

Clay County Conservation Board

Meeting Minutes

August 10, 2020

The Clay County Conservation Board met at the Oneota Lodge, with a zoom meeting option, on August 10, 2020 at 5:30 PM. The following being present: Lee Schoenewe; Hope Bumgarner; Ron Creswell; John Sheridan; Bree Blom, Naturalist; Burlin Mathews, B.O.S.; and Will Horsley, Director.

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

#2. Approval of Agenda – Motion to approve the August 10, 2020 meeting agenda by Hope, seconded by Ron, all in favor. Motion carried.

#3. Public Comments – NA

#4. Approval of Minutes – Motion to approve the July 13, 2020 meeting minutes by Hope, seconded by John, all in favor. Motion carried.

#5. Director Report – The current FY revenue and expenditure reports were provided to the CCCB members. Will reported updates pertaining to current grant opportunities, park maintenance, wildlife habitat projects, wetland mitigation/tree planting efforts, wildlife food plots, native prairie maintenance, FEMA, and Scharnberg Park.

#6. Naturalist Report – A verbal report was provided on current and upcoming educational classes, programs, and courses. Both naturalists have been busy scheduling programs and classes in the Clay County schools and with additional groups. Bree reported on upcoming public educational programs with the IDNR. There was discussion on the “Drive-thru Halloween Hike” at Scharnberg Park on October 3rd. There was discussion on PPE and new protocol while educating groups.

Old Business:

#7. Oneota Environmental Learning Center – A progress report was provided as Will has been working with CMBA Architects, as they have started the “Design and Development” phase to the OELC project. Civil engineers and contractors have been frequenting the OELC structure and shooting elevations on the building. There was discussion on public fire codes, ADA compliances, and alternative energy sources (geothermal & solar). Updated delineations and specifications were presented to the CCCB members. Upcoming meetings have been scheduled through CMBA and their engineers. There was discussion on funding opportunities and grants.

New Business:

#8. Resource Enhancement and Protection Grant – The 2020 REAP grant was presented to the CCCB members. This grant covers all aspects of the OELC construction and Oneota Campus.

This document stresses the importance of Reduce, Reuse, and Recycle, as well as youth education. The REAP grant request is in the amount of \$329,400.00. There was discussion on the project and REAP review committee. Motion to approve, sign, and submit the current REAP grant by Hope, seconded by Ron, all in favor. Motion carried.

#9. IRVM Report – A report was provided pertaining to the Integrated Roadside Vegetation Management and current operations. During the 2020 Spring/Summer seasons a strong majority of the complaints filed through the Weed Commissioners were regarding invasive and noxious weed species. There was discussion on updating a UTV to promote more efficient work. A LRTF grant would be available to fiscally support this acquisition during the 2021 year.

#10. Inventory Update & Equipment Sales/Acquisitions – A report was provided on the CCCB’s current master inventory and equipment list. Will explained the document and any/all questions were discussed. There was discussion on outdated equipment and tools that may need to be replaced. HD tractor mowers were discussed as they are utilized in many work applications. Price quotes were presented on new mower options. Motion by Ron to purchase a Woods batwing mower for \$13,325.00, seconded by Hope, all in favor. Motion carried. Other equipment and vehicles were discussed on the inventory list.

#11. Audit and Approval of Bills – The CCCB members reviewed current claims from 30 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.

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

CCCB, Secretary

Date