

Benton County Conservation Board Meeting

Monday, November 14, 2022 at 5:30 PM

Benton County Nature Center 5718 20th Ave Dr, Vinton

Members present: Dan Hill, Mike LaGrange, Denni Randall, Randy Scheel, Tracy Seeman Supervisor Liason, virtually- Becky Van Wey

Staff present: Shelby Williams, Cecilia Dirks, Layla Hagen, Camryn Grubic

Call to order: 5:30 by Randall

Guests or public participation: Marlys Harms and Jay Hermann, members of the Shellsburg Area Community Group, spoke about creating an MOU with BCCB and the Shellsburg School to help with managing the prairie located behind the school. The naturalists use the prairie for programming and staff have performed prairie burns. Harms and Hermann will start the process with the school to form an MOU.

Dale Henry with the VFW post 8884 asked about the ice fishing tournament. Grubic said the tournament will be at Rodgers Lake this year.

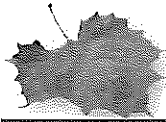
Consent Agenda (previous minutes, expenditures, revenues): Motion approved by LaGrange seconded by Scheel. All aye, motion passed.

Organizations:

- a. **Wildcat Disc Golf Volunteers- MOU Update:** Kelly Williams and Brad Routier, Wildcat Disc Golf Course volunteers, signed the MOU and gave an update on how the year went. This is the 15th year for the course. They gave a big thank you to Hagen and the rest of the staff for all of the hard work and cooperation. They raised more than \$2,000 in donations and saw more than 3200 people using the course through just one app for game scoring. This usage number does not count the people who do not use the app or multiple people using one scorer. LaGrange and Hill requested the group try and give Hagen quarterly numbers of users, this helps justify the importance of the parks.
- b. **Foundation:** Next meeting Tuesday, January 17th, 2023 at 7:00 PM
- c. **OCNT Committee:** Next meeting Spring 2023
 - a. **Vinton Trailhead:** Scheel, LaGrange, Williams, and Dirks met with John and Dottie Anderson and Wayne Siela about coordinating the Vinton Trailhead. The maps have been adjusted a few times and plan that works for everyone has been presented. Siela had concerns with the sidewalk connecting the parking area to town on the South side of the road. Scheel spoke with the city of Vinton planners and it is in the plans to be on the south side.
- d. **TriCounty Snowmobile Association:** No update
- e. **Winegar Equestrian Volunteers:** No update

Old Business:

- a. **City of Atkins- Atkins Roundhouse:** no update
- b. **Hannen Lake Shop:** Larry Reiter is looking into more options and obtaining more quotes.



- c. **Wildcat Recreation Area Development:**
 - a. Addition: Continuing to look into options.
- d. **One- Acre Parcels:** No update

Environmental Education: Public programs are full and the school program schedules are busy. Scheel reported always hearing positive things from the public.

Law Enforcement: Delay on body cameras. The rangers had a meeting to discuss the summer schedules.

BCCB Properties: Hoefle-Dulin boat ramp is open for the public year-round. Hill mentioned Minne and Williams said plans are in motion to open that access year- round. The Fen has been planted. The parks have been winterized and the gates closed. The Wildcat house retaining wall is done. Fall Family Fest at Rodgers went well. Red Cedar Cabin at Hannen got a facelift with resealing and repainting.

Budget:

- a. Board discussed feasibility and preference on additional staff for the department.

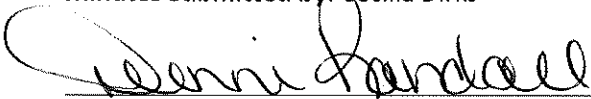
Director Updates:


- b. Staff and Director reviews were completed. Planning on reflecting such in budget.

Set next regular meeting: December 12, 2022 at 5:30 at the Benton County Nature Center.

Adjourn: Scheel moved to adjourn, seconded by Van Wey at 7:19 PM. All aye, motion passed.

Minutes Submitted by: Cecilia Dirks





Approved

Date