

# Clay County Conservation Board

## Meeting Minutes

May 20, 2019

The Clay County Conservation Board met on May 20, 2019 at 6:30 PM. The following being present: Lee Schoenewe; Hope Bumgarner; Darrell Frerichs; John Sheridan; Ron Creswell; Burlin Mathews, B.O.S.; Bree Blom, Naturalist; Kevin Maassen, Chief Park Ranger; and Will Horsley, Director and Ted Kourousis, NWIPDC.

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

**#2. Approval of Agenda** – Motion to approve the May 20, 2019 meeting agenda by Ron, seconded by Hope, all in favor. Motion carried.

**#3. Public Comments** – None

**#4. Approval of Minutes** – Motion to approve the April 8, 2019 meeting minutes by Hope, seconded by Ron, 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, seasonal employees, prescribed fire operations, wildlife food plots, park / recreational area conditions, upcoming 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 gave a report on the "Wings and Wetlands" event held on May 10<sup>th</sup> in Scharnberg Park. This event was very well received with approximately 300 people in attendance.

### **Old Business:**

**#7. Oneota Environmental Learning Center** – A project update was reported to the board members. Mr. Ted Kourousis, NWIPDC, presented funding options and his professional opinion on the project. All upcoming grants and funding sources were discussed. There was discussion on prioritizing funding sources and grants, and how to aggressively pursue each resource. In order to proceed forward with grant writing and funding sources, a construction plan with cost estimates will be required. Will has been in contact with CMBA and a local construction contractor regarding these construction plans and expense reports. These documents will be completed in the upcoming weeks and presented during the upcoming CCCB meeting. The August 7<sup>th</sup> OELC fundraiser and public awareness campaign was discussed.

**#8. FEMA #4386** – An update and report was presented regarding the current FEMA project and upcoming work that is required to rectify damages. Scharnberg Park repairs were discussed by the CCCB members. Request for bid proposals were sent out to eight local contractors in order to make required repairs to the two park jetties and the one shoreline walkway. Three contractors submitted applicable bids for this work. All three bids were reviewed and discussed. There were questions and additional discussion on the contractor's documents and proposed work. It was suggested we contact the three contractors to seek further information on the work, volume of materials, and labor. Further assessments regarding this work will take place during the CCCB's June meeting.

**#9. Summit Township Gravel Pits** – Updates regarding this property acquisition and wildlife management plans were discussed. The Clay County Engineer’s office and Secondary Roads Department have been very busy working to make repairs to public roadways and are still utilizing this gravel pit area. It has been estimated the completion of this property acquisition to occur within the next six months. There was discussion on the CCCB staff continuing to move forward with the wildlife management plan and the planting of a native grass/forbs mix on the previously cropped acres of this farm. There was discussion on the Law Enforcement shooting facility located on the area and the construction of a new shooting range being developed for the local Law Enforcement agencies on a new site.

**New Business:**

**#10. FEMA #4421** – A report was provided regarding Wanata Park and the flood damage that has occurred to the area during the 2019 Spring season. Will is currently working with the FEMA, Iowa Homeland Security / Emergency Management and the Clay County Engineer’s office on this project. Significant repairs will be required to the Wanata Park roadway and parking areas. There was discussion on the type of construction and estimated expenses required to repair the park to pre-flood conditions. It was suggested to consider utilizing heavy native vegetation throughout the area of the roadway to slow current velocity and to mitigate future erosion. It has been estimated that FEMA representatives will be conducting site evaluations and inspections in the near future.

**#11. Audit and Approval of Bills** – The CCCB members reviewed claims from 33 vendors. Any questions regarding the current CCCB bills/claims were explained and discussed. Motion by Hope to approve all presented claims, seconded by Darrell, all in favor. Motion carried.

**#12. Adjournment** - Chairman Lee Schoenewe adjourned the meeting.

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Darrell Frerichs, Secretary

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Date