



# 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.

**October 8, 2024**

## **BOARD MEETING**

**8am Osborne Welcome Center**

Board Chair Daryl Landsgard called the meeting to order at 8:00 am. Members present included Larry Stone, Gary Kregel, and Dave Asche. Natasha Hegmann joined via zoom. Director Jenna Pollock and Office Manager Molly Scherf were also present.

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

Stone made a motion to approve the September 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.

## **New Business**

1. Consider Alliant Energy Request for Easement at Bloody Run County Park:

No easement in hand from Alliant so no action needed at this time. Pollock will be meeting with the Board of Supervisors yet this morning to discuss recommended permits/easements needed for this above ground line. Pollock is concerned with trees being cut or trimmed to accommodate the line so will push Alliant to do this underground. She will update the board when she finds out more.

2. Consider Awarding Farm Leases 2025-2027

- a. Becker West Hay Ground – 1 bid received from John Thompson for \$210/acre
- b. Becker East Row Crop – 1 bid received from John Thompson for \$300/acre
- c. Becker West Grazing – 1 bid received from Jeff Bittner \$225/acre

Kregel made a motion to approve all bids, seconded by Stone. All voted in favor. Motion passed.

3. Consider request for additional partnership at Big Spring:

Pollock received an email asking if our staff would take over filling the fish food machines at the trout hatchery due to federal funds purchasing the feed. After additional conversations with the DNR manager at Big Springs it was determined they no longer need this assistance due to a friends group stepping in to help. No other action needed from this board.

4. Report on Campground Enforcement:

The month of September had several calls to local law enforcement to our parks. Pollock took multiple calls late at night from sheriff office about camper disturbances in our parks. Pollock feels it has slowed down now in October.

5. Report on Heritage Days pre-planning:  
Biggest concern is traffic with the Hwy 13 bridge project ongoing. Pollock had contacted DOT several months ago to see when bridge would be complete and had been told at that time September. More recent updates are now looking like after Heritage Days for completion. Pollock expressed concern to the DOT about safety issues with potential traffic backing up at the stoplights and exiting/entering Osborne Park. The DOT will put up large signs on the north and south ends warning of turning traffic but otherwise didn't offer much more assistance. Pollock will share out a map and instructions with Clayton Co. emergency services and the public to hopefully alleviate any issues.
6. Report on WRAC Grant submitted for Access 39A:  
Scherf has submitted a grant for the Turkey River Access 39A just above the Elkader dam. Maintenance is difficult with this access due to water washing away the gravel and creating a safety concern at the last take out prior to the large dam. Grant awards will be notified later this year.

### **Old Business**

1. Update on Motor Mill Project:  
Pollock met with Steve Brase at the Mill and he had given a report on his thoughts then turned over his info to a larger engineer firm with knowledge on historical structures. They spoke to Pollock and expressed wanting to come in and get all work done in one shot instead of shoring up then returning to do structural work. Their scope of work doesn't include geo-technical surveying and that concerns Pollock so she has asked them to include this in the plan. She is also talking to two other engineer firms to get other input. Overall estimate is looking like \$100,000. Motor Mill Foundation will be meeting next week and she hopes they will spearhead fundraising. Some grants are available as well. Stone asked if loans are possible from bigger doners to get funding prior to another flood event. Pollock thought this would be a possibility that she would have the Foundation look into.
2. Update on Osborne Campground:  
All dirt work is complete and the shower house plumbing is installed. Electric is being worked on currently and Vorwalds will need to return to put the water risers to the correct height to ground level. Grass has been seeded and we are watering it daily to try and get it established prior to winter. Trees were planted yesterday. Unfortunately, it doesn't look like we will be able to do a soft-opening this fall as the timing just hasn't worked out.
3. Update on Pony Hollow Trail Fundraising and CAT Extension Request:  
October 1 was the original deadline for CAT fundraising gap. We have had additional donations as well as a \$20,000 award but not enough to close the gap. Pollock asked if the deadline could be extended due to the letting date being pushed back to March by the DOT and therefore give us time to see if we receive SRT grant funds. The CAT committee agreed to extend the deadline to November 1. Pollock is confident after a DNR meeting yesterday that we will be awarded SRT funds which will close the needed fundraising gap of the CAT grant.  
With the DOT pushing back the letting date we will need to remove the trees between Nov-Mar to avoid the bat nesting period. Pollock has shared this info with John Moyna the landowner of the portion of trail with trees to be removed. She will wait and see what he wants to do.

**Upcoming Programs/Events** available at [www.claytoncountyconservation.org](http://www.claytoncountyconservation.org)

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

Welcome Center numbers included 544 individuals and 113 groups in September.

Env. Edu. Numbers for the past month included 28 presentations to 231 youth and 107 adults, 27.5 hours

Wildthunder Rehab has two foxes that were imprinted by humans. Pollock will be going to get them later today to add to the Native Animal Exhibit.

**Adjournment**

Kregel made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:50am, seconded by Stone. All voted in favor. Motion passed.

**Next meeting scheduled:** November 12, 2024