

Clay County Conservation Board

Meeting Minutes

September 14, 2020

The Clay County Conservation Board met at the Oneota Lodge, with a zoom meeting option, on September 14, 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 5:35 PM.

#2. Approval of Agenda – Motion to approve the September 14, 2020 amended meeting agenda with one addition by Ron, seconded by Hope, all in favor. Motion carried.

#3. Public Comments – NA

#4. Approval of Minutes – Motion to approve the August 10, 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. Will reported updates pertaining to current grant opportunities, park maintenance, wildlife habitat projects, wetland mitigation/tree planting efforts, wildlife food plots, native prairie maintenance, FEMA, and Scharnberg Park.

#6. Naturalist Report – A verbal report was provided on current and upcoming educational classes, programs, and courses. Both naturalists have been busy scheduling programs and classes in the Clay County schools and with additional groups. Bree reported on upcoming public educational programs with the IDNR. There was discussion on the “Drive-thru Halloween Hike” at Scharnberg Park on October 3rd. There was discussion on PPE and new protocol while educating groups.

Old Business:

#7. AmeriCorps Naturalist - A report was provided on the 2021 AmeriCorps 4-H Educational Program. The program allows one Naturalist to work under the CCCB for 1700 hours over the course of nine months. The OCF has offered to pay for \$3,400.00 of the total expense which would allow the CCCB to pay only the remaining \$3,400.00. There was discussion on the benefits of this opportunity. Motion by Ron to approve the AmeriCorps Naturalist for the upcoming term, seconded by Sheriffa, all in favor. Motion carried.

#8. Oneota Environmental Learning Center – The monthly progress report was provided pertaining to this project. The 2020 REAP Grant was submitted in August and no confirmation on allocation of funding has been released. Will has been working with CMBA Architects to continue the “Design and Development” phase. There has been discussion on having contractors come into the OELC to conduct soil samples of the foundation and the process of bringing in fill dirt to level up the foundation. Upcoming fundraising options and grants were discussed.

#9. FEMA Updates – A report was provided on the current FEMA repairs to Wanata Park. The Clay County Engineers office is assisting with the repair plan and specifications of the work. There was discussion on local contractors and the timeframe in which this work could begin. More information will be presented during the upcoming meetings.

New Business:

#10. Riverton Wildlife Area Addition – There was discussion on the CCCB acquiring 35 acres from a local landowner. This landowner is working with the local and state Pheasants Forever chapters. This property would be an outstanding addition to the Riverton Wildlife Area. As well as serve to mitigate soil erosion along the Ocheyedon River. There are public grants available through the IDNR to support this acquisition. Motion by Hope to continue the property purchase and approve a resolution to pursue a public grant, seconded by Sheriffa. All in favor. Motion carried.

#11. Audit and Approval of Bills – The CCCB members reviewed current claims from 48 vendors. All questions regarding the current CCCB bills/claims were explained and discussed. Motion by Hope to approve all presented claims, seconded by Ron, all in favor. Motion carried.

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

CCCB, Secretary

Date