

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

**September 10th, 2020**

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

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

**Roll call:**

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

**BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT:** Kim Prier

**STAFF PRESENT:** Executive Director Zach Rozmus

**GUESTS PRESENT:** Tyler Bruner (KCII)

**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 13th, 2020 regular meeting minutes. Motion was seconded by Bill Nickell and carried unanimously.

**DISCUSSIONS AND ACTIONS:**

**a. Annual Rental Fee Review**

Director Zach Rozmus provided all those present with the 2020 rental fee review that Naturalist Randi Brase created. Rozmus advised that he provided Brase with a list of campgrounds, parks, and rental facilities to research, then Brase acquired the information.

After speaking with his staff and reviewing the allotted fees, Rozmus recommended no increase in any rental fees which included the campground and conservation managed facilities.

Rozmus advised that he anticipated that Lake Darling would increase its rental fees in the coming years and that the board should take that into strong consideration at future rental fee reviews.

Board President Craig Capps added that he didn't believe now was the time to increase rates due to the pandemic and the economic hardships that many were experiencing.

Capps made a motion to keep the WCCB rental fees at their current level, motion was seconded by Stan Stoops. Motion carried unanimously.

**b. Marr Park Landscaping Project**

Rozmus advised that he was in the midst of the planning stages regarding a landscaping project for the areas surrounding the septic tanks in Marr Park. Rozmus stated that the access points to the septic tanks were a burden for general maintenance so his intention was to partner with a landscaping company to create a natural landscaping around the septic tank lids. The new planting will ideally hide the access points while also cutting down the potential maintenance risks currently associated the tanks.

Rozmus said his goal would be to use native flower plants paired with large sterile grasses that will hide the lids and look ascetically pleasing.

**c. Kewash Trail Phase 2 Enhancements**

Rozmus informed the board that the WCCB's engineering firm had been working rather quickly in the past month to ensure that the Phase 2 enhancements were remaining on schedule. Rozmus advised that the current timeline has the project set for DOT bid letting in March of 2021, with construction to follow.

Board Member Barb Donkersloot advised that she had received calls regarding potential tree cutting during Phase 2. Rozmus explained that in his opinion, the area associated with the Phase 2 was arguably the most scenic section of the Kewash Trail due tree canopy and habitats that it contained/passes

through. Therefore, Rozmus explained that it was his highest priority to retain as many trees as possible, if not all. Rozmus explained that he has made this priority known to the WCCB's engineering firm (MSA) and they have ensured him that the area associated with Phase 2 does not possess the same drainage and grading issues that were present in the Phase 1 construction area. Thus Phase 2 could be completed as a mere concrete overlay.

**d. Vehicle Acquisition**

Rozmus informed the board that the Director vehicle had been ordered through Capper Auto in Washington. Rozmus explained that this acquisition was budgeted for the 20-21 fiscal year, and that his goal was to outfit his staff with newer vehicles before finding something that better fit the needs for his day to day duties. The new truck will be a Ram 1500 Big Horn 4x4.

At this time Rozmus asked the board to consider the new truck a take home vehicle. Rozmus advised that he is constantly driving to the park just to grab a county vehicle, and that he has been responding to incidents/issues at conservation areas with his personal vehicle. Rozmus advised that numerous department heads in the county have their own work vehicles and that he understood the responsibility of taking home a county owned vehicle as he had done it for years in his prior job.

At this time Stan Stoops made motion to allow the Executive Director to have a take home vehicle to be used only for work related duties. Motion was seconded by Bill Nickell and carried unanimously.

**e. Covid-19**

Rozmus advised that the WCCB Staff was still implementing daily precautions in response to Covid-19. Unfortunately, due to a spike in covid cases the WCCB was forced to cancel their second hunter education class. Rozmus advised that it was a tough decision to cancel but he felt it was the right decision.

**Updates:**

**i. Southdown Development**

**a.** Rozmus advised that he had spoken to the DNR about using a program called "Prairie Partners," to cost share fees associated with any potential fees involved with potential prairie restoration sites. Rozmus said the program would require a management plan but he felt it great way to offset the costs associated with the prairie restoration, and would in turn allow conservation to contribute more money to the project.

**ii. Marr Park Water Bottle Filling Station**

**a.** Bill Nickell made a motion to have the water bottle filling station installed next to the lodge in Marr Park. Motion was seconded by Stan Stoops, motion carried unanimously.

**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 the bills totaling \$8,517.96 for the month of September, 2020 were presented to the board.

TO WHOM	FOR	AMOUNT
Ace-N-More	Cleaner, breaker, battery, valve	\$135.17
Arnold Motor Supply	Oil and filters	\$146.64
Cash-N-Carry	Herbicides	\$330.00
Copy Systems	Monthly contract	\$132.64
Douds Stone	Gravel at shop	\$321.48
Duane Chance	Campground host	\$300.00
Eastern Iowa Light & Power	Electricity	\$2,160.60
First Response Extinguisher	Fire extinguisher refill	\$80.50
Greiner Tires	Tire repairs	\$35.45
Iowa Prison Industries	Public Hunting signs	\$725.00
Jim's Small Engine Repair	String trimmer	\$416.85
John Deere	Minor equipment, fertilizer, battery, grip, belt	\$902.16
Staples	Office supplies	\$41.26
Stout Companies	Food plot seed	\$54.78
VISA	Snake supplies, phone case, power washer, reel, ATV mower, clothing	\$289.50
Walmart	Soap and light bulbs	\$14.80
Washington Lumber	Wood at Range	\$68.97
Washington Rental	Chainsaw	\$65.98
Wellman Automotive	Brake pads, tires	\$1,584.87
Wemiga	Monthly disposal, water heater disposal	\$560.00
Windstream	Monthly internet	\$151.31
<b>TOTAL BILLS</b>		<b>\$8,517.96</b>

**Meeting Adjourned:** A motion was made by Stan Stoops and seconded by Bill Nickell to adjourn the meeting at 5:33PM. Motion was carried unanimously.

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**SIGNATURE**

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**DATE**