

Meeting Minutes August 13th, 2025

Call to Order:

6:30pm by Vice Chair Kenkel.

Board Present:

Kenkel, Allen, Dunning, Behrens

Staff Present:

Director Behrens, Horne, Tague

Public Comment: None

Approval of Consent Agenda:

- Meeting Minutes: Motion by Behrens to approve meeting minutes from June 4, 25th and July 8th, pending clarification in June 4th minutes. Seconded by Dunning. No discussion. All voting aye.
- Claims: Motion by Behrens to pay all claims except new archery equipment. Second by Allen. No discussion. All in favor: Behrens, Allen, Dunning. Votes against: Kenkel. Motion passes three to one. Motion to pay Archery Equipment bill from Nature Center Trust Rec Supplies fund by Behrens. Seconded by Kenkel. No discussion. All in favor: Behrens, Dunning, Kenkel. Votes against: Allen. Motion passes three to one.

Information Items:

ICCS Conservation Board 101:

Adam Shirley, ICCS CEO, was present to provide a presentation on history of Iowa County Conservation System and Conservation Board roles and duties.

Maintenance Report: Maintenance Supervisor Horne provided his report on July activity.

Naturalist Report: Naturalist Tague provided her report on July activity, programs, and upcoming events. Naturalist Tague fielded questions from Board members Dunning and Behrens about School of the Wild and outreach in the Union school district.

Director Report: Director Behrens provides his report on July activity including issues with accessing Tama County Conservation facebook Page.

Kayak Dispenser Installed: Director Behrens provided an update on the newly installed Kayak dispenser installed at the gravel kayak launch site at the southwest corner of Otter Creek Lake and that the unit is fully functional for visitors to use. Director Behrens fielded questions about winter storage of the kayak units.

New Meeting Technology: Board Member Dunning presented a new meeting technology called OnBoard AI as a potential solution to expedite Board meeting preparation and information dispersal for \$3000/annually with potential AI minutes transcription ability, agenda building, document sharing, voting and signature functions. Director Behrens inquired on how well the AI transcription worked in differentiating speakers and if it would still require audio review to check transcription accuracy and asked about free trial and yearly subscription commitments. Dunning expressed

desire to reduce Director's workload in regards to meeting preparation. Director Behrens expressed interest in some of the add-on features that would potentially be useful and integrate with current software. Vice Chair Kenkel inquired on what kind of hardware would be required to effectively capture audio and individual speakers. Director Behrens said he would work on finding out more specifics and compatibility for Board meeting needs, and pointed out that \$3000 for the base fee would be difficult to fund with the current administrative budget line items. Board members Kenkel and Allen suggested waiting to make a motion on purchase until Director determines what is really needed and included with the packages. Director Behrens walked Board members through the potential budget items that could be used to purchase the \$3000 or more annual fee, and insisted the Board direct him which accounts to pull from this year's current budget. Board member Allen suggested talking to Auditor about appropriate funding sources.

Dunning made a motion to purchase the minimum package contingent upon Directors investigation with Auditors office and OnBoard customer service to learn more from OnBoard software and if appropriate and if current operating funds allow the purchase. Seconded by Kenkel. No further discussion. All voting Aye. Motion carries.

Action Items:

Ranger Tech Position:

Director Behrens stated that the pick for new Ranger had turned down the offer after a few weeks of question/negotiation. Director Behrens asked the Board for blessing to move to the next most qualified applicant who is not Law Enforcement Academy certified for \$24/hour OR to reopen the position if they do not accept.

Motion by Behrens to offer \$24/hr to next qualified applicant. Seconded by Dunning. No discussion. All voting Aye. Motion carries.

Motion by Behrens to reopen the position if the applicant declines. Seconded by Allen. No discussion. All voting Aye. Motion carries.

New Beach Boundary:

Director Behrens discussed expanding the current beach swimming boundary at the new beach and asked the Board for a blessing to seek new bouys that can be moved further out to provide more swimming area, and remove the need for swimming lines. Motion by Allen to approve new beach boundaries. Seconded by Dunning. No discussion. All voting aye. Motion carries.

Fall Fest – Auction Items:

Director Behrens presented ideas for a multi-raffle at Fall Fest to take the place of the Fun Night auction that has been merged into one annual event. Director suggested outdoor and recreation relative prize packages that would encourage visitors/winners to bring back and use at our park areas, or to get outdoors in general. Some packages included a kayak and paddle, a hiking backpack with bird watching items, camp cooking package, and so on. He presented a list of potential item costs totaling under \$1000 in total, with varying raffle prices of \$50, \$25, \$10 etc. Director Behrens asked for blessing to set a minimum purchase price to acquire the items for the raffle. Board member Dunning encouraged finding all raffle items as donations. Director Behrens felt confident that any purchases outside of free donations would be made back through raffle sales.

Motion by Behrens to authorize \$1000 for purchase of raffle prize items from the Nature Center Trust Fund with sales to go back into the trust fund. Seconded by Steve. No further discussion. All voting in favor: Behrens, Kenkel. Votes against: Dunning, Allen. Motion fails.

Discussion:

The group discussed other prize options for Fall Fest, including gun raffle, business coupons, and camping coupons.

The group discussed take home use of county vehicle by Director. A motion was made by member Behrens to place Vehicle Use on next month's agenda. Second by Dunning. No further discussion. All in favor: Behrens, Dunning, Kenkel. Against: Allen. Motion carries.

The group discussed fencing disparity at TF Clark with neighboring cattle farmer and use and payment of easement to northern TF Clark section. Motion by Behrens to put fencing dispute on next months agenda. Seconded by Dunning. All in favor: Behrens, Dunning, Kenkel. Against: Allen. Motion carries.

The group discussed timing of agenda posting for Conservation Board meetings. A motion was made by Dunning to have any agenda additions submitted by the Friday before the next meeting, and meeting material/agenda distributed/posted within 24 hours of same meeting. Seconded by Behrens. All voting in favor. Motion carries.

The group discussed confusion on where Ike's Range Pass sales were going for funding Ike's Range future projects. Motion by Behrens to put Ike's funds discussion on next month's agenda. Seconded by Dunning. All voting in favor. Motion carries.

The group discussed proposing a spending limit for future purchases and to add the discussion to next month's agenda.

A motion was made by Dunning to discuss Director Behrens' employee competency at next month's meeting. Seconded by Behrens. All voting in favor. Motion carries.

Adjourn:

Motion to adjourn by Dunning, seconded by Behrens. All voting in favor. Meeting adjourned at 9:55pm.