

August 7, 2024

Call to Order

The Tama County Conservation Board met in regular session on Wednesday, August 7, 2024 at the Tama County Nature Center. The meeting was called to order at 6:30 pm by Chair, Keenan.

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

Staff Members present: Conrad, Genaw, Behrens, Horne.

Public present: One person in attendance (unidentified)

Approval of Meeting Minutes

Minutes from the July 2024 meeting were reviewed. It was moved by Kenkel, seconded by Allen, to approve the minutes with correction of a mis-name of Keenan as Kenkel, all voting aye.

Approval of Bills

Bills were presented for July 2024 totaling \$18,838.15. Deposits were made totaling \$0. It was moved by Kenkel, seconded by Allen, to approve payment of the bills, all voting aye.

Public Comment

N/A

Reports & Updates

Environmental Education Report: Carried out 18 programs in July with a total attendance of 339. Programs included Knee-High Naturalist, WHEP, Homeschool Adventures, Women Land and Legacy program at Irvine Prairie, OWLS foraging program, MCC camp, Garwin library birdwatching, Sunny Hill visit with Americorps member, activities table at county fair, trivia at county fair with WHEP team, Clutier library snakes presentation, space camp, Lorax camp, and Dino camp. Took all animals to vet and released snapping turtle into lake. Rescued a fledgling robin at the county fair and brought it to Des Moines for rehab. Planned for fall IAN conference. Prepared for summer camps. Continued working with seasonal AmeriCorps member for summer programming. Sent out monthly newsletter. Planned water safety/fishing days with STC summer school. Led canoeing class at Pilgrim Heights. Rescued a great horned owl in Tama, Curtis took to Black Hawk county for rehab. Answered lots of rental inquiries and sent out access codes for upcoming rentals. Began Fall Fest preparations. Picked up dead birds from IBR in Des Moines for Fall IAN bird study specimen preparation workshop. Gathered forageables for October Naturalist Lunchbox presentation for MCCB and Fall IAN.

Maintenance report: Took kuboda to Spanky's auction. Worked on backstops at Ike's. Placed memorial rock at Clark's Park, installed kayak launch, picked up supplies from Des Moines, serviced F-350 F-150, edge, and Polaris, sprayed around parking lots and buildings, mowed trail at Oxbow Bottoms, planted food plot, mowed and weed-ate trails around parks.

Park Officer's Report: Conrad reported that he did the following: Patrol parks, boat ramps, public hunting areas, campgrounds. Collect and track camping and firewood fees. Did 17 fishing license checks and 7 kayak/boating safety checks. Answered questions from the public. Check NC after rentals. Built targets at Ike's. Mow all parks. Mow boat ramps. Mow public hunting areas. Clean NC, shop, bathrooms, others. Blade roads at park. Blade Road at Manatts. Sidearm mow at park and at Manatts. Mow Parcel A and D new seedings. Mow sidehill by big shelter. Sidearm mow lake shore trail areas. Cut fallen trees up on lakeshore trail. Mow, disc, and seed foodplot. Add dirt to trenches on campers hill. Build kayak launch. Place bridge by beach. Weed eat campgrounds, lakeshore benches, and lakeshore. Sidearm mow lakeshore. Have timecard meeting. Do oil change on ranger truck. Spray foodplots, parking lots, campground roads Assisted STC with fishing program at pilgrim heights. Conrad also reported that safety checks have been received well by park visitors.

Director's Report: Worked on rentals, took calls, answered emails, cleaned up office, met with auditor and HR, gave NC tours and opened diorama room for visitors, worked on native planting in front of NC, sprayed crown vetch at OCLAP, helped coordinate kayak launch installation, worked on deposits with treasurer, met with staff about time sheets, worked on and finished dedication rock at Clark's Park, worked on end-of-year report for BOS and made formal request to roll over old funds, shopped around for skid steer quotes and attachments, researched walnut disease, worked on community foundation and Black Hawk gaming grants, planned new directional signage, borrowed equipment from Jones County and met about campsite ideas, helped with fishing camp, deliver owl to rehab, did erosion control at playground, attended Middle Iowa Water Association and Middle Cedar River Association meetings, and met with state investigator. State investigator said report on investigation will be released in next few weeks.

Old Business

Budget rollover: All savings was rolled over from last fiscal year.

New board member: No updates. Still looking for new member.

Vehicle Auction: Old Kuboda sold for approx. \$7000 at auction

New kayak launch finished: Installed near primitive camping side of lake. Will put kayak dispenser from RentFun in that area in future. Water too low to use it, but kayak/canoe access is available via boat ramp.

Lake ready for kayak use: See above. Lake is about 70% full, with 8 or so feet to go.

New Business

Skid steer purchase: Behrens passed around quotes for skid steers for consideration. A motion was made to purchase the large John Deere skid steer by Kenkel, seconded by Wacha, Wacha and Kenkel voting aye, Allen voting nay.

Grant update: Behrens was notified of a Community Foundation grant for TF Clark's playground and Blackhawk Gaming association grant for a playscape at OCLAP. Blackhawk Gaming grant was approved and Behrens is waiting for word from the Community Foundation.

Fall Fest: Oct 6th is date for Fall Fest. Time will be 12-4 pm. Discussion of where to place activities ensued. Vendor space will likely be in North Loop of campground.

Inventory and Office Manager: Staff will be taking inventory of equipment in future. Behrens suggested adding an office manager to the staff team, with board generally approving but holding off on making a motion.

Floor Discussion

Adjourn

With no further discussion items, it was motioned by Kenkel, seconded by Allen, to adjourn the meeting at 8:24 p.m., all voting aye.

Board Chair

Tama County Conservation Board