

November 2021

Call to Order

The Tama County Conservation Board met in regular session on Wednesday, November 10th, 2021 at the Tama County Nature Center. The meeting was called to order at 6:30 pm by Chair, Atchinson.

Board Members present: Adolphs, Atchison, Keenan, Wacha, and Wrage.

Staff Members present: Mayne, Horne, Kelly, and Jensen.

Public present: Delania Halter

Approval of Meeting Minutes

Minutes from the October 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 October 2021. It was moved by Adolfs, seconded by Keenan to approve bills, carried, all voting aye.

Reports & Updates

Public Comment: N/A

Maintenance Report: Horne's report included; Fall Festival cleanup, Shutdown the restrooms and dump station, cleaned out boat house, fixed the A/C in the maintainer, replaced fuel pump on the unleaded fuel barrel, replaced the battery in the 4030 John Deere, mowed all areas that were forestry mowed by Magellan, mowed Columbia, Manatt's, and Heritage wetlands, Replaced signs at Columbia, Removed beach ramp, removed ranger house deck, serviced all weed eaters and chainsaws, serviced 2014 Ford, started trimming trees along road way, continued updating safety features around the park, and shut utilities off to T.F. Clark Park. Horne and Jensen also attended a CPR training.

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, as well as helping out with maintenance and updating of OSHA safety updates. Kelly mentioned that he hosted and participated in 5 public events in the month of October and helped Poweshiek County with their 6th grade field day. Kelly also states that he attended the Directors workshop, District 1 meeting, and the Mycountyparks.com E-Commerce meeting.

Meetings Attended: Mayne's report included; Radio training on the 20th, Middle Cedar meeting, New Employee orientation meeting 27th, E-Commerce 28th, First Aid/CPR Training November 10th. Mayne also updates the board about the OSHA assessment that was given by Gallagher (through the County Insurance). This assessment was a second walk through as the first walk through only went through the Nature Center and Maintenance Shop. The second walk through assessed all of the Conservation buildings.

Old Business

Lake Restoration Project: The contractors have been working on bringing up the drop structure to 30 feet. The culverts to BMP 15 have been delivered. Rain has been a factor in progress of the restoration.

New Boat House Update: No information on the new boat house assessment has been received from Human Resources.

Fall Festival and Fun Night Final Report: Mayne begins by thanking the board for the help with the events. The attendance for Fun Night was around 50 guests. We sold 330 rifle raffle tickets. Total revenue \$7,221. The attendance for Fall Festival was 536 people. The attractions were a hay rack ride, 8 farmers market vendors, two food trucks, air rifle and archery, presentations inside the Nature Center, Tama and Toledo Fire Departments, K-9 Unit, and so many more.

New Business

Approval of Phase 3: Mayne states that Rachel Contracting LLC, a contractor out of Minnesota, won the bid through the DNR for \$3,250,000. Wacha questions what happened with the original bids. Mayne states that he will follow up with George to find out. Wrage questions the EPA 319 as a factor of 13% in the new bid. Mayne informs the board that he will be submitting the Fish Habitat Grant through the Iowa DNR before the end of the month. Keenan moves to approve phase 3, Adolfs seconds, all in favor, aye. Motion carries.

Alcohol Policy at the Otter Creek Nature Center: Mayne begins with the numerous questions about why we do not allow the consumption of alcohol withing the Nature Center. The Board of Supervisors has an ordinance in place that states there will be no consumption of alcohol in the Nature Center. Ordinances can be lifted but must be approved by the Conservation Board first. Mayne supplied the Board with the alcohol policies from surrounding County Conservation Boards. Wrage states that the biggest concern is the liability aspect. Atchison states that the Conservation Board has thrown people out of the park for being intoxicated. Adolfs states that they moved both of her son's weddings to the Reinig Center in town to allow alcohol at the weddings. Keenan and Adolfs agree that insurance coverage is the biggest obstacle in allowing the alcohol ordinance to be lifted. Wrage proposes that we double the cost of building rentals in general and double to triple again for the use of alcohol inside the building so long as the alcohol ordinance be lifted. Wrage moves to table the topic for a later meeting, Keenan seconds, all in favor, aye. Motion carries.

Removal of the Boat House: Mayne passed out picture of the Boat House's condition. The staff has cleared the assets out of the Boat House. Mayne states that the tin roof from the building will be repurposed to the far shelter and far shelter bathroom. Mayne states that John Chipp (current contractor on the Lake Restoration Project) will demo the building as a write off for the company. The Tama County Landfill bid \$500 for the demo and we would have to use our dump truck to haul to the landfill. Brad Benda will come out Monday, November 15 to provide a bid. Wrage moves to allow John Chipp Construction to demo and remove the Boat House in return for a tax deduction write-off of \$1,250, Keenan seconds, all in favor, aye. Motion carries.

Proposed Playground Set at T.F. Clark Park: Adolfs states that there is memorial fund from her late husband that she would like to donate the funds to a new playground at T.F. Clark Park. Mayne states that the cost of playgrounds ranges greatly depending on what size and elements are desired for the playground. He will look into new playground equipment.

New Position Discussion: Mayne states that he has talked with surrounding Conservation Boards about positions that are in need. He received an overwhelming response of a Park Ranger. Mayne proposes the position be transitioned to a Park Ranger with split duties including maintenance as well. Mayne also informs the Board that over the last year, there were 6 encounters that needed law enforcement attention. Wrage states that the need for a Maintenance Supervisor is that individual is responsible for the upkeep of milage, fuel, oil changes, etc. He questions whether Mayne would want to assume those responsibilities. Mayne states that the responsibilities can be dispersed throughout the staff, the supervisor roll doesn't need to be in effect. Adolfs states that the staff can handle the daily maintenance throughout the park. Wacha proposes that the position be split into two and hire another Maintenance Technician as well. Mayne states by the next meeting, he will have the employee budget broken down along with different position options.

Adjourn

With no further discussion items, it was motioned by Keenan, seconded by Wrage to adjourn the meeting at 8:04 p.m.

Board Chair

Tama County Conservation Board