting at 7:30 p.m.

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**Board Chair**  
**Tama County Conservation Board**