

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

October 8th, 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, Craig Capps, Kim Prier and Stan Stoops

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT: Bill Nickell

STAFF PRESENT: Executive Director Zach Rozmus, Ranger Technician Brett Johnson,
Naturalist Megan Jorgensen, Naturalist Assistant Randi Brase.

GUESTS PRESENT: Tyler Bruner (KCII)

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

Review previous meeting minutes: A motion was made by Kim Prier to approve the September 10th, 2020 regular meeting minutes. Motion was seconded by Barb Donkersloot and carried unanimously.

DISCUSSIONS AND ACTIONS:

a. Kalona-WCCB 28E Agreement

Director Zach Rozmus provided each member of the WCCB a copy of a rough draft of the 28E agreement that he and the Kalona City Administrator Ryan Schlabaugh had been working on. Rozmus advised the rough draft had been provided to the county attorney as well. Rozmus asked each board member to review the 28E and provide input to him regarding the agreement. Rozmus explained that his intention was to have the agreement formally approved by the board in November of 2020.

b. Conservation Departmental Vehicles

Rozmus happily announced that the new director vehicle was set to be delivered in the coming days at Capper Auto Center in Washington. At this time Rozmus provided the board with a copy of the invoice associated with the new vehicle. Kim Prier made a motion to approve Board President Craig Capps to sign the invoice for the new director vehicle totaling \$34,329.00. Motion was seconded by Barb Donkersloot. Motion was carried unanimously.

Following the approval of the vehicle invoice Rozmus explained that in fiscal year 2021-22 his intention was to purchase a new patrol truck for the rangers. This purchase would continue the current departmental vehicle rotation that he had worked to implement. Rozmus noted that his intention was to keep the current patrol vehicle in their fleet since they had paid the upfront cost of the larger motor, instead on trading it in during the next vehicle rotation. Instead Rozmus intended to trade-in the WCCB's older F-150.

c. Conservation Center Hours

Naturalist Assistant Randi Brase and Rozmus explained that the two of them were working together to facilitate the transition to the conservation centers "winter hours." Rozmus explained that similar to last year they would work with the WCCB's part-time staff to fill Saturday shifts for the next few months, so that the center was still available on weekends.

d. Sockum Ridge Management

A letter from Iowa DNR Forester Ray Lehn was provided to all the board members regarding the management of Sockum Ridge. Rozmus advised that he accompanied Ray Lehn and two other DNR foresters to Sockum Ridge at the end of the September.

Rozmus advise that following a huge acorn crop in 2018 the WCCB performed a large timber stand improvement (TSI) in January of 2019. The TSI was done to eliminate competition for the oak, hickory, and walnut trees in addition to providing the large acorn crop the greatest chance to succeed. The TSI has been a great success as the germination rate of the young oaks in unlike anything that Rozmus and

Ray Lehn have ever seen. Although the TSI was success there is still work to be done, now that the young oaks are establishing themselves it's critical to open up the canopy so that light can reach the young oaks. Rozmus advised that it's important to do this work now, so that future generations can enjoy the primarily oak timber that is present at Sockum Ridge.

Therefore, Ray Lehn is recommending a harvest of mature oaks so that the next generation can continue to flourish.

Rozmus advised that he has invited Ray Lehn to attend the November meeting. Rozmus stated that he had a lot of respect for Ray Lehn and that his expertise in this area. Therefore, Rozmus believed the WCCB should strongly consider a timber harvest, but noted that he believed it should be a selective harvest and that he would be against a clear cutting.

e. Kewash Trail Memorial

Rozmus sadly announced that he was working with the Brinning family regarding the creation and installation of a memorial on the Kewash Trail in memory of Mike Brinning. Rozmus stated that he would do everything possible to help facilitate the memorial and that it would likely be a bench of some sort near the Crooked Creek Bridge.

Updates:

i. Marr Park Landscaping Project

a. Landscaping project had been completed by Iowa City Landscaping. Rozmus said the contractor was great to work with and that he was extremely happy with the results. The new flower beds will ease maintenance and also hide the access points to the Marr Park septic tanks.

ii. Southdown Development

a. Rozmus advised that he has been working with Adam Kos from CJ Moyna to establish/create the new trail systems pertaining to the property.

iii. Marr Park Water Bottle Filling Station

a. The installation of the water bottle filling station will likely be pushed to the spring of 2021.

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 \$25,635.01 for the month of October, 2020 were presented to the board.

TO WHOM	FOR	AMOUNT
Ace-N-More	Boots, birdseed, gloves, staple gun, air filter, cleaners, lubricants	\$419.34
Agriland	Fuel	\$2,226.57
Arnold Motor Supply	Cleaner	\$5.59
Bailey Office Outfitters	Chair	\$435.00
Baker Paper	Toiletries	\$248.96
Cash-N-Carry	Herbicide	\$80.00
Cody Smith	Evidence bags	\$9.32
Copy Systems	Monthly contract	\$55.44
Custom Impressions	Clothing - Megan & Randi	\$142.86
Duane Chance	Campground Host - September	\$300.00
Eastern Iowa Light & Power	Monthly electricity	\$1,561.38
Education Outfitters	Program material	\$75.00
Evan's Welding	Skid loader maintenance	\$71.25
John Deere	Hand tools, tractor maintenance, oil	\$1,040.60
Lois Lemley	Lodge cancellation	\$50.00
Maple Avenue	Trees	\$168.00
Megan Jorgensen	Naturalist workshop meal	\$7.76
Menards	Posts by kiosk	\$182.37
MSA	Kewash phase 2	\$13,800.00
O'Reilly's Auto	Seat covers	\$47.90
Printers Workshop	Autumn Earthtones	\$811.67
Randi Brase	Naturalist workshop meal	\$9.20
Shirley Jones	Hall cancellation	\$175.00
Staples	Calendar, cleaner	\$56.34
Stewart & Sons	Tires on maintenance truck	\$780.00
US Cellular	Monthly cell service	\$599.74
Virginia Holmes	Shelter 1 cancellation	\$40.00
VISA	Lid covers, mower chutes, sound bar, dvd player, clothing - Zach & Randi, fees	\$857.41
Walmart	Cleaning supplies, program materials	\$74.72
Washington Discount Tire	Tire and mount	\$169.95
Washington Lumber	Posts	\$77.90
Washington Rental	Auger rental	\$56.00
Wemiga	Monthly disposal service	\$545.00
Windstream	Internet	\$454.74
TOTAL BILLS		\$25,635.01

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

SIGNATURE

DATE