

Clay County Conservation Board

Meeting Minutes

March 11, 2019

The Clay County Conservation Board met on March 11, 2019 at 5:30 PM. The following being present: Lee Schoenewe; Hope Bumgarner; Ron Creswell; Bree Blom, Naturalist; Kevin Maassen, Chief Park Ranger; and Will Horsley, Director.

#1. Chairman Lee Schoenewe called the meeting to order.

#2. Approval of Agenda – Motion to approve the March 11, 2019 meeting agenda by Hope, seconded by Ron, all in favor. Motion carried.

#3. Public Comments – None

#4. Approval of Minutes – Motion to approve the February 11, 2019 meeting minutes by Ron, seconded by Hope, all in favor. Motion carried.

#5. Director Report – A current FY revenue and annual expenditure report was provided to the CCCB members. Will gave an overview on current projects, construction, training, and meetings attended.

#6. Naturalist Report – A verbal report was provided to the CCCB members on Bree's recent and upcoming work activities, educational courses, youth camps, and training. Bree is currently interviewing seasonal Naturalist applicants to assist her with summer educational programs and camps.

Old Business:

#8. Oneota Environmental Learning Center – A project update was reported to the board members. There was discussion on the current public awareness campaign, upcoming events, and fundraising options. Funding sources were discussed as documents are currently being composed to support future grant applications. There was discussion on upcoming construction plans and appropriate timing.

#9. Donahoo Property – There was discussion on upcoming management goals between the CCCB and BVCCB. Dordt College environmental students have selected the Donahoo property to be their subject regarding a large-scale project. This project will result in an in-depth environmental and wildlife management plan. There was discussion on the appropriations of grant funds supporting this property purchase. Currently, there are two grant applications the CCCB is still waiting to hear from regarding potential funding. There will be opportunities to defend these two grant applications in the upcoming months.

New Business:

#10. Ocheyedan Shooting Range – A project update was provided to the board members. Will met with several IDNR representatives on February 27th to discuss safety concerns, management agreements, legal documentation, and required range improvements. Will is currently working with the IDNR on a long-term management agreement that allows the CCCB to address the range improvements and construction. There was discussion on the need for short-range pistol shooting bays. It was estimated the CCCB could begin this construction in the upcoming months upon IDNR approval.

#11. DD37 – Lee provided an update to the CCCB members and staff. Additional options to address the current issues have been suggested and proposed to all vested participants in DD37. Currently, meetings taking place to explore all positive options available. There was discussion on working with

land owners to create wetland acres on their low areas that are subject to increased water. Public funding will be available in the next two years to specifically address these types of projects.

#12. Audit and Approval of Bills – The CCCB members reviewed claims from 39 vendors. Any questions regarding the current CCCB bills/claims were explained and discussed. Motion by Hope to approve all presented claims, seconded by Ron, all in favor. Motion carried.

#13. Adjournment

Darrell Frerichs, Secretary

Date