

April 2022

Call to Order

The Tama County Conservation Board met in regular session on Wednesday, April 6th, 2022 at the Tama County Nature Center. The meeting was called to order at 6:42 pm by Chair, Wacha.

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

Staff Members present: Mayne, Horne, Kelly.

Public present: Delaina Halter, Ruby Bodeker

Approval of Meeting Minutes

Minutes from the March 2022 regular meeting were reviewed. It was moved by Keenan, seconded by Adolphs to approve the minutes as recorded, carried, all voting aye.

Approval of Bills

Bills were presented to be paid from the month of March 2022. It was moved by Wrage, seconded by Keenan to approve bills, carried, all voting aye.

Reports & Updates

Public Comment: N/A

Maintenance Report: Horne's report included; fixed the shooting mats at Ike's Tract Shooting Facility, Preparing the equipment for summer, met with the Tama County Safety Director, obtained bids for new building including labor and materials, took the John Deere 4030 to Van Wall, completed applications for new driveway entrances at Ike's Shooting Facility, Otter Creek Lake and Park, and Heritage Wetlands, wrote prescribed burn plans, attended Wilderness First Aid Training on March 22nd and 23rd, cleaned and painted the main shop floor, helped with the location for the chainsaw safety course put on by secondary roads, planned a Pheasants Forever meeting and 4H seeding below the Nature Center on May 7th, and is planning on opening T.F. Clarks Park on Friday, April 8th, 2022.

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, OSHA improvements list continuation. Kelly mentioned that he hosted and participated in 4 public events in the month of March, including a rain barrel workshop with the Traer Library. Kelly got into contact with an eagle scout for the bat cave in the basement of the nature center project. More to come on the progress. Kelly also states that he attended the Wilderness First Aide training course on March 22nd and 23rd.

Meetings Attended: Mayne's report included; BMP 15 meeting with FYRA, CCDA legislator meeting, meeting with Garrison (Safety Director) for safety updates, Iowa River Coalition meeting, restore the trust fund meeting, wilderness first aide training, appraisal meeting, zoom meeting for fund the trust. Mayne also states that TCCB has received full funding of \$4,500 through the Tama County Community Foundation Grant Foundation.

Old Business

Lake Restoration Project: Mayne updates that FYRA is in the process of redesigning BMP 15 dam structure as well as drop structure. Mayne also informs the board that Rachel Contracting is demobilizing their equipment until October.

New Employee Hiring Update: Mayne states that we have five candidates that have applied for the Park Officer position. We are in the process of scheduling interviews on Tuesday April 12th, 2022 between 1 pm and 4 pm. Park ranger intern positions have been posted but have not received any applicants.

New Naturalist Intern Position: Mayne recaps the naturalist intern position. Kelly informs the board as follows. Adolphs questions if we can have the nature center manned with this new position. Mayne presents the possibility of having the park open through the summer of 2022 as the lake restoration project has been put on hold. Wrage stresses the risk of keeping park visitors out of the lake bed for fear of injury. Wacha recommends a week-by-week basis as weather allows to be open. Keenan motions to approve the assistant naturalist position, Adolphs seconds, Wacha votes yay, all in favor, aye. All opposed, Wrage and Atchison nay. Motion carries.

Boat House Bids: Mayne updates the board that Horne has collected bids for the new Boat House. Mayne also states that the staff has consolidated the contents of the old boat house in to the shop to eliminate the need for heating the new boat house. Horne informs the board that he got the exact same building design bid from Hrabak Lumber and states that the price of the building has increased considerably. Horne has reached out to Webber Home Improvement LLC and he says if we can get back to him, he can begin working on the building in June. Horne is waiting on another mail in bid. Wrage questions whether it is worth our time to look into a building company such as Lessners. Keenan suggests that we go with Webber Home Improvement LLC if he can start in June as construction is behind. Mayne states that we should be fully covered from insurance for the building. Mayne suggests that we vote on the prices of the materials and he will confirm with coverage of insurance. Adolphs motions to approve locking in the cost of materials as long as they remain in the cost of insurance, Keenan seconds the motion, all in favor, aye. Motion carries.

New Business

John Deere Tractor – Discussion: Horne updates the board that as they were de-winterizing the 4030, it began to burn oil and diesel. After taking it to John Deere Van Wall, they quoted \$6,000 to potentially fix the issue. The salesman said the tractor would only be worth \$8,000. Horne also states that the quote states that it may not include all necessary repairs. Horne states that he is waiting on another bid. Wrage suggests dropping in a rebuilt engine with a warranty. Wacha suggests waiting to see what the neighbor bids to either fix it or drop a new engine in it. Horne also brings up the possibility of purchasing a bigger trailer for the 4030 in the future.

Current Seasonal Employee: Mayne updates the board of Hunter Jensen's employment. Mayne read through the employee handbook and found that Jensen's qualified as an occasional part time employee as he has worked under 1795 hours. Tama County Human Resources has brought it to our attention that he has worked more than 120 consecutive days which would require him to be paid as a full-time employee. This would mean that he qualifies for health care insurance which Jensen has waived as he is still on family insurance, but he will also be required to be back paid for paid holidays. These back paid hours would total \$1,058. Mayne also states that he needs to discuss with Jensen on when his final

employment date. Mayne states that we need a motion to approve the back pay Jensen for the paid county holidays. Wrage stresses that a definite end date needs to be determined and apparent to Jensen. Wrage suggests that the final day of employment for Jensen should be the same date as the rest of the seasonals. Adolphs motions to approve the back pay hours of pay vacation to Jensen, Keenan seconds the motion, all in favor, aye. Motion carries.

OSHA Improvements Update: Mayne updates the board with the safety write up that the Safety Director for Tama County has provided to Tama County Conservation. Mayne stresses that this is not violation, it is a write up of suggestions to fix to be in compliance with OSHA regulations. Mayne states that this list will have monthly updates. Mayne has provided the board with photos to show updates this far. Keenan questions whether we have fixed the structural damage in the shop. Horne informs the board that we are waiting on a few brackets to be made to complete the structural repairs.

Floor Discussion

Atchison questions what will happen with the memorial benches around the lake once construction begins? Mayne states that the benches will be addressed and pulled once construction begins. Atchison also questions whether the leak in the roof of the kitchen has been addressed yet? Mayne states that Hrabak has given us the name of the contractor that has done the roof in the past and it will be addressed.

Adolphs raises concern of a wind turbine farm that is attempting to establish around T.F. Clarks Park. She is wondering if that we are able to address that? Mayne states that he had been contacted but gave no feed back and had deferred this concern to the board members individually.

Wacha brings to the board's attention about the rising construction projects and people looking for long term campsites. Mayne states that he thinks it would be an opportunity to capitalize on potential revenue. Wrage states that there would be a lot of kick back from the general public. Keenan agrees with the large amount of kick back from the general public.

Keenan questions what will happen to the eagle scout fish habitat structures? Mayne and Horne inform the structures will be collected and repurposed once the lake restoration project is complete.

Adjourn

With no further discussion items, it was motioned by Keenan, seconded by Adolphs to adjourn the meeting at 8:01 p.m.

Board Chair
Tama County Conservation Board