

# Clay County Conservation Board

## Meeting Minutes

March 8, 2021

The Clay County Conservation Board met via Zoom Meeting on March 8, 2021 at 5:30 PM. The following being present: Hope Bumgarner; John Sheridan; Lee Schoenewe; Burlin Mathews, B.O.S.; Bree Blom, Naturalist; and Will Horsley, Director.

**#1.** The meeting was called to order at 5:35 PM.

**#2. Approval of Agenda** – Motion to approve the March 8, 2021 meeting agenda by John, seconded by Hope, all in favor. Motion carried.

**#3. Public Comments** – NA

**#4. Approval of Minutes** – Motion to approve the February 8, 2021 meeting minutes by John, seconded by Hope, 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, park maintenance, FEMA, Bird Friendly Iowa, and potential property acquisitions.

**#6. Naturalist Report** – A monthly report was provided on educational classes, programs, and courses. There was discussion on current programs. Bree and Britany have offered overnight environmental programs recently with great success. Upcoming programs, courses, and summer camps are currently be planned. There was discussion on the upcoming 6<sup>th</sup> grade outdoor educational day.

### **Old Business:**

**#7. Oneota Environmental Learning Center** – A update was provided on the OELC project. There was discussion on the current public awareness campaign and future OELC fundraising/promotional efforts. It was suggested by the OCF board members to contact KT photo and design in order to solicit bids pertaining this advertising/marketing work. There was discussion on a new and attractive project brochure, pledge card, and other documents to be designed for the future fundraising campaign. Other local advertising/marketing companies were contacted, and bids were requested.

**#8. FT Park Ranger & Seasonal Conservation Aide Positions-** A report was provided on the applications, interviews, and hiring process for a FT Park Ranger and seasonal Conservation Aide positions. Four applicants were interviewed for the FT Park Ranger position and Mr. Beau Hoppe has accepted the position to begin on April 1<sup>st</sup>. Mr. Hoppe has years of service in the IACCB system and holds many of the professional credentials required for the position. Seasonal conservation aide applications are currently being accepted and five seasonal employees have been hired with one available position left open.

**New Business:**

**#9. WRAC Grant Lost Island Park** – A report was provided on the condition of the boat ramp/water access at Lost Island Park. With increased usage over the years the current boat ramp is deteriorating and limiting watercraft access. There was discussion on funding sources, engineering, and project timing. The Water Recreation Access Cost-Share grant was suggested regarding supporting this project. Mike Hawkins, IDNR Fisheries Biologist, is willing to assist in the development of this project and is a strong supporter. There was discussion on pouring a ramp extra wide where a portable dock could be placed in the center of the concrete pad and two water access points could be utilized on each side of the dock. Public parking was also discussed, and it was suggested to work with the IDNR on the property directly south of the Lost Island Park. Motion by John to progress with the project development and WRAC grant, seconded by Hope, all in favor. Motion passed.

**#10. 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 Hope to approve all presented claims, seconded by John, all in favor. Motion carried.

**#11. Adjournment** – adjournment of the meeting.

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CCCB, Secretary

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Date