



Benton County Conservation Board Meeting

Monday, May 8, 2023 at 5:30 PM

Benton County Nature Center 5718 20th Ave Dr, Vinton

Members present: Becky VanWey, Mike LaGrange, Dan Hill, Randy Scheel, and Liaison Tracy Seeman

Staff present: Shelby Williams, Zach Parmater, and Layla Hagen

Call to order: Called to order at 5:35 pm.

Guests or public participation: Marlyn Jorgensen, Ann Jorgensen, Tim Jorgensen, and Cheryl Jorgensen

Consent Agenda (previous minutes, expenditures, revenues): Motion to approve by LaGrange seconded by VanWey. All aye, motion passed.

Organizations

- a. TriCounty Snowmobile Association - no update
- b. Wildcat Disc Golf Volunteers - no update
- c. Foundation - Next meeting: Tentative - Tuesday, August 15, 2023 at 7:00pm
- d. OCNT Committee - Next meeting: May 15, 2023 at 6:00pm
 - i. Vinton Trailhead - Agreement document is being worked on through the landowner and the county attorney. LaGrange met with Tama-Benton Coop about donating to the new trailhead and they have agreed to donate four loads of rock.
 - ii. Frontier Workday – Cecilia Dirks and Hagen covered a lot of ground with the Frontier volunteers on the OCNT from Garrison to the west.
 - iii. Other
- e. Winegar Equestrian Volunteers - no update

BCCB Properties and Projects

- a. Garrison Paha
 - i. Deed and Gift Approval: Motion to accept the Gift and Lease agreement and Deed from the Jorgensen's by LaGrange, seconded by Scheel. All aye, motion passed. Notary, Nancy Jorgensen, is not related to the donors.
 - ii. Grant Approval: Motion to accept the Wildlife Habitat Grant with attachments and Resolution No. 2023-01 by Scheel, seconded by VanWey. All aye, motion passed.
- b. Wells
 - i. Engineering/Samples - Rodgers Campground well sample was good. BCC is working with the DNR on well items that need to be done. Parmater has completed most of the priority list. The next step is to raise the casings of the well pits which needs to be done as soon as possible.
The Board discussed the options for the wells and work that will need to be done.
- c. Wildcat Bluff Recreation Area



- i. Tour Wildcat Bluff Recreation Area - The Board, Liaison Seeman, and staff toured Wildcat Bluff Recreation Area Addition
 - ii. Funding - \$208,000.00 raised so far. Looking into promotional opportunities to let more people know about the addition and fundraising.
 - iii. Hunting Rules – The Board discussed the County Attorney’s suggestion and safety concerns. Motion by LaGrange that once acquired, the entirety of the Wildcat Bluff Recreation Area and the new addition will be lead-free bird shot and archery only. Seconded by Scheel. All aye, motion passed.
 - iv. Planting/Management - Parmater planted cereal rye on the south side field. Board and Parmater discussed future plantings.
- d. Hannen Lake Shop - waiting on earth movers. Will start in the middle of May.
- e. Other

Old business

- a. City of Atkins - Atkins Roundhouse
 - i. Lease - no update
 - ii. Canopy Grant - Closing date was pushed to mid-May and we are waiting on that.
- b. One-acre parcels - no update

Conservation - IRM Discussion - The IRM had the department head and a member resign, so they are down to one member. This member does not currently have a CDL so Seeman is looking into maybe getting help from Secondary Roads and BCC. Parmater, Dirks, and Williams stopped at their shop and got a quick review of the equipment that the department has to help with transition.

Environmental Education - Boundary Water sign-up is out and scholarships are available. Naturalists are doing a field trip every day right now.

Law Enforcement

- a. On-call Weekends - Williams would like to implement some type of benefit for rangers as they are on call. Auditor's office and Williams discussed getting paid 1 hour minimum on days that are on call. Williams will be writing up a policy for 1 hour paid per day during on call and will be emailing it to the board for next meeting.
- b. Cam Grubic graduated the ILEA on April 21.

Director updates:

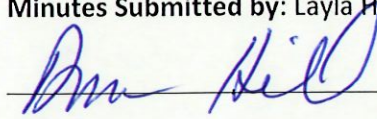
- a. Medical Aid and Response Policy - It has been suggested to not create a policy and to just base it off of our trainings.
- b. Williams updated the Board on the Insurance Inspection for the department.

Set next regular meeting: Monday, June 12, 2023 at 5:30pm, Hannen Lake Park, Hickory East Shelter (1949 Benton/Iowa Rd, Blairstown, IA)

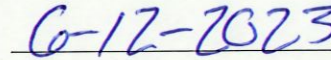


Adjourn: Motion to adjourn at 8:21pm by VanWey, seconded by Scheel. All aye, motion passed.

Minutes Submitted by: Layla Hagen



Approved



Date