

Clay County Conservation Board

Meeting Minutes

February 8, 2021

The Clay County Conservation Board met at the Oneota Lodge, with a Zoom meeting option, on February 8, 2021 at 5:30 PM. The following being present: Hope Bumgarner; Ron Creswell; Sheriffa Jones; John Sheridan, Lee Schoenewe, Burlin Mathews, B.O.S.; Kevin Maassen, Chief Park Ranger; Bree Blom, Naturalist; and Will Horsley, Director.

#1. The meeting was called to order at 5:34 PM.

#2. Approval of Agenda – Motion to approve the February 8, 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 January 11, 2021 meeting minutes by Hope, 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 mycountyparks.com/camping reservations, the hiring process of one full-time Park Ranger and three seasonal conservation aides, park maintenance, FEMA, Bird Friendly Iowa, and upcoming IACCB meetings / training.

#6. Naturalist Report – A monthly report was provided on educational classes, programs, and courses. There was discussion on current winter programs, and Bree has had great success with her snowshoeing and ice fishing events. Upcoming programs, courses, and summer camps are currently be planned. There are several new environmental education programs being developed.

Old Business:

#7. Bertram Reservation / BCHIA – A report was provided regarding the Back-Country Horseman of Iowa equestrian group. There was discussion on equestrian riding trails, trail maintenance efforts and park improvements the BCHIA conducted during 2020. Recently, the BCHIA presented and proposed a MOU document to the CCCB. There was discussion on the MOU document, and it was strongly suggested the Clay County Attorney's office reviews this document. There was discussion on the perpetual use of the area for equestrian riding. A report was provided on access points into the park and trail systems that are only steep sloping hills and native prairie acres. The MOU will be forwarded to the Clay County Attorney's office for a legal opinion.

#8. Oneota Environmental Learning Center – A update was provided on the OELC project. There was discussion on future fundraising and promotional efforts to raise project awareness. Vertical Marketing & Design (VMD) forwarded a proposal to establish a capital campaign for the OELC project. VMD's proposal was discussed by CCCB members and staff. It was suggested to

have a contractor draft new and attractive project brochures and documents to be utilized during the future fundraising campaign. It was advised to contact VMD and have them provide more details into what their proposed pre-planning and feasibility phase of the capital campaign consists of. There was discussion on contacting additional marketing companies to get additional information on services provided and commission rates and/or fees. Project information will be requested by VMD, additional research will be conducted, and a report will be provided during next CCCB meetings.

New Business:

#9. Kindlespire Complex / Burr Area Addition – Information was presented on 76 acres of land that is currently being advertised through Midwest Land Management and will be sold on March 4th. The 76-acre property adjoins to the Burr Wildlife Area on the SW side. There was discussion on the quality of the land as the CSR values/acre are high. It was estimated the land could be sold for a premium market value and may be converted from CRP to crop production in the future. There was further discussion on projects the CCCB is currently working to complete and questions on current fiscal resources. It was advised to investigate the property more and follow up with an analysis in the upcoming weeks.

#10. Audit and Approval of Bills – The CCCB members reviewed current claims from 28 vendors. All questions regarding the current CCCB bills/claims were explained and discussed. Motion by Ron to approve all presented claims, seconded by John, all in favor. Motion carried.

#11. Adjournment – adjournment of the meeting.

CCCB, Secretary

Date