

July 2022

Call to Order

The Tama County Conservation Board met in regular session on Wednesday, July 6th, 2022 at the Tama County Nature Center. The meeting was called to order at 6:34 pm by Chair, Wacha.

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

Staff Members present: Mayne, Horne, Kelly, Conrad, Boedeker.

Public present: Ruby Boedeker

Approval of Meeting Minutes

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

Approval of Bills

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

Reports & Updates

Public Comment: N/A

Maintenance Report: Horne's report included; New metal roof installed on the bathrooms at both Big and Far Shelter, Wolf Creek Trail sprayed for weeds and bladed for the Corn Carnival, installed new benches and stained all benches along Wolf Creek Trail, painted all of the park entrance signs, filled holes in the road at T.F. Clarks Park, mowed the new seeding at Columbia Wildlife Refuge, sprayed the thistles at Oxbow Bottoms, prepared Otter Creek Lake and Park as well as T.F. Clarks Park for the 4th of July.

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 Coralee started her seasonal position on Monday June 6th. He also mentioned that he and Coralee hosted and participated in 19 public programs including 4 camps. Kelly mentioned that he attended the Employee Benefits meeting on June 2nd.

Meetings Attended: Mayne's report included; submitted the Blackhawk gaming association grant for \$15,000 for new playground at Otter Creek Lake and Park, met with board of supervisors to roll over left over funds to the LAD account, met with gaming association to take a grant writing class through them, met with Verizon for potentially getting a new contract for the ranger phone. Mayne informs the board that we have been out of internet for the entire last month. IT is currently working on restoring the internet out at Otter Creek Lake and Park.

Old Business

Lake Restoration Project Update: Mayne informs the board that there is no new information to share on the lake restoration. The Iowa DNR and the contractors have not updated Tama County Conservation with any new information.

New Employee Hiring Update: Mayne informs the board that job posting for the Naturalist position has been posted and sent to the county to post on their website.

John Deere Tractor Update: Horne updates that we are waiting on parts for the rebuild of the John Deere 4030. Once the parts are acquired, it will take two days to install.

Playground Update – T.F. Clarks Park: Mayne informs the board that we are waiting on one more bid for the playground set at T.F. Clarks Park and will have the bids compiled by next board meeting. Mayne also states that Horne and Conrad have begun to build the Adirondack chairs for the park.

New Business

Oxbow Bottom Strategic Plan Discussion: Mayne informs the board that Conrad and Horne have been spraying thistles at Oxbow Bottoms. He also states that we need to come up with a plan of what we see Oxbow Bottoms be in the future. Wrage suggests a sand prairie mix for the lower portion of the grounds. Wrage also questions if the Iowa DNR has anyway to assess the grounds. He also questions if we can get the Iowa River Corridor Coalition for some funding or guidance for this restoration. Mayne will look into a contact to assess Oxbow Bottoms.

Floor Discussion

Mayne states that our next board meeting is on July 21st will be via zoom to approve bills. He will send out the link in the near future.

Wrage questions how camping was over the 4th of July weekend. Conrad states that there a total of 5 campers all weekend long. Conrad states that Memorial Day weekend was our best showing of 15 campers. Other weekends have been sparce for camping.

Adjourn

With no further discussion items, it was motioned by Keenan, seconded by Adolphs to adjourn the meeting at 7:11 p.m.

Board Chair
Tama County Conservation Board