

October 4, 2023

Call to Order

The Tama County Conservation Board met in regular session on Wednesday, October 4, 2023 at the Tama County Nature Center. The meeting was called to order at 6:34 pm by Chair, Keenan.

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

Staff Members present: Horne, Conrad, Genaw.

Public present: Ruby McCallister with the Tama-Toledo Newspaper, Delania Halter

Approval of Meeting Minutes

Minutes from the September 6, 2023 meeting were reviewed. It was moved by Kenkel, seconded by Allen, to approve the minutes as recorded, carried, all voting aye.

Approval of Bills

Bills were presented for October 2023 totaling \$9,068.77. Deposits were made totaling \$2710.00. It was moved by Adolphs, seconded by Kenkel to approve all bills, all voting aye.

Public Comment

N/A

Reports & Updates

Maintenance Report: \$1160 total revenue from camping with 60 paid camping nights. Got memorial flagpole and bench. Bench has been installed; working on installing flag pole. Installed new speedbumps at OCLAP. Took truck to D's for airbag issue. Organized materials in the NC basement. Put together new pallet racking. Cleaned cold storage building. Seeded grass on campers hill. Began watering campers hill. Helped with OWLS presentation. Fixed the slip clutch on the brush hog. Installed camping posts on campers hill. Installed the new deck boards (multiple day project). Had hearing tests and safety meeting. Hung memorial prints in main room. Began sanding and painting tables and benches on deck. Performed standard campground collection and cleaning of bathrooms and NC. Took deposits into town Attended various meetings. Weed ate campground, NC, trees, and lakeshore. Moved cut trees to shop. Moved

and leveled sand and dirt piles on campers hill. Set up date to make fish structure with GMG FFA. Mowed Ikes and Reining. Fixed Tractor tire.

Environmental Education Report: Delivered flyers to schools for Fall Fest. Ordered new/updated nameplates for board member plaque. Met with Jenny Hulme to plan out some upcoming programs. Sent in application to renew salvage permit and applied for educational projects permit. Applied for and received migratory bird possession- education permit from US FWS. Had OWLS program on lake restoration, presented by Dustin & Riley. Set up table at Toledo farmers market with craft for kids and flyers for adults. Had hearing test. Added a bird friendly resources section to the TCCB website. Got quote for recycling bins for nature center. Inventoried taxidermy with help from Riley & Dustin. Made activity maps for Fall Fest and sent out information to vendors and volunteers. Assisted with School of the Wild camp in Poweshiek County. Had educational table at the Iowa Outdoor Expo, in partnership with Iowa Bird Rehabilitation. Met with SWCD to talk about Bird Friendly Community initiative. Picked up meat donation from Iowa Premium for Fall Fest. Worked on applications for Bird Friendly Iowa and AmeriCorps Host Site. Made educational displays in library. Collected pumpkin donations for GR Elementary Nature Club and have requested snack donations from local businesses.

Administrative Report: Worked on memorial bench policy. Working on finalizing lake restoration.

Old Business

Lake Restoration Update: Keenan signed invoice for DNR to reimburse TCCB for engineering costs. This should be the final invoice for the lake restoration.

Printer Contract: Board needs to determine if printer will be purchased or leased for 60 months. Kenkel ran numbers for printer contract and found that the interest rate for leasing a printer is 18%. Service contract is \$55 per month. Purchase price for print is \$7789.00. This purchase will be taken from the Nature Center fund (Fund 0031). Approval of this purchase was motioned by Wacha, seconded by Adolphs, all voting aye.

New Director: Interviews will be held on Monday by Tammy Wise, Laura Kopsa, John Keenan, and Jim Allen.

Nature Center Deck: Work has been completed on the deck surface. The picnic table has been painted and the benches will be stained again. The railing will be updated at a later time.

Fall Festival: Coming up on Sunday Oct 8 from 12-6 pm. Flyers sent to all local schools for distribution. Vendors and activities arranged, have sent out an email with more information on where to go for vendors & volunteers. Delania arranged donations for taco bar. Dustin arranged hay rack rides. Donations have been received from Fareway, HyVee Dollar Fresh, and LaCarreta.

New Business

Recycling Bins NC: A quote for a SlimCycle recycling station to be housed in the nature center was presented. Recycling bins are needed in the nature center because many groups come in and throw away a bunch of recyclable cans and bottles. It was motioned by Wacha, seconded by Adolphs to purchase the SlimCycle recycling station, with a base cost of \$233.95.

AmeriCorps Host Site Application: An application to be an AmeriCorps Host Site for the summer of 2024 was presented. This would allow the naturalist to have an assistant to assist with summer programming and animal care, with the cost shared between AmeriCorps and TCCB. The total cost for TCCB to host an AmeriCorps member for the summer would be \$1975 if the application is approved. The AmeriCorps member would also get a scholarship through AmeriCorps as part of their internship with TCCB. It was motioned by Kenkel, seconded by Adolphs, to approve a \$1975.00 cash match for an Ameri Corps quarter time position to assist the naturalist with summer programming an animal maintenance.

Bird Friendly Iowa: Bird Friendly Iowa is an initiative through Bird City Network to develop bird friendly communities. The application acts as a framework for continued projects to support birds and other wildlife. The qualifications to be a bird friendly community are split into three groups: habitat, threats to birds, and education & engagement. The habitat category deals with providing good habitat for birds through land management and construction projects. The threats section deals with minimizing threats to birds through infrastructure (bird-friendly buildings) and policy. The education & engagement section deals with providing resources in the community related to bird-friendly projects, educational programming related to birds, online presence, and providing educational resources related to birds such as brochures, flyers, and posters. This application would provide a framework for continuing projects to improve wildlife habitat in Tama County including fishing line receptacles, interpretive signage, nesting structures, bird viewing platforms, and continuing education initiatives. It was motioned by Wacha, seconded by Adolphs, to approve the expenditure of \$100 for a Bird Friendly Iowa application.

Bird Friendly windows: Different options for bird friendly windows were presented, including a window film, bird tape, and tape squares. It was motioned by Wacha, seconded by Kenkel, to approve the purchase of ABC BirdTape Squares to be applied to windows overlooking the deck, in the office, and in the entryway. Genaw will purchase these.

Boat House retaining wall: A contract to install a retaining wall for the boathouse was presented. This item has already been budgeted for. It was motioned by Adolphs to approve the construction bid for the retaining wall by JRF concrete, seconded by Kenkel, all voting aye.

Memorial bench policy: A new memorial bench policy created by Horne and Genaw was presented. This would allow for better documentation of memorial benches and tracking of donations. The application requires bench donations to be one of two options of benches from Pilot Rock. This would also create a more solid policy on memorial maintenance. Staff will also work on creating a document showing possible donation options to choose from so that the board has a solid written policy on donations. A motion to approve the new memorial bench policy was made by Wacha, seconded by Kenkel, all voting aye.

Nature center rental policy and pricing update: A new policy without a rental reduction clause was presented. An increase on rental pricing was discussed. A motion to remove the Rental Reduction clause and raise the rental cost to \$250 and increase damage deposit to \$150 was made by Wacha, seconded by Adolphs, all voting aye. Allowing alcohol and DJs/dances was discussed. Staff will check what would

be required to allow alcohol to be served in the Nature Center. This would allow for a greater range of use of the nature center, both for fundraising and rental opportunities.

Playground OCLAP/T.F. Clark's Park: A dollar amount must be approved to determine what equipment should be purchased for the necessary playground improvements at OCLAP and T.F. Clark's park. The money would come from the LAD fund and other accounts as needed. An approximate cost estimation of 100k for surfacing, assembly, and equipment for OCLAP and 50k for T.F. Clark's Park was discussed. The need to meet various design standards and safety requirements was discussed.

Floor Discussion

Board Member passing: Previous board member Gene Anderson passed away. The board will sign a card for their family and give it to them.

IACCB membership: Annual dues were paid for the Iowa Association of County Conservation Boards. Informational packets on membership benefits were provided to the board.

Hedgehog: Genaw is acquiring a hedgehog for educational use, with an adoption fee of \$50. This charge was approved by Keenan.

The memorial wall was re-established upstairs to the delight of the board. Board discussed the materials received at the end of Mayne's employments. Much of the material was returned to stores or put aside for other use. Many long meetings were conducted with state auditors this month.

Adjourn

With no further discussion items, it was motioned by Adolphs, seconded by Wacha, to adjourn the meeting at 8:11 p.m.

Board Chair

Tama County Conservation Board