

Clay County Conservation Board

Meeting Minutes

January 11, 2021

The Clay County Conservation Board met at the Oneota Lodge, with a Zoom meeting option, on January 11, 2021 at 5:30 PM. The following being present: Hope Bumgarner; Ron Creswell; Sheriffa Jones; John Sheridan, Lee Schoenewe, Burlin Mathews, B.O.S.; Bree Blom, Naturalist; and Will Horsley, Director.

#1. The meeting was called to order at 5:32 PM.

#2. Approval of Agenda – Motion to approve the January 11, 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 December 14, 2020 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 FEMA / Iowa Homeland Security, FY 2021 – 22 budget, new employee hires, bird friendly Iowa, 5-2-1-0/NWIPD, Ocheyedon Shooting Range, and the Rivertown Wildlife Area addition project. Grants through the IDNR and Pheasants Forever will be reviewed and scored in mid-January. There was discussion on future livestock grazing options in order to better support the CCCB's ecological goals to suppress cool-season grasses and promote native plant species.

#6. Naturalist Report – A report was provided on educational classes, programs, and courses. There was discussion on the current and future school programs as well as the high volume of public events that are being offered by the CCCB educational staff. A report was provided on the CCCB purchasing snowshoes and having them available for rent to park guests. Bree will continue research on the topic.

Old Business:

#7. Oneota Environmental Learning Center – A report was provided pertaining to the latest correspondence with CMBA. There was discussion on future project objectives being focused around fundraising efforts for 2021. It was suggested a fiscal summary being composed to better provide what fiscal resources are required. There was discussion on funding sources to include; grants, donations, and local funds. It was suggested we contact a local marketing / advertising company to provide options on better forms of advertising. There was discussion on CCCB members meeting with OCF members in order to set OELC goals for the 2021. A report was provided on the 5-2-1-0 project and the CCCB was successful on a \$4,500.00 grant to support the OELC Playscape. There was further discussion on a training opportunity that would allow the CCCB to potentially capture another \$5,000.00 for the Playscape development

through the State of Iowa and NC University. It was suggested to have Britney Snell, Assistant Naturalist take this training. Motion to have Mrs. Snell take the training in order to better her professional skills and support the OELC Playscape by Hope, seconded by Ron, all in favor. Motion carried.

New Business:

#8. Kindlespire Complex Trail System – A report was provided on the current condition of the trails system in the park complex. Much of the recreational trail and several of the hiking bridges are now unpassable. It was suggested to assess the trail system and create a new trail that is on the higher ground and not subject to future soil erosion. There was discussion on the age of the bridges and how it is most certainly time to replace them. It was suggested to contact a local youth organization recruit their interest in the project. A map of the trail system will be composed and more discussion on the trail renovation will be discussed in the future.

#9. Little Sioux River Access – There was discussion on the increasing request for more river access points along the river systems in Clay county. Water recreation on the Little Sioux River has increased significantly in current years. A report was provided on the possibility of developing a water access point west of Gillett Grove as a new bridge is currently being constructed. There was discussion on flooding, size of access point, parking area, and user safety. It was suggested we look at areas of higher elevation to support the guest parking. More research will be conducted, and a future report will be provided in upcoming meetings.

#10. 2021 Organizational Business – There was discussion on 2021 CCCB Officers, the re-appointment of a current CCCB member, and the future dates/times of meetings. It was suggested the current procedures are working well and the CCCB could elect to maintain the same format as 2020 for 2021. Motion by Ron, to maintain current CCCB officers, re-appointment of CCCB member, and establish the same meeting times/dates for 2021, seconded by Sheriffa, all in favor. Motion carried.

#11. Audit and Approval of Bills – The CCCB members reviewed current claims from 26 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.

#12. Adjournment – adjournment of the meeting.

CCCB, Secretary

Date

