



Benton County Conservation Board Meeting

Monday, August 14, 2023 at 5:30 PM

Benton County Nature Center 5718 20th Ave Dr, Vinton

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

Staff present: Shelby Williams, Ed Hach, Camryn Grubic, Layla Hagen

Call to order: Called to order at 5:30 PM by Hill.

Guests or public participation: N/A

Consent Agenda (previous minutes, expenditures, revenues): Motion approved by Scheel, 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: Tuesday, August 15, 2023 at 6:30pm
- d. OCNT Committee – Next meeting: Monday August 21, 2023 at 6:00pm
 - a. Vinton Trailhead: Gift Agreement, Deed, Appraisal - Other party is drafting up the deed.
 - b. Other - Intersection signs are installed; Historical Interpretive signs are ready to be printed; Scheel brought OCNT Trailhead plaque from Wellmark.
- e. Winegar Equestrian Volunteers - No update
- f. REAP Committee – Next Meeting: Monday, August 14th at 2:00pm - Application was approved by REAP Committee. Plan to have the next meeting in April 2024.

New Business

- a. Geological Wells - The Iowa Geological Survey is replacing current wells and have requested to look at some of our properties to look at a potential place for a new testing well. The board agreed to look into our properties.

Old Business

- a. Animal Shelter – VFW Post Lease - Williams is waiting for notice from VFW to end lease. The Food Bank turned the opportunity down. Hagen suggested a dog park for the future. Hill suggested that we continue to look for a new tenant.
- b. City of Atkins – Atkins Roundhouse
 - i. Lease - Still waiting on the attorneys.
 - ii. Canopy Grant - We received Tree Canopy Funding. Hill suggested we host an informational meeting in Atkins before any work started, once we know more.
 - iii. Cross-country Meet - BCC insurance is potentially allowing Benton County School District to host a cross-country meet under the conditions that BC School has it under their insurance.



Board discussed liability and agreed to not allow the cross country meet to take place at Atkins due to safety concerns as the park is closed.

- c. Hannen Lake
 - i. Shop - A lot of progress is being made on the new shop. The shower house near the new shop has been removed. Work has started on the outside.
- d. Wells
 - i. Engineering - All Rodgers updates (group camp hookup, restroom in cul-de-sac, host site hook-up) have been approved by Benton County Environmental Health.
 - ii. Samples - Been doing regular testing for the DNR as a public water source. Have had one issue for Rodgers, retested, came back good.
- e. Wildcat Bluff Recreation Area
 - i. Funding/Outreach - Applying for \$50,000.00 more in grants in the upcoming month. Linn County Pheasants Forever plans to give a donation to the acquisition. Williams is speaking at the Indian Tribal Council meeting next week to talk about the burial mound on the acquisition. Williams is also speaking at the Regional Title Company meeting.
 - ii. Development - Currently waiting on the engineer to move forward with the ARPA funding and shower house.
 - iii. REAP Grant - BCCB Resolution 2023-02 - Resolution read aloud at 6:50 PM. Motion to approve made by Randall, seconded by Scheel. All aye, motion passed, signed by each board member.
- f. Garrison Paha - Resubmitting the Wildlife Habitat Stamp Development grant this fall.
- g. One-Acre Parcels - No update.
- h. Conservation Easements - No update.

Environmental Education - The naturalists just got back from IAN. Currently working on their fall school scheduling.

Law Enforcement: Hach updated on Minne Estema access and group camping.

- a. Structuring - Williams and Hill discussed offering an in-house additional law enforcement role. Williams will put together a list of tasks this role would entail.

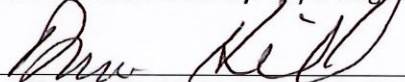
Director Update

- a. Vehicles - New Dodge Ram is in our possession. Looking to get another truck but waiting for now. New golf cart is going to Hannen Lake.

Set next meeting – Monday, September 11, 2023 at 5:30pm, Benton County Nature Center

Adjourn - Motion to adjourn at 7:55 PM made by Scheel, seconded by LaGrange. All aye, motion passed.

Minutes Submitted by: Layla Hagen



9-11-23

Approved

Date