

Clay County Conservation Board

Meeting Minutes

April 12, 2021

The Clay County Conservation Board met on April 12, 2021 at 5:30 PM at the Oneota Lodge with a Zoom Meeting option. The following being present: Hope Bumgarner; Lee Schoenewe; Sheriffa Jones; Ron Creswell; Burlin Mathews, B.O.S.; Bree Blom, Naturalist; CMBA Representatives; and Will Horsley, Director.

#1. The meeting was called to order at 5:33 PM.

#2. Approval of Agenda – Motion to approve the April 12, 2021 meeting agenda by Ron, seconded by Hope, all in favor. Motion carried.

#3. Public Comments – NA

#4. Approval of Minutes – Motion to approve the March 8th, 2021 meeting minutes by Ron, seconded by Sheriffa, all in favor. Motion carried.

#5. Director Report – The current FY revenue and expenditure reports were provided to the CCCB members. Updates were given on prescribed fire operations, park maintenance, BCHIA events, annual inventory documents, BFI application process, public trails update, IACCB/ICCS, and current meetings attended.

#6. Naturalist Report – A monthly report was provided on educational classes, programs, and courses. There was discussion pertaining the online registration through mycountyparks.com. The Naturalists continue to be very busy as they frequent all public and private schools in Clay County. A report was provided on new church programs, summer camps, field trips, ILCC and library programs.

Old Business:

#7. Oneota Environmental Learning Center – CMBA representatives provided an update on the OELC project and answered questions on current building expenses. Some building materials are very hard to procure and are currently 25-40 percent more in cost than 12 months ago. OELC fiscal resources were discussed, and it was suggested to have another meeting with CMBA representatives pertaining the first construction phase of the OELC project. There was discussion on the current public awareness campaign and OELC fundraising/promotional efforts. CCCB members reviewed three bids from local promotional companies who could provide the documentation needed for the OELC campaign. There was discussion on a brochure, pledge card, and other documents to be designed for the OELC project. Motion by Sheriffa, seconded by Ron, to hire KT Photography and Design to draft up and print the OELC documents. A meeting will be set with KT Photography and Design to begin drafting the OELC documents next week.

New Business:

#8. IDOT State Recreational Trail Funding – A report was provided pertaining to a current IDOT funding source established to promote public recreational trails. There was discussion on Oneota Park and the ability to design and develop a recreational trail from the existing hard-surface trail west of the OELC, east 1.4 miles through the Oneota Prairie stopping along the east bypass roadway. There was discussion on estimated trail costs, IDOT grant specifications, and timing. All CCCB members agreed to continue pursuing the grant application through the IDOT grant. More information on this grant application will be presented during the upcoming CCCB meeting.

#9. Lost Island Park Maintenance Contract – Two bids were reviewed for the 2021 annual maintenance contract for Lost Island Park. There was discussion on the annual work objectives, restroom facility, and lawn care. Motion by Sheriffa, seconded by Hope, to award the 2021 contract to Tim Murphy. All in favor. There was discussion on offering a maintenance contract starting in the Spring of 2022 for a three-year term instead of an annually term. It was suggested this would benefit the CCCB as well as the contractor pertaining to the contract.

#10. FEMA – Wanata Park Roadway Repair - An overview of the current FEMA project was provided, and public bidding documents were discussed. All CCCB members signed the current project repair plans and public bidding documents. Will has been working with the Clay County Engineer on this project and the FEMA bid will be awarded to a contractor on May 10, 2021. The Clay County Engineer will be able to assist while the CCCB selects a contractor to take on the roadway repair during the May CCCB meeting.

#11. Audit and Approval of Bills – The CCCB members reviewed current claims from 32 vendors. All questions regarding the current CCCB bills/claims were explained and discussed. Motion by Ron to approve all presented claims, seconded by Hope, all in favor. Motion carried.

#11. Adjournment – adjournment of the meeting.

CCCB, Secretary

Date