

July 10, 2024

### **Call to Order**

The Tama County Conservation Board met in regular session on Wednesday, July 10, 2024 at the Tama County Nature Center. The meeting was called to order at 6:29 pm by Chair, Keenan.

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

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

**Public present:** N/A

### **Approval of Meeting Minutes**

Minutes from the June 2024 meeting were reviewed. It was moved by Wacha, seconded by Kenkel, to approve the minutes for June as written, all voting aye.

### **Approval of Bills**

Bills were presented for June 2024 totaling \$25,932.31. Deposits were made totaling \$3,416.16. It was moved by Kenkel, seconded by Wacha, to approve payment of the bills, all voting aye.

Note: At this point, Keenan had to leave the meeting due to illness. Meeting carried on as written.

### **Public Comment**

N/A

### **Reports & Updates**

**Environmental Education Report:** Carried out 18 programs in June with a total attendance of 290. Programs included Knee-High Naturalist, WHEP, Homeschool Adventures, various library programs and story-times, bug camp at TF Clark's Park, Schoolhouse Camp with 4-H, fishing camp, Pied Piper daycare visit, tabling at Corn Carnival, critter camp, 4-H junior camp, and human biology camp. OWLS speaker in June was Cherie Haury-Artz from the office of the state archaeologist. Sent out monthly newsletter. Planned for fall IAN conference. Prepared for summer camps. Have been working with seasonal AmeriCorps member to plan lots of summer programming. Sent out flyers for upcoming adult programming to local nursing homes, assisted living facilities, and CIRSI. Ordered & received shipments of craft supplies, youth snowshoes, and animal hand puppets. Met with STC staff & 4-H to plan upcoming summer school programming. Presented on foraging for July OWLS program. Assisted with Women, Land & Legacy program at Irvine Prairie. Planned public star-watching program for September.

**Maintenance report:** Installed swings and ADA ramps at Clark's park. Mowed spoil sites. Build firewood box and started selling wood in campground. Landscaped around building. Block walls installed at shelter house & playground & shop. Scharnwebers has been working to fix water leak at OCLAP, two new hydrants have been installed. Cleaned gutters and tile drain at OCLAP. Built bridge across playground

slop, waiting to install. Installed rocks around driveway for boat launch. Mowed and weed ate parks, also bladed and started mowing roadsides. Serviced mower, F-150. Got new tires for F-350 and took Kubota in for maintenance. Trimmed trees. Attended safety meeting. Will finish INHF bat survey on Friday

**Park Officer's Report:** Conrad patrolled campgrounds, boat ramps, Ike's, and other areas. Collected camping fees. Posted signage for rentals. Checked NC after rentals. Assisted Curtis in getting back stolen print. Responded to medical call. Checked fishing licenses. Followed up on shooting after hours complaint at Ike's. Chased out people shooting fireworks in the park. Helped out at fishing camp by presenting on fishing rules & regulations. Mowed parks, boat ramps, wildlife areas. Trimmed trails. Weed ate. Took the CORE pesticide applicators test. Cleaned NC. Cleaned shop and power washed trucks and equipment. Mowed new prairie seedings. Turned front of NC into prairie display. Watered prairie and trees. Put up new firewood sale box. Got new tires for 350. Patched tire on 12 chevy and rotated tires. Put swings up at Clarks. Attended safety meeting. Picked up trash and cleaned bathrooms at parks. Fixed clogged wetland control structure at heritage. Sprayed thistles. Bladed roads. Sidearm mowed by tent section. Fixed mower belt. Total Camping nights and revenue from June to date is 120 camping nights, \$2295 (includes sales from firewood).

**Director's Report:** Assisted maintenance crew with projects. Did rentals, phone calls, office work. Did seed bomb program with 4-H and Pheasants Forever. Did native planting outside, watered and labeled plants. Answered questions from state investigator. Did a bunch of end-of-year purchases. Working on getting dedication rock for Carolyn Adolphs at Clark's Park. Helped at Heritage Wetlands. Did some site walks. Helped track down missing print at NC. Did some skid steer shopping.

### Old Business

**Playground Updates:** Playgrounds and swings are done, borders and mulch are done. New OCLAP playground has rock wall to prevent erosion, need to re-seed/stabilize dirt on top of wall.

**Shelter Reservations:** Implementing shelter reservation fees.

**Water Line Leak Updates:** Water leak in West Side causing issues. 2 hydrants have been replaced in attempt to fix leak. Isolated to shelter house between dam and shelter house. Campground still has water. Wacha will look into curb-stop pricing.

**Otter Creek Landscape/Walls:** Did native planting in front of NC. High school group helped remove weeds. Staff put down new fabric, mulch, plants, and signs.

**End of Year Turnover:** End of fiscal year bills were turned in last month. \$236,692.23 were left over from last year's budget, which will be rolled over for this fiscal year. Behrens opened up floor for suggestions on this year's spending. Wacha suggested assessing current vehicles. Dump truck and ranger truck were suggested as next vehicle exchanges. Focusing on conservation efforts, public programming, development of Oxbow Bottoms, and trail signage/interpretive signage.

### New Business

**New Fiscal Year Budget:** New fiscal year has started and some new field equipment has been ordered. Behrens presented quotes for skid steers from Case and John Deere for future consideration.

**New Field Equipment:** Got new box blade and water tank (donated by Behrens).

**Rental Transactions:** Returning rental deposits has been difficult with the Square software in coordination with auditor. Behrens is working with auditor's office to figure out a better system.

### **Floor Discussion**

Behrens discussed new time clock system implemented by county, which has been clunky and taking up lots of staff time to adjust due to variation in staff schedules and working sites. Wacha motioned to give staff ability to record hours as necessary to provide better workflow, seconded by Kenkel, all in favor.

With retirement of Adolphs, a new board member is needed and Wacha is now vice president. A thank-you note was passed around for Adolphs, with expectation that further recognition actions will be done in future to thank her for her years of service.

Behrens asked for opinions on style/appearance for new signs to point people in direction of campgrounds, boat ramps, nature center, etc. Board expressed support for rustic signs matching style of existing signs.

### **Adjourn**

With no further discussion items, it was motioned by Kenkel, seconded by Wacha, to adjourn the meeting at 7:42 p.m., all voting aye.

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**Board Chair**

**Tama County Conservation Board**