

December 2021

Call to Order

The Tama County Conservation Board met in regular session on Wednesday, December 1st, 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, and Wacha.

Staff Members present: Mayne, Wise, Kelly, Jensen.

Public present: N/A

Approval of Meeting Minutes

Minutes from the November 2021 regular meeting were reviewed. It was moved by Adolphs, seconded by Keenan 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 Adolphs to approve bills, carried, all voting aye.

Mayne added that we had purchased explosive proof conduit fittings for the gas barrels through Grainger, these items have been paid for but have yet to be shipped, the same fittings were found in stock at Vanmeter in Cedar Rapids. Mayne plans to return the Grainger fittings as the fittings have been obtained through Vanmeter

Reports & Updates

Public Comment: N/A

Maintenance Report: Horne's report included; building a new deck on the Ranger House, removed remaining items from the Boat House including the furnace and metal roof, continued to work on the pre-OSHA improvement list for the shop, winterized Otter Creek Lake and Park including the Shower House, developed updated maps of trails and utilities at Otter Creek Lake and Park, serviced the Kubota RTV, and attended the Tama Soil and Water Conservation District meeting.

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. Kelly mentioned that he hosted and participated in 4 public events in the month of November. Kelly also states that he attended the Tama Soil and Water Conservation District meeting.

Meetings Attended: Mayne's report included; Department head meeting 11/15. No new business to report. OSHA meeting 11/22. Updates from individual departments. Confined space training for small areas in Otter Creek Lake and Park. Areas of concern are the boat ramp dump station and the shower house decomposition toilets. Fish habitat grant completed and submitted. Mayne states that he had help through the Iowa DNR to complete the application. COVID relief fund, Tama County qualifies for. A big project in the scope of this is trenching a line for a fiber optics line from Highway 63 to the park allowing for high-speed internet, new phone lines, and eliminate the Windstream bill for the shop. Mayne also did research for grants for the new playground at T.F. Clarks Park through Blackhawk Community Foundation. Next deadline is February 15th for Roy, April 1st for the Blackhawk Community Foundation.

Old Business

Lake Restoration Update: Mayne states that the contract for Phase 3 was awarded to Rachel Construction. Mayne did research for grants for the new playground at T.F. Clarks Park through Blackhawk Community Foundation. Next deadline is February 15th for Roy, April 1st for the Blackhawk Community Foundation. Mayne also states that the main support for the dry storage in the shop has rotted away causing unsafe working conditions.

New Business

New Position: Mayne has provided the board with the new proposed Park Ranger Position packet as well as the Maintenance Supervisor position as a comparison. Mayne's packet included salary range, CCPOA costs, uniform costs, and cost of county benefits. Mayne has also provided documentation of the average salary range per position comprised from all of the Iowa County Conservation System. Wacha questions whether we are adamant about looking for a pre-certified ranger to fill the position. Mayne emphasizes this is a highly sought benefit. Wacha questions what happens after the first year of employment as far as salary and experience. He also questions what stops them from immediately looking for other jobs outside of Tama County. Mayne states the new position will be under contract. Wacha questions who is liable for this position with legal actions. Mayne responds with the liability is covered under Tama County as a whole. Wacha questions whether or not we need to supply them with an outfitted vehicle. Mayne responded with we would need to supply them with a vehicle and a cell phone. Mayne has also added stipulations of the employee to live in county. Adolphs motions, with the note of adding in the contract, to approve the Park Officer position, Keenan seconds, all in favor, aye

Adjourn

With no further discussion items, it was motioned by Keenan, seconded by Adolphs to adjourn the meeting at 7:09 p.m.

Board Chair
Tama County Conservation Board