

Clay County Conservation Board

Meeting Minutes

October 12, 2020

The Clay County Conservation Board met at the Oneota Lodge, with a zoom meeting option, on October 12, 2020 at 5:30 PM. The following being present: Lee Schoenewe; Hope Bumgarner; Ron Creswell; Sheriffa Jones; Bree Blom, Naturalist; Burlin Mathews, B.O.S.; Kevin Maassen, Chief Ranger; and Will Horsley, Director.

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

#2. Approval of Agenda – Motion to approve the October 12, 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 September 14, 2020 meeting minutes by Ron, 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 campground report was provided with the seasonal camping revenue up by 38.4% from last year. Will reported that he has received a letter of resignation from Park Ranger Mike Skonhovd. Mike will continue serving until January 2021. Updates were provided pertaining to current grant opportunities, park maintenance, wildlife habitat projects, wetland mitigation/tree planting efforts, wildlife food plots, and FEMA.

#6. Naturalist Report – A verbal and written report was provided on current and upcoming educational classes, programs, and courses. The monthly report listed 26 educational programs provided by both naturalists. The CCCB has received a lot of positive reviews and feedback from program participants pertaining to the Naturalists efforts and quality of work.

Old Business:

#7. Oneota Environmental Learning Center – The monthly progress report was provided pertaining to this project. The OELC grant submitted to REAP was unsuccessful and zero funding was allocated to the project. There was discussion on the lack of REAP support/funding and the 21 grant applications that were competing for the limited grant funding. There was discussion on the IWILL campaign and potential funding if IWILL is approved. CMBA has completed the “Design and Development” phase of the OELC project. CMBA strongly suggested to have CTS (Soil Boring Contractor) analyze the OELC in order to ensure the foundation is acceptable. It was suggested to have CMBA provide additional documents to the CCCB before approval was granted. There was discussion on a virtual rendering of the OELC and the ability for the CCCB to use this virtual reference to fundraise and continue the public awareness campaign in NW Iowa. The USDA REDG&L application was discussed.

New Business:

#8. Oneota Park Playscape – A progress report was provided on the Oneota Park Playscape. There was discussion on additional work that is required by the CCCB staff and hired contractors to complete the educational area. It was suggested to consider local and regional grants to support this future work. There was discussion on the CCCB applying for current grant funding through Northwest Iowa Care Connections. A report was provided proving the importance of environmental resources and outdoor activities to promote mental health to the local populace. Motion by Hope, seconded by Ron to pursue a grant through NWICC in order to support the next phase of construction to the Oneota Playscape, all in favor. Motion passed.

#9. Audit and Approval of Bills – The CCCB members reviewed current claims from 32 vendors. All questions regarding the current CCCB bills/claims were explained and discussed. Motion by Ron to approve all presented claims, seconded by Hope, all in favor. Motion carried.

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

CCCB, Secretary

Date