

## **CALL TO ORDER**

The regular meeting of the Clayton County Conservation Board was held Tuesday, Dec. 8, 2020 at the Osborne Welcome Center and via Zoom.

Chair, Gary Kregel, called the meeting to order at 6:05 p.m. Members present on Zoom were Daryl Landsgard, Larry Stone, Pam Vaske and Marilyn Lenth. Staff present were Jenna Pollock and Molly Scherf. One guest present on zoom was Mallory Hanson.

## **AGENDA**

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

## **MINUTES**

Stone made a motion to approve the 11/10/2020 meeting minutes with the correction of “was” to “were” in the 2<sup>nd</sup> paragraph, second by Landsgard, unanimous approval. Passed.

## **CLAIMS**

Landsgard made a motion to approve all claims and allow Director Pollock, authority to sign claims, second by Vaske, unanimous approval. Passed.

## **FINANCIAL REPORT & ENDOWMENT STATEMENT**

The financial report was reviewed by the board.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

### 1. Motor Mill Trail Construction–

- a. Update: Portion of trail that goes through the Swales/Jansen property is closed Oct. 31-Mar. 20 for hunting purposes. No snowmobiles are allowed on that portion. Instead they should follow the designated snowmobile trail.  
In a year or two lime-chips can be placed over the gravel base. A few comments have been made about the road rock used vs. lime-chip.  
Vaske asked if there was concern with farm equipment getting too close to the trail. Pollock feels when the grass begins to grow in the median it should help alleviate machinery driving so far off the road.  
Pollock spoke to Dan Harwick (Moyna foreman) about erosion concerns. He is aware of the areas and repairs will be made in the spring. Trail signs are to be installed this week.
- b. Consider Approval of Partial Pay Estimate #4: Lenth made a motion to approve the payment of \$9,548.88 to C.J. Moyna Construction, seconded by Landsgard, unanimous approval. Passed.

### 2. Pony Hollow Trail Extension Update –

Pollock, Scherf, Lyle TeKippe (Fehr Graham), and John Moyna met this month. TeKippe was able to bring maps of the Pony Hollow Trail proposed extension with more updated ROW. TeKippe explained there is more room in the ROW than originally discussed after he went through

documents from DOT construction of Highway 13. Moyna was very supportive and willing to get permanent easements in the 1<sup>st</sup> phase to Grape Rd. In the 2<sup>nd</sup> phase (Grape Rd. to south trailhead) Moyna proposed an alternative route that would not be in the ROW. Moyna will work to obtain permissions on the alternative route before January 2021.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

1. Consider Approval for the Submission for Iowa's Rural Revitalization Grant Program: Motor Inn—  
The goal of the Motor Mill Foundation is to restore the Inn at Motor Mill. Martin Gardner has given a cost estimate of \$350,000 to create a meeting space on 1<sup>st</sup> floor (flood resistant), 2<sup>nd</sup> floor kitchen/bathroom/bedrooms (handicap accessible), and 3<sup>rd</sup> floor bunk space. The Rural Revitalization grant has become available for \$75,000 minimum-\$125,000 maximum at a 1:1 match. Pollock spoke to the Board of Supervisors and was given their approval to apply on the county's behalf. Pollock would like the Conservation and Foundation boards to also give approval before applying. Stone made a motion to pursue the grant assuming agreement from the Motor Mill Foundation at their meeting next week, seconded by Vaske, unanimous approval. Passed.
2. Discuss Security Camera Installation Proposal for Motor Mill Historic District --  
Stone and Pollock met with Alpine at Motor Mill to discuss the option of security cameras now that electric has been added to the mill. Alpine will be putting together a cost estimate for 5 cameras with a NVR system. Footage will be available to download to a USB drive since internet isn't an option in that area. The goal is to try and not have cameras "stick out" and take away from the historic value of the property. Motor Mill Foundation will be asked to mutually fund.
3. FY22 Budget Work Session –  
Pollock shared a spreadsheet of the FY22 proposed conservation budget. Under the general budget we are looking at \$695,063 which is about \$2,500 more than FY21 and includes an additional full-time employee. We are waiting for more guidance from auditor, BOS, and compensation board for salaries and benefits so this budget is still a working document and not final.

## **UPCOMING PROGRAMS/EVENTS**

Dec 11	Holiday Door Décor	5:30 pm Osborne
Mar 20	Motor Motor 5k/10k Trail Grand Opening	

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

Visitors to the Osborne Welcome Center in November included 67 groups and 198 individuals. 30 environmental education programs were delivered to 193 youth and 196 adults for 27.75 group hours.

Pollock reported a private landowner reached out to the county about purchasing adjacent land in Littleport. This area is a former FEMA buyout so landowner was told it was not available to purchase. The landowner then requested the county maintain the area. Pollock spoke to the BOS about this and was given permission to put the land into a pollinator prairie. This works well with the Turkey River Water Trail Guide being reprinted in 2021. There is desire to show the Volga River access points in this guide.

The USDA Animal Inspection happened today. Pollock was advised there was a possible government shutdown happening soon that could potentially delay our permit.

Pollock took staff on a campground field trip after the staff meeting Monday. They visited a few campgrounds in Fayette and Winneshiek counties. Had a good discussion and many ideas surfaced for the future Osborne campground. Staff appreciated the campgrounds with established trees and like our fire rings better than the ones we saw.

Elkader Visioning Committee (Pollock and Scherf are on committee) needs feedback on the projects to decide what should be implemented first. The visioning boards are at Osborne for a few days before they go back to Elkader.

**ADJOURNED**

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

**NEXT MEETING**            January 12, 2021, 6pm Osborne Nature Center