

Clayton County Conservation Board
Minutes
Jan. 10, 2017
DRAFT

The regular meeting of the Clayton County Conservation Board was held Tuesday, January 10, 2017, at the Osborne Conservation Center. Vice-chair Gary Kregel called the meeting to order at 6 p.m. Other members present were Marilyn Lenth, Daryl Landsgard, Pam Vaske, and Larry Stone. Board director Jenna Pollock and office manager Harry Luster also attended.

OATH OF OFFICE

New board member Pam Vaske and returning member Larry Stone each took the oath of office.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS

Landsgard nominated Gary Kregel as board chair. Lenth moved the nominations cease. Landsgard seconded. Carried. Unanimous vote for Kregel as chair.

Stone nominated Landsgard for vice-chair. Lenth moved that the nominations cease. Stone seconded. Carried. Unanimous vote for Landsgard as vice-chair.

Lenth nominated Stone for secretary. Landsgard moved that the nominations cease. Lenth seconded. Carried. Unanimous for Stone as secretary.

AGENDA

Lenth moved to approve the agenda, with the addition of items on a timber harvest bid under old business, and a 2017 payroll update under new business. Landsgard seconded. Carried

MINUTES

Corrections in the Dec. 13 minutes included: changing the date from December 8 to December 13; changing the word “regarding” to “regrading;” changing the phrase “the signed” to “she signed” in the Maintenance Shop item. Landsgard moved to approve the December 13 minutes with those corrections. Lenth seconded. Carried.

COMMUNICATIONS

Pollock reported that John Metcalf had inquired about trapping muskrats in the Elkader Wetland. After reviewing CCCB rules and the “wildlife refuge” signs posted at the wetland, Pollock declined. The board discussed whether it might be useful to allow trapping as a management tool in the future.

CLAIMS

Stone moved to approve the January claims as presented by Luster. Lenth seconded. Carried.

FINANCIAL REPORT

Stone moved to approve the January financial report as presented by Luster. Landsgard seconded. Carried.

OLD BUSINESS

1. MAINTENANCE SHOP - Pollock will meet with Mike Tucker of Martin Gardner Architecture the week of January 16. He has proposed shorter walls to save money, but the board resisted that idea.
2. GRAU SAVANNA – Pollock reviewed the history of the Grau Savanna, which was established on the ridge north of the Mill in 2005 with the help of a memorial donation from the Robert Grau family. Robert Grau was a charter member of the Clayton County Conservation Board and served for 20 years. The CCCB staff, sometimes with the aid of grants, has removed non-oak tree species, attempted to control garlic mustard, done controlled burns, planted prairie species, and laid out trails. The Grau family has encouraged the board to continue the work, and suggested the addition of more interpretive signs.
3. TIMBER HARVEST – Lenth moved to approve the \$3,708 bid from Jones Woodheating and Logging for a salvage harvest of timber from the Becker East property. Pollock opened the bid on December 21. Landsgard seconded. Carried.
4. BUDGET FY18 – Stone moved to accept the proposed budget for FY18, which essentially is the same as for FY17, with the exception of about \$23,000 in additions for salaries and benefits. Pollock and Kregel will meet with the Board of Supervisors to discuss the budget on Jan. 11.

NEW BUSINESS

1. WRAC GRANT ACCEPTANCE - Pollock said the board has received an Iowa Water Recreation Access cost-share grant to replace the boat access at Motor with a concrete ramp. Our share will be about 20% of the total cost. Landsgard moved to accept the grant. Lenth seconded. Carried.
2. ANNUAL REVIEW OF BYLAWS - The board reviewed the bylaws, and made one correction of a typo. Article VII, section 7.3, should read “Expenditures OVER \$5,000,” rather than “up to \$5,000.” Lenth moved to approve the bylaws with that change. Landsgard seconded. Carried.

3. 2016 ANNUAL REPORT - Pollock presented board members with copies of the annual report for 2016.

4. 2017 PAYROLL UPDATE – After a review of the FY 2017 budget, the board made the following payroll revisions: Office assistant - \$14.51 per hour, change to full-time; maintenance technician - \$13.95 per hour, part-time; secretary/receptionist – eliminate position. Landsgard moved to approve the changes. Lenth seconded. Carried.

UPCOMING PROGRAMS

January 21 – Ice fishing clinic – Sny Magill

February 11 – Snowfest/xc ski and snowshoe clinic – Osborne

March 18 – Motor Motor 5K – Motor Mill

UPDATES

Luster, Schoulte and Kraus welcomed 60 guests, completed end of the year statistics for Annual Report

Anderson and Pollock responded to Motor Mill break-ins, Anderson investigated with CCSO

Harkrader and Slocum presented 52 programs to 1170 participants in December

Slocum applied for the Iowa Native Plant Grant- Youth Conservation Corps/Grau Savanna

Pollock & Luster reviewed FY18 Budget, included compensation board rec./health ins. Estimate

Mulford cleared snow and ice, maintained vehicles, winterized exhibits, assisted with hiring/interviews

Deron Hakert joined the CCCB staff as Maintenance Technician in late December

CLOSED SESSION

Director's Performance Evaluation – Stone moved to enter a closed session to discuss the director's performance evaluation. Landsgard seconded. All voted aye. The board entered the closed session at 7:30 p.m.

Landsgard moved to end the closed session. Lenth seconded. All voted aye. The closed session ended at 7:56 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT

Landsgard moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:58 p.m. Lenth seconded. Carried.

FEBRUARY MEETING

The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, February 14, at 6 p.m. at the Osborne Conservation Center.

Respectfully submitted,

Larry A. Stone, secretary