

WINNEBAGO COUNTY CONSERVATION BOARD

Regular Meeting, Monday, November 14, 2022 – 8:00 A.M.
At the Thorpe Park Office, 34496 110th Ave., Forest City, Iowa 50436

Minutes

Board Members

Jeff Schmidt
Nancy Helm
Mike Korth
Julie Hagenson
Tim Missal

Guests

Don Holtan
Kendra Hanson
Kevin Hanson
Mike Hengesteg

Staff Present

Robert Schwartz
Lisa Ralls
Nicole Templeton
Rick Lillie

Chairman Schmidt called the meeting to order at 8:00 A.M.

The October 10, 2022 meeting agenda was approved with a motion from Korth, seconded by Helm. Unanimous. Motion carried.

A motion was made by Helm, seconded by Korth to approve the November 14, 2022 Board meeting minutes. Unanimous. Motion carried.

Work and budget reports were reviewed. Schwartz reported that the Tenold Tract wetland restoration work has been completed.

The Hogsback Target Range operation was discussed. Neighbors to the range in attendance addressed the shooting hours and the large amount of use it gets especially on weekends. They asked if the shooting hours and/or days of the week could be changed. Schwartz gave an overview of a range operated in southeast Iowa by another County Conservation Board. The range is unsupervised but requires safety training, testing and a paid permit with an annual refresher course. Their range also requires all users sign a registry with each use. The range operates with very few problems. After discussion, the Board instructed Schwartz to work on a plan to incorporate safety training, testing, paid permits, refresher course and daily registration. Schwartz will report back at the next meeting.

Nature Center updates. A motion was made by Missal, seconded by Schmidt, to approve pay request #2 from Kingland Construction Services in the amount of \$113,454.50, Martin Gardner Architecture invoice #2200065 for \$4,525.41 and Chosen Valley Testing Inc. invoice #46404 for \$672.50. Unanimous. Motion carried.

Nature Center fundraising was discussed.

After review, the low bid of \$20,942.50 from Arnie's Pump Service, Rake, Iowa to drill the Nature Center well was approved contingent upon it meeting the minimum

specifications identified by the Iowa Department of Natural Resources with a motion from Helm, seconded by Korth. Unanimous. Motion carried. Schwartz will send the bids to Veenstra-Kim Engineering for a review of the specifications provided.

There was a discussion about closing the Thorpe Park Cabin for the winter months due to low rental use during that time. Schwartz indicated he will likely close the cabin after the first week of December and until March or April of 2023.

Schwartz informed the Board that Winnebago County has hired a consultant to develop a new web site which will encompass all departments. Schwartz indicated that he and Ralls had met with the consultant about the benefits of participating in this move which will be beneficial. The switch to a new web site will take several months to complete.

The bills were approved with a motion from Helm, seconded by Schmidt. Unanimous. Motion carried.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:44 A.M. with a motion from Helm, seconded by Schmidt. Unanimous. Motion carried.

Respectfully Submitted,

Robert Schwartz
Executive Director

Chairman

Secretary