

CALL TO ORDER

The regular meeting of the Clayton County Conservation Board was held Tuesday, November 9, 2021 at the Osborne Welcome Center.

Vice-Chair, Daryl Landsgard, called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. Members present were Larry Stone and Marilyn Lenth. Staff present were Jenna Pollock, Molly Scherf, Kenny Slocum, Zach Dingbaum, Ean Popenhagen, Jay Farmer, Nick Moser, and Abbey Harkrader.

AGENDA

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

MINUTES

Lenth made a motion to approve the 10/12/2021 meeting minutes, seconded by Stone, unanimous approval. Passed.

CLAIMS

Lenth made a motion to approve all claims, second by Stone, unanimous approval. Passed.

FINANCIAL REPORT & ENDOWMENT STATEMENT

The financial report was reviewed by the board. The September Osborne Partner Endowment was at \$50,625.92.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Consider awarding Bid for Osborne Campground Phase 1 Environmental/Archaeological Review–
The University of Iowa Archaeologist was the only company to send in a quote for the archaeological survey needed for the Osborne Campground. The fixed cost for the U of I to complete the project is \$4,584.
Stone made a motion to approve the bid from U of I Archaeologist, seconded by Lenth, unanimous approval. Passed.
2. Consider additional Allamakee Clayton REC Coverage proposal –
The information was discussed and declined by the board.
3. Authorize the chair to sign the Habitat Stamp Grant –
Kenny Slocum explained to the board that this is a DNR grant with 75% cost-share on lands open to hunting and trapping. He would like to apply for both Becker properties with the intention of fixing the retention ponds at each site. He has already met with a contractor and will get an estimate from him to complete the bid documents. This particular contractor expressed interest in the harvestable walnuts on the property that were probably going to be damaged during the work so the trees could potentially be used as matching money for the grant.

Stone made a motion to approve Slocum proceeding to complete the grant application and the vice-chair signing the document, seconded by Lenth, unanimous approval. Passed.

4. Discuss McGregor Conservation Easement Tree Harvest –

Clayton County Conservation has an easement on a tract of land in McGregor where a trail is located. Slocum is on the McGregor Tree Board and explained that there are multiple ash trees that are dead or soon to die along this trail. As a safety precaution the McGregor Tree Board would like to be allowed to have a salvage harvest on those trees. Stone made a motion to allow the salvage harvest on the conservation easement land in McGregor, seconded by Lenth, unanimous approval. Passed.

5. Discussion with Staff FY2023 Budget Requests–

Pollock shared she has plugged in 3.5% salary increase and increased seasonal pay from \$10 to \$12/hr into the budget as well as adding \$60,000 potentially for DAWC and putting the FY22 car acquisition into FY23. With these changes general operations would have an increase of about \$74,000. In the reserve account she will request a lot of spending with the Motor Mill Inn, Osborne Campground, and Pony Hollow Trail engineering which are all covered by moneys we have been granted.

Jay Farmer requests an additional leaf blower (\$260) to use in parks as well as ceiling fans (\$1,100) for the shop to help drive the heat to the lower level.

Abbey Harkrader had no changes to her budget.

Zach Dingbaum will hopefully be going to the academy this fiscal year but if there are no openings we will move that \$12,000 to FY23.

Kenny Slocum hopes to apply for a Wildlife Diversity grant for another CCI labor crew (\$8,500-\$10,000) as well as planting trees at Pleasant Ridge.

OLD BUSINESS

1. Discuss Driftless Area Wetland Centre property and staffing--

Pollock met with the DAWC board, friends group, Marquette city council member and mayor to discuss the county potentially taking over ownership of the DAWC. There was concern at first from some of the members that the community would be upset if this center was given to the county but by the end of the meeting they agreed it would be the best course of action. Pollock expressed how if conservation was to acquire the building she would also like the adjoining land (wetland outdoor learning area and additional grass parking area) part of the deed.

There is interest from some of the area colleges and universities to use the facility as a field office as well as a potential partnership with the Clayton County Energy District to give trainings on energy efficient buildings. The auditor mentioned possibly using the space as a polling place. Pollock would like the existing programming to continue but to have the hours of operation match the Osborne Welcome Center. She will be meeting with the MFL-Mar-Mac superintendent later this week to get his views.

UPCOMING PROGRAMS/EVENTS

Available at www.claytoncountyconservation.org

Director's Report/Updates/Communications

Welcome Center numbers included 494 groups and 1434 individuals, 11 different states.

Environmental Education Programs totaled 9 including 66 youth and 49 adults for 11.5 hours.

A formal complaint was made regarding the Bud Schuchmann memorial. A letter was sent to Pollock from the donor, Lori Kluesner, requesting that 5 sugar maples be planting in Osborne park, each one with a label. Pollock spoke with the county attorney and then responded with a letter stating trees had been planted at the pond area and a sign was also located there. Pollock is now waiting for a response.

ADJOURNMENT

Lenth made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Stone, unanimous approval. Passed.

NEXT MEETING December 14, 2021, 6pm at Osborne (FY23 Budget Session)