

Clay County Conservation Board

Meeting Minutes

December 14, 2020

The Clay County Conservation Board met at the Oneota Lodge, with a Zoom meeting option, on December 14, 2020 at 5:30 PM. The following being present: Hope Bumgarner; Ron Creswell; Sheriffa Jones; Burlin Mathews, B.O.S.; Bree Blom, Naturalist; Kevin Maassen, Chief Ranger; and Will Horsley, Director.

#1. The meeting was called to order at 5:37 PM.

#2. Approval of Agenda – Motion to approve the December 14, 2020 meeting agenda by Ron, seconded by Sheriffa, all in favor. Motion carried.

#3. Public Comments – NA

#4. Approval of Minutes – Motion to approve the November 9, 2020 meeting minutes by Sheriffa, seconded by Ron, all in favor. Motion carried.

#5. Director Report – The current FY revenue and expenditure reports were provided to the CCCB members. Updates were provided on FEMA / Iowa Homeland Security, the 2020 wildlife habitat stamp grant, staff training and safety courses, park maintenance, and community / district meetings. There was discussion on the volume of current Oneota Lodge and Scharnberg Park cabin rentals during the Covid-19 pandemic.

#6. Naturalist Report – A verbal and electronic annual report was provided on educational classes, programs, and courses. There was discussion on the volume of student participation during the 2020 year, even though many of Bree's programs were altered based around Covid-19. Bree is currently busy with No School Camps and other educational public programs. A report was provided on upcoming 2021 goals and objectives.

Old Business:

#7. Oneota Environmental Learning Center – A monthly progress report was provided pertaining to the OELC project. There was discussion on the OELC soil testing provided by CTS Engineering. The soil testing analysis was received by the CCCB staff and results were positive. No discrepancies were found in or around the OELC building during the soil testing procedures. There was discussion on the OELC public awareness campaign and future fundraising events. The current OELC brochure will be updated and distributed throughout the community to promote awareness.

#8. 2021 – 2022 FY Budget – A report was provided on the 2021 – 2022 FY budgeting process and budgeting worksheets. A tentative budget was provided on the Conservation and Weed Commissioners FY expenditures/revenues. There was discussion on the hiring of a full-time Park Ranger and a part-time Naturalist. There was discussion on the potential of additional revenue sources for the upcoming FY. A report was provided on estimated FEMA expenses and reimbursements during the upcoming FY. A budget amendment may be required.

New Business:

#9. 5-2-1-0 Healthy Iowa – A report was provided on Iowa’s current 5-2-1-0 campaign and local community support for the program. NWIPD is working with local agencies and individuals to compose action plans for a City of Spencer 5-2-1-0 application. The CCCB has submitted an action plan in order to support a H2O component to the OELC playscape area. This H2O component would promote youth being outdoors, physical exercise, and provide seasonal learning objectives based on water quality and natural resources.

#10. CC Service ICBA Bancard – There was discussion on the CCCB credit card services through Farmer Trust and Savings Bank. In order to ensure credit card security and mitigate potential future fraud, ICBA Bancard is requiring the CCCB to approve a resolution supporting their security efforts. Motion by Sheriffa, to approve the ICBA Bancard/CCCB resolution, seconded by Hope, all in favor. Motion carried.

#11. Audit and Approval of Bills – The CCCB members reviewed current claims from 34 vendors. All 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.

#12. Adjournment – adjournment of the meeting.

CCCB, Secretary

Date