

## **CALL TO ORDER**

The regular meeting of the Clayton County Conservation Board was held Tuesday, Oct. 13, 2020 at the Osborne Welcome Center.

Vice-chair, Daryl Landsgard, called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. Members present was Pam Vaske, Marilyn Lenth and Larry Stone. Absent was Gary Kregel. Staff present was Jenna Pollock and Molly Scherf. Guests in attendance was Rachael Wendell and Ted Fleehner.

## **AGENDA**

Stone made a motion to approve the agenda, second by Vaske, unanimous approval. Passed.

## **MINUTES**

Lenth made a motion to approve the 8/8/2020 meeting minutes, second by Vaske, unanimous approval. Passed.

## **CLAIMS**

The Elkader Movie Theatre advertising claim was discussed. It was decided to continue with this for the year since it was budgeted but look into new options for FY22. Stone made a motion to approve the claims, second by Lenth, unanimous approval. Passed.

## **FINANCIAL REPORT & ENDOWMENT STATEMENT**

The financial report was reviewed by the board. The salaries are slightly below 75% but Pollock explained that is because of an employee payout and summer seasonal wages. This should balance out over the winter and be back on track. Revenue looking very good due to a great camping season. Pollock reported the endowment received a gift of \$593.15 from Larry and Margaret Stone and through August the total was \$41,800.88.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

1. Motor Mill Trail: Consider Payment–  
This was approved when the claims were approved.
2. Osborne Campground Update –  
Pollock would like to put the design out for public comment and give feedback. Board of Supervisors are positive about the design and they saw what the cost estimate is and didn't comment on that. The campground came up in discussions with the public during the Open Air Market and Pollock reported many people were very positive with the idea. The CCCB agreed to share the design with the public.
3. Elkader Wetland Protection Area Work Update –  
Pollock reported that C.J. Moyna Construction and NRCS met and plan to remove the dike on edge of the Turkey River as well as raise the trail/levy. They have the permits to do this work and the NRCS is in support. No compensation from CCCB on this project.

## NEW BUSINESS

1. Consider Awarding Bloody Run Shelter Project –

The board received three bids to review:

- a) Jordan Moose – concrete and shelter \$9,002
- b) Mike Jensen – concrete and shelter \$10,760
- c) Denning Construction LLC – Concrete and shelter \$7,855

Vaske made a motion to accept the bid of \$7,855 from Denning Construction LLC, seconded by Lenth, unanimous approval. Passed.

2. Consider request to Remove Burma Shave Signs from Pony Hollow Trail --

Pollock reported the signs are a result of a 2020 contest that was announced April 6<sup>th</sup> with the winner chosen May 5<sup>th</sup>. There were 16 entries in total. All entries were voted on using social media. The winning phrase was then printed on the signs and placed in September on the Pony Hollow Trail(PHT) using the existing mile marker posts so as to not put more posts in the ground. Pollock reached out to trail users and they had many positive comments. Rachael Wendell shared a letter with the Conservation Board identifying several concerns. The stat counter on the trail showed (approx. numbers) March 900, April 1,300, May 1,600, June 1,600, July 1,900, Aug 1,727, Sept 1,277, and Oct (Oct.1-Oct. 13) 1,330 out and back users.

**Public Comments:**

Rachael Wendell spoke to the board. She likes the winner's idea/phrase and the pride in Clayton County just doesn't like the red color used as it can be seen for so long and takes away from the beauty. She loves PHT and was shocked by the signs. She asked other trail users for their opinion and 9 expressed dislike (see emailed letter for full comments). She feels the interpretive panels are almost invisible and blend in so those aren't a problem. Her final thought was that if one person doesn't like an unnecessary "thing" that should be enough reason to remove that item. Ted Fleener also attended the meeting and expressed how he liked the signs but doesn't like how bold they are. He feels they should be placed elsewhere or closer together right at the trailhead instead of spaced out so far. Perhaps a set could be placed at Osborne or color could be changed but understands it's not a Burma Shave sign if it isn't red.

The board would like time to go on the trail and see the signs first hand before any more discussion. Lenth made a motion to table the Burma Shave Sign discussion until the next meeting, seconded by Vaske, unanimous approval. Passed.

3. Discussion on Winter Bids --

- a) Motor Mill Stable Project – UMGC Grant Award of \$35,000. The plan is to stabilize the structure by straightening the interior poles, new concrete, repair roof and add electric. The Motor Mill Foundation will take the lead on this project.
- b) Easy Walking Osborne Path – UMGC Grant Award of \$55,900. Molly will ask for bids this winter for concrete to replace the existing lime-chipped trail through the Native Animal Exhibit.

4. Consider FY21 Payroll Amendment –

Pollock reported that there will be some staffing changes. The permanent part-time position (custodial/grounds) and long-term seasonal position (grounds) will be eliminated and a new full time position created in Operations/Maintenance. This position will help with the workload

going forward. Health insurance is the only not budgeted item for FY21. The Board of Supervisors are okay with offsetting the projects in the budget that may not get completed this year and using that for benefits. Pollock would like to set the salary at \$14.50/hr. plus benefits. Stone made a motion to approve the wage rate change, seconded by Lenth, unanimous approval. Passed.

#### **UPCOMING PROGRAMS/EVENTS**

Oct. 23	Nature All Around Us Art Series #1	6PM Osborne
Oct. 24	Pony Hollow Trail 15K	9AM Pony Hollow Trail
Nov. 7	Hunter's Ed	Osborne

#### **Director's Report/Updates/Communications**

Visitors to the Osborne Welcome Center in September included 325 groups and 1010 individuals.

Pollock reported she was approached a few months ago asking her to do something for vendors even though Heritage Days was cancelled. That is where the Osborne Open-Air Market came to be. We reached out to former Heritage Day vendors first and then reached out to others to see if we could find enough vendors to fill the event. The day was a success with the 9 vendors that attended. The weather was beautiful and the crowds were great. The Welcome Center gift shop revenue was greater than last year's Heritage Days.

Pollock reported there have been two break-ins on the Bloody Run fee box. Total loss is probably around \$100. Repairs were made to the fee box and Alliant Energy has since fixed the security light that was out.

Dave Marks requested a gate on his laneway that enters Bloody Run Park because of late night traffic. There are signs saying this lane is walk-in only but people are still driving up it. Gates have been ordered and will be installed soon so Dave can lock it each night.

Buck Creek had a drunk driver in the deep ditch. Pollock assisted Clayton County Sheriffs and tow-vehicle. This park also had a suspicious report last weekend resulting in one arrest by the Sheriff Dept.

Upcoming potential projects – Re-establish the Osborne prairie near the archery laneway and creating a nature trail at Becker West using CCI crews if grant is approved.

Motor Mill Trail ribbon cutting event will be held this spring to avoid hunting season and winter weather.

#### **Weekly Spotlight Videos for Facebook**

- Tallgrass Prairie Grasses (72 engaged, 1028 reached)
- Blazing Star (67 engaged, 1478 reached)
- Purple Coneflower (39 engaged, 601 reached)
- Cardinal Flower (25 engaged, 609 reached)
- Motor Weekly Sesquicentennial History Bits
  - Motor Town Plat (67 engaged, 734 reached)

- Turkey River Floods (248 engaged, 825 reached)
- |                 |                        |
|-----------------|------------------------|
| Monarch Party   | 55                     |
| Ed-Co Fieldtrip | 76 students, 25 adults |

**ADJOURNED**

Lenth made a motion to adjourn the meeting, second by Stone, unanimous approval. Passed.

**NEXT MEETING**            November 10, 2020, 6pm Osborne Nature Center