



Benton County Conservation Board Meeting

Monday, January 8, 2024

Virtual Meeting via Google Meet at 5 pm – snow day

Members present: Dan Hill, Mike LaGrange, Randy Scheel, Becky VanWey, Samantha Hunter, Supervisor Liaison Tracy Seeman

Staff present: Zach Parmater, Shelby Williams, Faith Hunt, Camryn Grubic, Aaron Askelson

Call to order: 5:03 pm by Mike LaGrange

Board Member Oath: Samantha Hunter was sworn in earlier in the month prior to meeting.

Guests or public participation: None

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

1. Organizations

- a. TriCounty Snowmobile Association - Additional signs to post on properties.
- b. Wildcat Disc Golf Volunteers - Disc Golfers using the course during shotgun season and addressed by Park Ranger.
- c. Foundation – Next meeting: Tuesday, January 16th 2024, 6:30 pm at Hannen Lake Park - BCCF is still looking for a fundraising champion.
- d. OCNT Committee – Next meeting: Spring 2024
 - i. Vinton Trailhead - Assessor's Office has it recorded. Grants will be looked into to make the trailhead possible.
- e. Winegar Equestrian Volunteers - Recent donor is interested in spearheading some fundraising for this.
- f. REAP Committee – Next Meeting: Tentatively April 2024- No updates.

2. New Business

- a. Rules and Regulations - Scheel made a motion to approve rule changes, Hill seconded. All aye, motion passed. Rules updates will be posted this month on websites, social media, parks, etc. They are enforceable after 10 days of posting.

3. Old Business

- a. Animal Shelter/Old VFW Post - No update
- b. One-Acre Parcels - No update
- c. City of Atkins – Atkins Roundhouse
 - i. Lease - No updates
 - ii. Canopy Grant - Waiting on environmental review. Will start preparing for the bid process.
- d. Hannen Lake
 - i. Shop - Ice fishing tournament is still pending snowfall amounts and temperature changes.

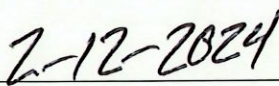


- ii. Shop budget - Big ticket items have been purchased.
 - e. Wildcat Bluff Recreation Area
 - i. Funding/Outreach – Currently have \$725,000 committed. Met with donors of \$250,000 last week and have secured \$100,000 to do a 1-1 match. Will be posted on social media this week. Donor agreed to be a point of contact for the Rockwell grant.
 - ii. Development - Wells self-assessment has been submitted to IDNR engineer.
 - f. Wells
 - i. Iowa Geological Survey Sample Station - No update.
 - ii. Iowa Flood Center Hydrostation - Will be out to flag locations in early March.
 - iii. Rodgers Park - Water samples submitted; buttoning up items for sampling and finishing shop.
 - g. Garrison Paha
 - i. Wildlife Stamp Grant - BCC goes before committee on January 19th to review grant. BCC has asked for more money since last time. Asked for \$48,000 (75% of project budget).
 - h. Conservation Easements – No update
 - i. Winegar Tobin Wildlife Area - No update
4. Environmental Education - Naturalists received acknowledgment from IAN for completing 20 hours of professional development in Environmental Education. They are busy with in-school programming and REAP CEP documentation.
5. Law Enforcement - Rangers are working on Spring CCPOA at Hannen Lake Park for a unique and hands-on conference on March 19th, 2024.
6. Director Updates
- a. Budget Updates - Waiting for review and approval from BOS. Williams would like to send out a strategic plan and get public input on what they would like to see in 15 years. Suggested a work session day then looking at all aspects of the multi-step process. Looking at utilizing Wildcat Ranger Residence as a rental facility. Have to talk with the BOS to make the revenue for conservation.
7. Set next meeting – Monday, February 12, 2024 at 5:30 pm, at Benton County Nature Center
8. Adjourn - Motion to adjourn at 6:01 pm by Scheel, Seconded by Hunter. All Aye, motion passed.

Minutes Submitted by: Faith Hunt



Approved



Date