

Clay County Conservation Board

Meeting Minutes

June 14, 2021

The Clay County Conservation Board met on June 14, 2021 at 5:30 PM at the Oneota Lodge with a Zoom Meeting option. The following being present: Lee Schoenewe; Ron Creswell; John Sheridan; Hope Bumgarner; Burlin Matthews, B.O.S.; Bree Blom, Naturalist; William Rabenberg, Clay County Engineer; and Will Horsley, Director.

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

#2. Approval of Agenda – Motion to approve the June 14, 2021 meeting agenda by Ron, seconded by John, all in favor. Motion carried.

#3. Public Comments – NA

#4. Approval of Minutes – Motion to approve the May 10, 2021 meeting minutes by Ron, seconded by John, all in favor. Motion carried.

#5. Director Report – The current FY revenue and expenditure reports were provided to the CCCB members. Updates were given on parks, wildlife areas, campgrounds, a livestock grazing contract, seasonal employees, invasive weeds, and mycountyparks.com.

#6. Naturalist Report – A monthly report was provided on educational classes, programs, and courses. There was discussion pertaining to summer camps, educational programs, and civic courses offered to the public in May and June. A report was provided on the CCCB's public program offered during Spencer's 150th celebration.

Old Business:

#7. Oneota Environmental Learning Center – A project update was provided. The USDA REDL&G funding source was discussed, and a series of documents have been reviewed by the Clay County Attorney's office and are in order to be signed by SMU, ILEC, and the CCCB. There was discussion regarding a Bank Commitment Letter and/or a Commitment Letter from the Clay County B.O.S. The Clay County Conservation capital improvement funds were discussed. A report was provided on the current Federal Covid-19 relief package and fiscal resources allocated to Clay County. It was determined some federal funding may be available to support the OELC project based on public health, safety, and education. The first draft of the OELC public awareness/fundraising campaign documents was discussed. There was discussion on the USDA REDL&G funding and future grants through REAP and NWIPD.

#8. 5-2-1-0 Project – A report was provided on the current 5-2-1-0 campaign and progress with the Oneota Playscape. There were funds allocated to support the acquisition of a new H2O component to the playscape. This H2O pump system was ordered through Bison Pumps and will be delivered in July. Plans are currently being made to establish a sand-point well in order to supply this H2O system with water. Further discussion was had on the playscape and number of park guests who are utilizing the playscape area.

#9 Bird Friendly Iowa – A report was provided on the BFI application submission and successful acceptance into the statewide BFI system. Representative from BFI proposed to attend a Clay County Board of Supervisor’s meeting in order to announce the Clay County BFI application approval. Preparations will be made with the Auditor’s office and BFI staff to facilitate this proposal. There was discussion on components of BFI and the future goals to promote the BFI campaign in Clay County.

New Business:

#10. Kindlespire Memorial Trail and Benches – There was discussion on the Kindlespire hiking trails and bridges. A proposal was made to establish one trail which would traverse the park throughout areas that are not susceptible to wash-outs and future erosion. Maps are currently being drawn up on where this trail would be and how the CCCB staff would build this trail. There was discussion on funding being donated to this new trail renovation from the Fraley family in honor of former CCCB Director, Mr. Clint Fraley. It was suggested we place additional benches in and around the trail system in order to support a resting area for hikers and park guests.

#11. Audit and Approval of Bills – The CCCB members reviewed current claims from 41 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

