

November 1, 2023

Call to Order

The Tama County Conservation Board met in regular session on Wednesday, November 1, 2023 at the Tama County Nature Center. The meeting was called to order at 6:34 pm by Chair, Keenan.

Board Members present: Adolphs, Allen, Kenkel, Wacha, and Keenan.

Staff Members present: Horne, Conrad, Genaw.

Public present: Soren Peterson with the Tama-Toledo Newspaper and Curtis Behrens.

Approval of Meeting Minutes

Minutes from the October 4, 2023 meeting were reviewed. It was moved by Adolphs, seconded by Kenkel, to approve the minutes as recorded, carried, all voting aye.

Approval of Bills

Bills were presented for November 2023 totaling \$13,054.76. Deposits were made totaling \$18,355.30. Notably, \$16,432.36 was deposited into the LAD fund as a reimbursement from the Iowa DNR. It was moved by Adolphs, seconded by Kenkel to approve all bills, all voting aye.

Public Comment

N/A

Reports & Updates

Park Officer's Report: Collected Camping Fees. Dealt with non-payment issue with camper. Brushed up on Iowa Hunting code. Went to CCPOA yearly conference. Reviewed handgun qualifications, building clearing, hazmat training, wildlife first aid training, and bias training. Worked pheasant season opener as a joint operation with DNR. There were 108 total hunters checked with 38 roosters. Conrad checked 28 himself. Responded to fallen pheasant hunter call. Helped with fall festival. Hosted GMG FFA project; built more fish structure, took a nature walk, and discussed building wood duck boxes.

Maintenance Report: Picked up trash at boat ramps. Removed dumped brush at McCoy boat ramp. Mowed public hunting parking lots. Mowed trails at Columbia. Mowed burn breaks at OCLAP. Searched park and Iowa River Natural Area for deceased deer around water. Took two deer heads to DNR office for

testing; believe it is EHD. Cleaned and organize tools and paperwork in the shop. Changed oil and cleaned out truck. Took deposits into town. Cleaned nature center office, basement, and lodge. Picked up elk from Marshal County Conservation. Picked up mule deer, 2 whitetails, pheasant, and two ducks from Springbrook state park. Checked public hunting refuge signage before pheasant opener. Got quotes and met with playground guy. Got designs for OCLAP and T.F. Clark. Walked T.F. Clark property border. Began trying to trap muskrats in lake basin, caught 2. Changed air filters in NC and make sure heaters work in the pump house.

Environmental Education Report: Carried out 12 programs in October with a total attendance of 500, not including general attendance at Fall Fest. Programs included Knee High Naturalist at the Toledo Library, live animal presentation at Fall Fest, monthly visit to Sunny Hill care center, Gladbrook women's club visit, Trunk or Treat at Pilgrim Heights and at Diamond Lake in Poweshiek County, and GR Nature Explorers Club. Fall Fest was a success, with about 550 attendees. Sent out thank-you letters to those who helped with Fall Fest. No attendance at October's OWLS program. Received hedgehog from the ARL. Had first 2 meetings of GR Nature Explorer's club, where we carved around 100 pumpkins with kids and taught them about the seed cycle. Collected a pumpkin donations from Hy-Vee, Theisens, Mattingly's, Appleberry, MadAcres, and Earl May. Got a \$100 donation from Toledo State Bank for pumpkins, which will be sent to Mattingly's to pay for the 50 pumpkins used at the second pumpkin carving program. Dustin presented about lake restoration to Gladbrook Women's Club. Raffle winners from Fall Fest picked up their baskets. Assisted with a Trunk or Treat program in Powesheik County. Returned Enviroscape to USDA office at their request. Finished new rental application document for Nature Center and posted it on website. Put an image gallery on website showcasing photos from educational programs. Sent out monthly newsletter. Collected some additional emails during Fall Fest. Ordered bird tape for windows and began installation. Received recycling bins & put them up in nature center. Stocked up on animal care supplies. Mailed fliers for upcoming OWLS programs to local nursing homes and senior care centers. Board of Supervisors signed a resolution to support our bird friendly initiative for Tama County. Submitted application for Bird Friendly Iowa, currently waiting to hear back. Submitted application to be an AmeriCorps host site, currently waiting to hear back. Worked on making interpretive signage to install in park. Tomorrow, will have educational meeting for WHEP program.

Administrative Report: Fall fest: approx.. 550 attenddes, approx. \$600 in donations. Compiled rental info to go through about alcohol policies, landowner quotes, and completed a fencing agreement. Boathouse retaining wall almost done, which will end derecho funds for the building. Adolphs commented on success of Fall Fest

Old Business

Lake Restoration Final update: Got reimbursed for engineering fees from Iowa DNR. Is in LAD fund (see approval of bills for more info).

OCLAP/Clarks Park playground: Presented many quotes for playground equipment for T.F. Clark's Park and OCLAP. Wacha suggested that rubber mulch may not be most feasible long-term solution for both parks. Adolphs agrees that wood chips are a good option to start with. Adolphs moves to purchase equipment and wood mulch for TF Clark's Park from Boland Recreation in Marshalltown, seconded by

Kenkel, all voting aye. Costs for Clark's Park include: Playground equipment & swings, \$30,450 for purchase and delivery; Installation for \$13,200; Engineered wood mulch for \$4,000 (delivery only).

For OCLAP, it was motioned by Adolphs, seconded by Kenkel, all voting aye, to purchase "Option #3" equipment. Costs for OCLAP include: \$61,800 for equipment purchase & delivery

New Director: Curtis Behrens introduced self. Came from Jones County with similar setup. Will start as new director on Monday, November 6.

Nature Center Rental Policy: New rental policy document was provided to board members. 3 options showing how other counties manage alcohol use in their buildings were presented. Any action taken to modify the alcohol policy would need to go through the Board of Supervisors.

New Business

Fun Nite: A list of possible dates was presented for Fun Night 2023. The date will be chosen at the next board meeting. Gambling license for gun raffle will be needed for next meeting.

Trapping at OCLAP: River basin will be open to trapping of muskrats to prevent damage to dam. Will be advertised in newspaper. Press release will be sent out by Genaw.

Ike's Rules and Refresher Course: Rule book was provided to board to review. Date for refresher course will be set at next meeting. Refresher course will be in January. Police use of range was discussed, as excessive damage of targets has been observed by Allen. Wacha says he will discuss the issue with the Toledo police chief.

Equipment Purchases- Skid steer, seed drill: Horne discussed need for skid steer, seed drill, and lawnmower order soon. Delivery may not occur until Spring, even with prompt ordering. Need for master plan of equipment purchase and sales was discussed now that lake restoration has been completed. Will need to discuss with auditor.

Floor Discussion

Interpretive Signage: Genaw has designed 5 interpretive signs intended for installation at Otter Creek Lake & Park.

Playground grants: Black Hawk Gaming Grant was extended to July 2024. All grants for Clark's Park have been extended.

Flag pole and memorial bench were re-installed.

Tama SWCD Invite: Genaw received an email intended for the board from Tama SWCD reading, "You are cordially invited to the Tama Soil & Water Conservation District's 2023 Awards Banquet to be held at 6:00 p.m. on Wednesday, November 15th. It will be held at the Reinig Center, 1007 S. Prospect Drive in Toledo, Iowa. Please RSVP by November 3rd by calling (641) 484-2702, extension 3."

Signage confusion: Allen discussed confusion with signs at OCLAP regarding where wildlife reservation is.

Environmental education costs: Genaw presented invoices for extra face painting time from Fall Fest (\$50), Iowa Association of Naturalists fee (\$20), and \$100 for 50 pumpkins from Mattingly's (money donated from Toledo State Bank).

Adjourn

With no further discussion items, it was motioned by Adolphs, seconded by Wacxha, to adjourn the meeting at 7:49 p.m.

Board Chair

Tama County Conservation Board