



Benton County Conservation Board Meeting

Monday, December 11, 2023

Benton County Nature Center, 5718 20th Ave Drive, Vinton, IA

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

Staff present: Shelby Williams, Faith Hunt, Cam Grubic

Call to order: Hill called meeting to order at 5:30pm

Guests or public participation: Sam Hunter

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

1. Organizations

- a. TriCounty Snowmobile Association – MOU in April. Signs posted on all trails per agreement.
- b. Wildcat Disc Golf Volunteers – No update.
- c. Foundation – Next meeting: Tuesday, January 16th 2024 at Hannen Lake Park – Looking for a fundraiser volunteer and for ice fishing volunteers.
- d. OCNT Committee – Next meeting: Spring 2024
 - i. Vinton Trailhead – Received an updated deed. LaGrange made a motion to accept the deed, VanWey second. All aye. Motion passed.
- e. Winegar Equestrian Volunteers – No updates.
- f. REAP Committee – Next Meeting: Tentatively April 2024 - No updates.

2. New Business

- a. WRAC Grant – We are eligible to receive these grants due to rule changes. Scheel made a motion to approve WRAC grant contract, second by Randell. All aye. Motion passed.
- b. Rules and Regulations – Proposed rule and regulation changes would go into effect at the end of January 2024. Board discussed some clarifications.

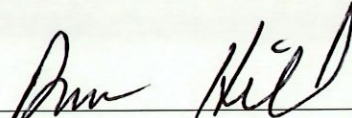
3. Old Business

- a. Animal Shelter/Old VFW Post – County Attorney is looking into steps moving forward.
- b. One-Acre Parcels – No updates.
- c. City of Atkins – Atkins Roundhouse
 - i. Lease – no updates.
 - ii. Canopy Grant – Signing agreement on Tuesday at BOS meeting. Environmental review is almost done.
- d. Hannen Lake
 - i. Shop – Submitted the last large contract claim. Currently finishing the inside, the shop is fully operational.
- e. Wildcat Bluff Recreation Area

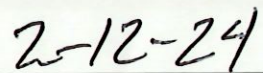


- i. Funding/Outreach - \$100K something funding through ARPA Tribal Consistency Fund, a large donor of \$250k this year and additional \$100,000 match within the next year.
 - ii. Development – Working on study for DNR and meeting with engineer. Once approved by DNR we can start bidding process.
 - f. Wells
 - i. Iowa Geological Survey Sample Station – no updates.
 - ii. Iowa Flood Center Hydrostation – no updates.
 - iii. Rodgers Park – Old shop is almost done, water is moved over, furnace is getting installed. Paid for by ARPA funds.
 - g. Garrison Paha
 - i. Wildlife Stamp Grant – Submitted. Review and selection January 19th, 2024.
 - h. Conservation Easements – No updates.
 - i. Winegar Tobin Wildlife Area – Communicating with landowner, assessor’s office, and attorney’s office.
- 4. **Environmental Education** - Newsletter going out this week. Received REAP CEP \$10,000 grant to send 68 Iowa environmental educators to a workshop.
- 5. **Law Enforcement** – Grubic spoke on an incident that happened at Hannen Lake with Scouts.
- 6. **Director Updates**
 - a. Budget Updates – Only change to budget will be benefits and salaries, which got rounded up to the nearest dollars. Will be submitted this week.
 - b. Board Members – Several applications. Thank you to Randall for her serving on the Board.
- 7. **Set next meeting** – Monday, January 8, 2024 at 5:30pm, Hannen Lake Park Main Shop.
- 8. **Adjourn** – Randall made a motion to end the meeting at 6:41pm, LaGrange 2nd, all Aye. Motion passed.

Minutes Submitted by: Faith Hunt



Approved



Date