

**THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE
WASHINGTON COUNTY CONSERVATION BOARD (WCCB)
May 12th, 2022**

Meeting to order: President Craig Capps called the meeting to order at 4:30 PM at the Washington County Conservation Center at Marr Park.

Roll call:

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT: Barb Donkersloot, Bill Nickell, Craig Capps, Kim Prier, Stan Stoops

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT:

STAFF PRESENT: Executive Director Zach Rozmus

GUESTS PRESENT: Ayden Holden (Eagle Scout)

Approval of agenda: A motion was made to approve the agenda as provided by Stan Stoops and seconded by Barb Donkersloot. Carried unanimously.

Review previous meeting minutes: A motion was made by Bill Nickell to approve the April 14th, 2022 regular meeting minutes. Motion was seconded by Stan Stoops and carried unanimously.

DISCUSSIONS AND ACTIONS:

a. **Marr Park Eagle Scout Project**

Ayden Holden presented to the WCCB regarding his idea to build two picnic tables that contain chess boards for his Eagle Scout project. Holden stated that he planned to build at least two tables but that he was willing to build more. Holden informed the board that he intended to get donations from the board and hoped that by working with a local lumber store he could keep the price of the tables down.

Rozmus stated that he had been in contact with Holden several times and that he was impressed with his creativity. Rozmus felt the idea was unique and that the WCCB could purchase chess sets and have them at the conservation to be checked out. Rozmus recommended that the board pay for the building materials to build one table with the hopes that Holden could get donations for the second.

At this time Bill Nickell made a motion to pay for building materials for one chess picnic table and if necessary, a second if donations did not cover the entirety of the second. Motion was seconded by Stan Stoops and carried unanimously.

b. **Wellness Park Native Seeding**

Rozmus informed the board that in recent weeks the WCCB staff had worked with the City of Washington Parks and Rec department to plant roughly 25 acres of native prairie at the Wellness Park in Washington. Rozmus advised that the project was a great example of the two entities working together on a project that would benefit the community and its natural resources. Rozmus said that he and Brett Johnson did all the seeding. Rozmus said he greatly appreciated Johnson's hard work on the project and thought it was a great example of his staff expanding its skillset.

The City of Washington paid for all the seed for the project and the WCCB used its tractor, drill, and staff to plant the native grasses. Rozmus said he didn't plan to bill the City but instead hoped to one day place signage near the Wellness Park that acknowledged the WCCB's contribution. Rozmus stated that the prairie restoration and signage was payment enough in his book.

c. **English River Wildlife Area Management**

Rozmus presented maps and explained to the board a project that the WCCB and Keokuk County Conservation Board had been working on the past few months. During the presentation Rozmus showed the board that the two entities were working to establish a line on the Nolan

Addition to the ERWA where the conservation boards would manage the property as prairie. Significant funding has been put into the property pertaining to native seeding, but years of flooding have distributed large quantities of maples, cottonwoods, and other soft wood trees throughout the property. Thus, the WCCB and KCCB planned to implement a combination of prescribed burning, mowing, and tree pulling to create a delineation between prairie and lowland timber.

d. Marr Park Shower House

During this agenda item Rozmus asked if any of the conservation board members had any further input on the shower house following the presentation at the April board meeting. Board member Kim Prier stated that she thought it would be a good idea to reach out to Mary Audia with WEDG regarding fundraising efforts.

e. Earhtones Newsletter

Rozmus informed the board that he was in the process of evaluating how much money the WCCB was spending on its quarterly newsletter. Rozmus said that the price associated with the printing has continued to increase, thus he was working with his staff to determine how they could cut costs. One potential idea would be to increase the number of digital newsletters sent out. Rozmus felt this was a good option but acknowledged that he felt it was still important to send out hard copies in order to serve their audience base.

f. Maintenance Technician Job Description

Rozmus provided a copy of the Maintenance Technician job description to the board for the review. Rozmus stated that with July 1st quickly approaching, during mid-June he would be posting the opening for the newly created position.

Updates:

a. Hayes Timber Management

Rozmus informed the board that the invasive removal had yet to begin at Hayes Timber. An unexpected obstacle was the road construction on W.5th St. Overflow parking and the construction crew were utilizing the Hayes Timber parking area which made it nearly impossible to transport equipment needed to begin the project. Rozmus hoped to begin on the removal in the coming weeks/month.

Review of monthly reports

Maintenance Technician Fritz Engel's monthly report was provided and reviewed.

Ranger/Technician Cody Smith's monthly report was provided and reviewed.

Ranger/Technician Brett Johnson's monthly report was provided and reviewed.

Naturalist Assistant Randi Brase's monthly report was provided and reviewed.

Naturalist Megan Jorgensen's monthly report was provided and reviewed.

Executive Director Zach Rozmus' monthly report was provided and reviewed.

Bills

During this time a summary of the bills totaling \$5,997.53 for the month of May, 2022 were presented to the board.

TO WHOM	FOR	AMOUNT
Ace-N-More	Vehicle maintenance, garage opener, air filter, cleaning supplies, worms, fishing supplies, paint, hand tools	\$344.34
Agriland		
Arnold Motor	Brake cleaner, oil, filter	\$81.14
Capper	Truck maintenance, patrol truck maintenance	\$666.26
Copy Systems	Monthly print contract	\$64.51
Eastern Iowa Light & Power	Monthly electricity	\$862.88
Iowa Dept. of Transportation	Signage	\$405.28
Jim's Small Engine	Leaf blower switch	\$4.68
John Deere Financial	Mulch, cleaning supplies, mower switch, brake cables	\$304.08
One Source	Campground Host background check	\$38.00
River Products	Clean Stone	\$411.43
Ron Hemm	Campground hosts - April	\$150.00
Staples	Cleaning supplies	\$329.94
State Hygienic Lab	Water testing	\$13.50
US Cellular		
VISA	Adobe application, ranger uniform, trail mirror, program materials, thermo-disc	\$327.54
Walmart	Program supplies, turtle food	\$39.85
Washington Discount Tire	Tire mount and balance	\$867.88
Washington Lumber	Hand tools	\$25.56
Windstream	Monthly internet	\$189.78
WMPF Group LLC	Summer position ads	\$870.88
TOTAL BILLS		\$5,997.53

Meeting Adjourned: A motion was made by Bill Nickell and seconded by Kim Prier to adjourn the meeting at 5:40 PM. Motion was carried unanimously.

SIGNATURE

DATE