

**THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE
WASHINGTON COUNTY CONSERVATION BOARD (WCCB)**

August 12th, 2021

*****Meeting was made available to the public via Zoom audio/video call**

Meeting to order: President Craig Capps called the meeting to order at 4:27 PM at the Washington County Conservation Center at Marr Park.

Roll call:

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

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT:

STAFF PRESENT: Executive Director Zach Rozmus, Fritz Engel, Cody Smith, Brett Johnson, Randi Brase, Megan Jorgensen

GUESTS PRESENT: Mike Driscol

Approval of agenda: A motion was made to approve the agenda as provided by Bill Nickell and seconded by Kim Prier. Carried unanimously.

Review previous meeting minutes: A motion was made by Barb Donkersloot to approve the July 8th, 2021 regular meeting minutes. Motion was seconded by Kim Prier and carried unanimously.

Before beginning any agenda items Rozmus asked if the board would allow Mike Driscol if he'd like to make any public comment, since Rozmus anticipated Driscol's presence was regarding the Kewash Nature Trail. Rozmus advised that the Kewash discussion item was near the end of the agenda and that it would save him some time. Driscol thanked Rozmus, and advised that he was there to listen and was willing to wait.

Updates:

i. Foster Woods Eagle Scout Project

Rozmus advised that all the materials had been provided to Jacob Donaldson, and that he anticipated the benches would be completed in the coming weeks. Rozmus was working with Donaldson to schedule a late summer/early fall installation.

ii. Patrol Truck Install

Rozmus, as well as the WCCB Rangers, were excited to have the new patrol truck present at the board meeting. Rozmus advised that Racom was a pleasure to work with and their quality of work was excellent. Rozmus encouraged the board to take a look at the truck after the board meeting concluded.

DISCUSSIONS AND ACTIONS:

a. Annual Report

a. The 2020-21 Annual Report was provided and presented to all those present. Rozmus highlighted several accomplishments achieved over the past year and happily announced record camping revenues for Marr Park.

b. WCCB Vehicles

a. Rozmus stated that when he put this item on the agenda he did not know what it would consist of. Rozmus advised that he and the staff had been gathering numbers to consider trading in the 2018 Ram 2500, which was the "old" patrol truck. Recently the truck has required a substantial amount of maintenance that to this point had been covered by warranty. Thus WCCB staff was considering trading the truck in for another diesel truck. Unfortunately, Rozmus didn't think the budget would allow it because although the trade value for the truck was really strong, the price of the vehicle the WCCB wanted was

currently too high due to manufacturing shortages. Rozmus advised that he would plan to replace the truck in the following fiscal year.

c. **Kewash Phase 2 Construction**

- a. Rozmus reported that construction will begin on August 16th. WCCB will place barricades at both ends of the construction site. The trail will be closed to the public for the entire duration of the project. Rozmus stated that he was aware that the closure would be an inconvenience and that there was never a good time to close the trail. Rozmus expressed optimism that the short term closure would be well worth it in the long run for the asset that the community would be gaining.

At this time Mike Driscoll was given the opportunity to speak. Driscoll expressed concern about the trees and the tree canopy present in the area designated for construction in Phase 2. Driscoll understood that some of the canopy could be in the way for the contractor's equipment, but advised that if done properly the trees could be saved.

Rozmus thanked Driscoll for his presence at the meeting and noted that Driscoll spends just as much if not more time on the trail as the WCCB staff. Rozmus advised that he believed that the area the Phase 2 enhancements were occurring in was in his opinion the most scenic portion of the Kewash Trail, and had some of the highest quality tree diversity. Thus Rozmus advised that it was his goal to preserve as much of that as possible. Rozmus stated that the first item he discussed with the engineer firm and the contractor was the preservation of the trees and the canopy needed to be of the highest priority. Rozmus believed he was echoing the community when he said that the preservation of the trees was more important than paving the trail itself. Our goal is to manage our allotted acres as close to native as possible while still allowing the public to utilize and access them, without infringing upon them Rozmus advised.

Rozmus looked forward to proving to the community that the enhancement could be made to the trail with minimal impact to the trees and the canopy. Additional surveys were completed to identify potential conflicts areas, which were minimal. Rozmus also advised that the concrete company would be using large buggies to haul the concrete as opposed to a pump truck, which would ease the pressure on the tree canopy.

d. **Brinton Timber**

- a. Rozmus advised that a member of the Brinton family had reached out to him regarding potential enhancement and investment into the Brinton Timber property. Rozmus stated that he was very excited about the possibilities and also noted that it was important for him to ensure to honor the original wishes of the Brinton family, especially since the property was a wildlife preserve.

e. **Closed Session as per Iowa Code Section 21.5 1.J**

See closed session minutes once they're made public.

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 \$50,718.89 for the month of August, 2021 were presented to the board.

TO WHOM	FOR	AMOUNT
Ace-N-More	Hand tools, cleaning supplies, program material, paint, tile intake, pest control, salt softener	\$480.56
Agriland	Fuel	\$2,273.46
Arnold Motor	Oil and filters, mounting hardware, running board	\$853.53
Black Hawk Soil Service	Urea	\$1,142.96
Brett Johnson	Ranger Clothing - reimbursement	\$300.00
Capper Auto Center	Patrol Truck	\$27,000.00
Custom Impressions	Decals	\$55.00
Copy Systems	Monthly print contract	\$101.07
Dwight & Deborah Manning	Campground hosts - July	\$300.00
Eastern Iowa Light & Power	Monthly electricity	\$2,328.63
Electrical Engineering & Equipment	Electrical supplies	\$119.30
Iowa Dept. of Ag & Land Stewardship	Pesticide Applicator	\$15.00
John Deere Financial	Hand tools, wheel & rim center	\$287.95
MSA Professional Services	Kewash Phase 2	\$2,077.55
Printers Workshop	Summer Earthtones	\$822.95
Randi Brase	Program Material - reimbursement	\$13.17
University of Iowa	Physical - Mason	\$266.00
VISA	Day Camp supplies, ranger holster	\$302.59
Walmart	Cleaning supplies, day camp material	\$323.62
Wayne Grell	Mower	\$11,500.00
Windstream	Monthly internet services	\$155.55
TOTAL BILLS		\$50,718.89

Meeting Adjourned: A motion was made by Stan Stoops and seconded by Bill Nickell to adjourn the meeting at 5:48 PM. Motion was carried unanimously.

SIGNATURE

DATE