

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

September 9th, 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 4:29 PM at the Washington County Conservation Center at Marr Park.

Roll call:

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

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT: Barb Donkersloot

STAFF PRESENT: Executive Director Zach Rozmus, Randi Brase

GUESTS PRESENT:

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

Review previous meeting minutes: A motion was made by Stan Stoops to approve the August 12th, 2021 regular meeting minutes. Motion was seconded by Bill Nickell and carried unanimously.

DISCUSSIONS AND ACTIONS:

a. Annual Rental Fee Review

Rozmus provided information to all those present regarding camping rates and rental fees for campgrounds and facilities in southeast Iowa that are comparable to Marr Park. Rozmus advised that the board elected to leave camping rates at the current rate of \$16 per night for electrical and water hookup sites, and primitive camping at \$10 for fiscal year 2020-2021, due to the financial climate at that time. Less than a week after that decision, State Parks, including Lake Darling, increased all of their rates. Rozmus advised that at this time Marr Park has some of the lowest camping rates in the area and in his opinion offered more amenities and activities than nearly all of the parks that had higher rates. Thus, based on the information gathered, feedback from the public, discussion amongst the WCCB staff, and current camping trends Rozmus recommended that the camping rate for electrical and water sites within Marr Park's 41 site campground be increased from \$16 per night to \$20 per night with all other WCCB rental rates remaining the same.

Following a lengthy discussion, Bill Nickell made a motion to increase the camping rate on the electrical and water hookup sites within Marr Park from \$16 per night to \$20 per night beginning January 1st, 2022. Motion was seconded by Kim Prier and carried unanimously.

Rozmus added that the WCCB staff would be running a holiday special on coupon books at the current rate, during the months of November and December, prior to new rates taking effect.

b. October Board Meeting

Rozmus advised the board that he'd like to conduct a park tour similar to what has been done in the past on October 14th, 2021 prior to the board meeting. In order to facilitate this, Rozmus said the tour would need to begin at 3PM, and the board meeting would need to be pushed back to 5PM.

Craig Capps advised that this was something he looked forward to, and that we just needed to make sure we plan out the vehicle situation ahead of time so that we don't run into quorum issues.

c. Sockum Ridge Management

Rozmus informed the board that Berge Hammond who owns property adjacent to the north side of Sockum Ridge, reached out to him regarding an issue with his pond overflow. The overflow pipe is compromised and in need of repair. Thus, Hammond reached out to the WCCB because his pond dam is very close to the Sockum Ridge property line. Rozmus stated that he walked the

property line with Hammond, and that he doesn't believe the project will have any adverse effects on the county property. Thus, Rozmus wanted the board to be aware of the project and unless there were any objections, he would write a letter on the WCCB's behalf to Hammond which will create a paper trail pertaining to the project.

d. Kewash Phase 2 Construction

Rozmus stated that the Phase 2 construction is full steam ahead, and to this point, the project had been going very smoothly. Dry weather conditions were allowing the project to stay on schedule and Rozmus anticipated that paving would begin in the coming week/s.

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

See closed session minutes once they're made public.

Updates:

a. Foster Woods Eagle Scout Project

Jacob Donaldson and Rozmus have scheduled September 24th as the bench installation date. Rozmus stated that he looked forward to working with Donaldson to put the finishing touches on a great project.

b. Schmitter Pond Update

Jim Waterhouse's pond is nearly complete and Rozmus said the pond itself was beautiful and the access that would be created would be a game changer for future management. Rozmus also wanted to personally and publicly thank Waterhouse for his generous donation to the WCCB. Waterhouse installed a new tube on the WCCB's access lane and all did a substantial amount of dirt work to make access to the property easier for the public and the WCCB. The access lane ended up being much more work than all parties originally anticipated. Waterhouse ended up having nearly \$4,000 in costs associated with the lane and ended up generously donating all of those costs.

c. Covid-19 Trail Grant

Rozmus announced that unfortunately, the joint grant application for the North Ridge Trail Loop for the Southtown Development Area did not receive funding.

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 \$127,601.64 for the month of September, 2021 were presented to the board.

TO WHOM	FOR	AMOUNT
Ace-N-More	Cleaning supplies, bird seed, safety vests, pliers, plumbing supplies, sand, bench supplies, grass seed	\$337.18
Agriland		
Arnold Motor	Hand tools, break cleaner, cleaning supplies, filter	\$250.17
B & L Concrete Inc.	Concrete at front of park	\$20,309.75
Bohlmann Inc.	Hazelet Memorial Bench	\$1,515.00
Capper	Alignment and leveling kit	\$521.56
Cash-N-Carry Chemicals	Herbicides	\$137.50
Copy Systems	Monthly print contract	\$75.21
Dwight & Deborah Manning	Campground hosts	\$300.00
Eastern Iowa Light & Power	Monthly electricity	\$1,529.09
Education Outfitters	Prairie flower sign	\$210.00
John Deere Financial	Minor equipment, mower maintenance	\$1,122.06
Kalona Post and Frame	Jacob Donaldson scout project	\$54.44
MSA Professional Services	Kewash construction and engineering	\$81,858.69
Megan Jorgensen	Program reimbursement	\$4.28
MPLC	Movie Licensing	\$489.00
Printers Workshop	Fall Earthtones	\$826.17
Racom Corporation	Patrol truck install and radio	\$12,907.61
Staples	Cleaning supplies	\$631.90
Streichers	NASPO	\$1,069.98
US Cellular	Monthly cell service	\$545.20
VISA	Program materials, mount, tank light, sprayer, trijicon mount, generac	\$798.45
Walmart	Program supplies	\$37.79
Washington County Ambulance Service	AED Battery	\$192.99
Washington Discount Tire	Tire and Mount	\$192.95
Wemiga Waste	Waste removal	\$1,090.00
Windstream	Monthly internet service	\$154.67
TOTAL BILLS		\$127,161.64

Meeting Adjourned: A motion was made by Stan Stoops and seconded by Bill Nickell to adjourn the meeting at 5:38 PM. Motion was carried unanimously.

SIGNATURE

DATE

