

## March 2022

### Call to Order

The Tama County Conservation Board met in regular session on Wednesday, March 2, 2022 at the Tama County Nature Center. The meeting was called to order at 6:30 pm by Chair, Wacha.

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

**Staff Members present:** Mayne, Horne, Kelly.

**Public present:** Delania Halter, Ruby Bodeker

### Approval of Meeting Minutes

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

### Approval of Bills

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

### Reports & Updates

**Public Comment:** Ruby introduced herself as a reporter from the Newspaper.

**Maintenance Report:** Horne's report included; burning the brush piles on the east side that were a result from the Derecho, serviced the 2008 Ford, took the Kubota 3990 to Lowry's to get a new regeneration computer rebuilt, took the Kubota 6040 to the Lowry's to get a wheel seal and bearing upgrade installed, conducted forest reserve surveys, hung wood duck boxes at Columbia Wildlife Area and Heritage Wetlands, trimmed trees and bladed the road at T.F. Clarks Park, trimmed trees along the Wolf Creek Trail, and began to remove artificial fish structure in the lake bed of Otter Creek Lake.

**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 February including getting a program back with Sunny Hill Care Center. Kelly also mentioned that he had a summer camp meeting on February 17<sup>th</sup> with the Tama County Extensions and Outreach office as well as the Iowa Valley Community College.

**Meetings Attended:** Mayne's report included; department head meeting on the 7<sup>th</sup>, conducted interviews for the Park Officer position on the 9<sup>th</sup>, conducted the pt testing for the Park Officer candidate's, CCDA meeting 17<sup>th</sup>, continuation of the OSHA updates, began the Blackhawk Community Foundation Grant for the playground at Otter Creek Lake and Park.

### Old Business

**Lake Restoration Update:** Mayne updates the board that the Archeological Survey is waiting for the ground to thaw through the University of Iowa. He also states that there is no telling whether there will be a delay in the construction process due to the Indiana Bat Law that states there cannot be any trees cut down after April 1<sup>st</sup>. FYRA is finishing up the engineering plans for BMP 15. A final bill will be sent to Tama County Conservation. Wrage questions whether we can have all of the trees from the spoil sites cleared prior to April 1<sup>st</sup>. Mayne states that would be

up to Rachel Construction and the Iowa DNR. Mayne will follow up with George from the Iowa DNR to see what can be done to meet this deadline.

**New Employee Hiring Update:** Mayne updates that the first candidate withdrew their application, then interviews were conducted, one candidate got a job with Benton County Conservation, another candidate was sent to the police academy and failed the post test twice. The job has since been posted again for another thirty days. Mayne also states that the Park Ranger Intern position is just a combining of the Park Ranger Intern position and the Park Maintenance Intern position that we have had in the past. Mayne states that we need a motion to approve the name change. Adolphs moves to approve the Park Ranger Intern position, name change, Wrage seconds the motion, all in favor, aye. The motion carries.

**New Naturalist Intern Position:** Mayne turns to Kelly for a deeper explanation. Kelly states that with the environmental education department growing, the programs throughout the summer are getting larger. Having another hand to help fill in with these programs. He also states that when there are not any programs being run, the Naturalist Intern will also help with the maintenance staff with park maintenance. Wrage questions the immediate need for a Naturalist Intern for the summer of 2022. Mayne states that the new position will be able to help both in the Nature Center and with the maintenance staff. Adolphs moves to approve the Naturalist Intern job description, with no second, the Naturalist Internship job description has been tabled until April.

### **New Business**

N/A

### **Floor Discussion**

Wrage asks if the Iowa DNR had their annual hunting meeting at the Otter Creek Lake and Park Nature Center. Mayne states that they did have their meeting out here and we had blocked off the roads ways only allowing access to the Nature Center.

### **Adjourn**

With no further discussion items, it was motioned by Adolphs, seconded by Wrage to adjourn the meeting at 7:08 p.m.

---

**Board Chair**

**Tama County Conservation Board**