



CLAYTON COUNTY CONSERVATION

Promote the health and general welfare of the people; to model and encourage preservation, conservation, education and recreation through responsible use and appreciation of our natural resources and cultural heritage.

July 9, 2024

BOARD MEETING

2pm Turkey River Park

Board Chair Daryl Landsgard called the meeting to order at 2:00 pm. Members present included Larry Stone, Gary Kregel, and Dave Asche. Director Jenna Pollock and Office Manager Molly Scherf were also present.

Kregel made a motion to approve the agenda, seconded by Asche. All voted in favor. Motion passed.

Kregel made a motion to approve the June 2024 minutes, seconded by Asche. All voted in favor. Motion passed.

Kregel made a motion to pay the claims and Stone seconded. All voted in favor. Motion passed.

The board reviewed the monthly report provided by the Auditor's Office.

Old Business

1. Discuss FPE EWP Inspection:

The EWP site located across the river from Turkey River Park was seeded twice in the past but flooding and volunteer trees have been an issue in getting a prairie established. Resource Manager, Kenny Slocum, met with NRCS representative at the site for an annual inspection. The main concern for NRCS is the volunteer trees and the amount of mowing that is being done at a short height around the perimeter. Pollock will check back with the NRCS to answer some of the board questions.

2. Discuss Naturalist 12 passenger van:

The large van is primarily used a few times a year now for OWLS outings when they have a large turnout. The air conditioning is no longer working and the quote from Brown's Sales & Leasing was close to \$2,000. Pollock would like to know if it is necessary to have a large vehicle for future events or if the board is ok with renting on those dates we can't fit the attendees in the minivan and truck. Brown's has an 11 passenger van to rent for \$90/day. The board agreed renting is a better option than repairing due to the lack of use. Kregel made a motion to allow Pollock to look into the possibility of putting the van up for sale, seconded by Stone. All voted in favor. Motion passed.

3. Consider Resolution and Application for County Conservation REAP Grant (Osborne Trees):

Slocum is looking into using REAP grant to purchase trees for the Osborne bottom (old campground acres) as discussed at previous meeting.

Stone made a motion to allow staff to proceed with a REAP application, seconded by Asche. All voted in favor. Motion passed.

Roll Call: Landsgard, aye; Stone, aye; Asche, aye; Kregel, aye; Hegmann, absent

New Business

1. Discuss Osborne Campground Updates:

Vorwalds started the 2nd row of water hydrants and Chris Gregerson has started on the electrical. Some areas need to be brought to grade by Ray's Excavating before the 3rd row of hydrants can be installed. Vorwalds are waiting for the coconut filters to be shipped before the septic can be completed.

2. Inn Update and Evaluation:

Internet is the highest expense at this time for Wi-Fi and the security cameras. It is possible the Motor Mill Foundation could cover a portion of that utility so Pollock will discuss this with them at an upcoming visioning meeting.

The price of reservations was also discussed. When large groups rent the Inn it is cost-effective but individuals or a couple find the price too high and deters them renting. Pollock will look into adding a lower cost option for small groups.

3. Update of Energy Coordinator Position:

Pollock reported there were four applicants for the position. Three were interviewed and a position was offered to a local individual. They have experience with farming and a degree in Environmental Policy. The individual countered the salary so Pollock asked the board if they would approve covering the increase in FICA and IPERS if the Energy District covers salary increase. This would amount to around a \$600 increase to the conservation budget. The board agreed to this increase.

Upcoming Programs/Events available at www.claytoncountyconservation.org

Director's Report/Updates/Communications

Welcome Center numbers included 767 individuals and 169 groups in June.

Env. Edu. Numbers for the past month included 43 presentations to 304 youth and 251 adults, 43 hours

Adjournment

Kregel made a motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Stone. All voted in favor. Motion passed.

Next meeting scheduled: August 13, 2024