

Clay County Conservation Board

Meeting Minutes

July 13, 2020

The Clay County Conservation Board met at the Oneota Lodge, with a zoom meeting option, on July 13, 2020 at 5:30 PM. The following being present: Lee Schoenewe; Hope Bumgarner; Ron Creswell; Sheriffa Jones; Bree Blom, Naturalist; Kevin Maassen, Chief Ranger, Burlin Mathews, B.O.S.; Matt Barstad, CMBA; and Will Horsley, Director.

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

#2. Approval of Agenda – Motion to approve the July 13, 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 June 8, 2020 meeting minutes by Hope, seconded by Sheriffa, all in favor. Motion carried.

#5. Director Report – The current FY revenue and expenditure reports were provided to the CCCB members. A report was provided regarding the current cattle grazing contract on acres of the Kindlespire Complex. There was discussion pertaining to current park maintenance, wildlife habitat projects, wetland mitigation/tree planting efforts, wildlife food plots, native prairie planting, invasive weed and brush removal, and Scharnberg Park cabin/campground operations.

#6. Naturalist Report – A verbal report was provided on current and upcoming educational classes, programs, and courses. The two Naturalists have been very successful with their “Pop Up” environmental education programs and public events. Online program/camp reservations have been well utilized through Mycountyparks.com. This reservation system has promoted the health and safety of CCCB guests and staff. There was discussion on upcoming summer youth camps and event venues throughout the CCCB areas, as well as a progress made on the OELC playscape project.

Old Business:

#7. Oneota Environmental Learning Center – A presentation was provided by Matt Barstad, CMBA Architects, on the upcoming “Design and Development” phase to the OELC project. There were questions on future expenses and CMBA’s staff/contractors who would be assigned to conduct this phase of work. It was suggested to CMBA to hire local engineers and contractors in order to continue the design and development of the OELC project. Updates were provided on the USDA loan/grant program, as verbal commitments have been secured through SMU and ILEC to sponsor the OELC project. Motion by Sheriffa to hire CMBA for the “Design and Development” phase of the OELC project an amount not to exceed \$65,000.00, seconded by Hope, all in favor. Motion carried.

#8. FEMA/Iowa Homeland Security & Emergency Management Update – A current FEMA report was provided. All FEMA based park repairs pertaining to disaster #4386 and #4421 have been completed at this time, except the Wanata Park Roadway. A Wanata Park Roadway repair plan has been composed by the Clay County Engineers office to include a project mitigation component. The project repair plans were previously submitted and recently approved by FEMA/Iowa Homeland Security to include the project mitigation. Clay County would be responsible for 25% of the total repair plan expense (app. \$54,844.00). Motion by Ron to accept the FEMA project funds in the amount of \$219,379.00 for the Wanata Park Roadway repair, seconded by Hope, all in favor. Motion carried. There was discussion on continuing to work with the Clay County Engineers office and the solicitation of project bids from local contractors.

New Business:

#10. Scharnberg Park Recreational Update – A report was provided on current operations and procedures at Scharnberg Park. There was discussion on the volume of guests and campers, who continue to utilize the park for their outdoor recreational activities. With Covid-19 precautionary measures in place, Scharnberg Park continues to be a popular venue. There was discussion on the upcoming public activities and the October “Halloween Hike” public event. With guest safety being the CCCB’s top priority, it was suggested to offer a drive-thru style Halloween event which would mitigate public exposure. There are concerns regarding the flow and speed of traffic while they tour park and visual displays. All CCCB personnel would need to participate in order to successfully offer this style of public event. Future discussion will take place during upcoming CCCB meetings.

#11. Audit and Approval of Bills – The CCCB members reviewed current claims from 62 vendors. All questions regarding the current CCCB bills/claims were explained and discussed. Motion by Sheriffa to approve all presented claims, seconded by Hope, all in favor. Motion carried.

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

CCCB, Secretary

Date