

Clay County Conservation Board

Meeting Minutes

May 10, 2021

The Clay County Conservation Board met on May 10, 2021 at 5:30 PM at the Oneota Lodge with a Zoom Meeting option. The following being present: Lee Schoenewe; Sheriffa Jones; Ron Creswell; John Sheridan; Burlin Mathews, B.O.S.; Bree Blom, Naturalist; William Rabenberg, Clay County Engineer; and Will Horsley, Director.

#1. The meeting was called to order at 5:33 PM.

#2. Approval of Agenda – Motion to approve the May 10, 2021 meeting agenda by Ron, seconded by John, all in favor. Motion carried.

#3. Public Comments – Meeting guests explained their attendance based on the FEMA/Wanata Park Roadway consultation and bidding process.

#4. Approval of Minutes – Motion to approve the April 12, 2021 meeting minutes by John, seconded by Ron, 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 park maintenance, BFI application process, IACCB District III updates, seasonal employees, wildlife food plot, and a campground update.

#6. Naturalist Report – A monthly report was provided on educational classes, programs, and courses. There was discussion pertaining the online registration through mycountyparks.com. The Naturalists continue to be very busy as they frequent all public and private schools in Clay County. A report was provided on new church programs, summer camps, field trips, ILCC and library programs.

Old Business:

#7. FEMA – Wanata Park Roadway Repair - An overview of the current FEMA project was provided, and six public bid proposals were opened. All bids were reviewed in order to confirm all bidding pre-requisites were met. Two bids were withdrawn from the bidding process due to not being certified and listed with the IDOT. There was discussion regarding the bidding pre-requisites, construction material quantities, and excavation work. Motion by Ron, seconded by John, to award the project to Boulder Contracting in the amount of \$221,572.50. All in favor. Motion carried. There were questions on the ability for the construction to begin as soon as possible while the work site is dry. There was discussion on the completion date of the work, quality of work as it relates to the approved FEMA scope of work, and daily liquidation fees if work is not completed on time.

#8. Oneota Environmental Learning Center – A project update was provided and there was discussion pertaining to the last meeting with CMBA representatives. The USDA REDL&G funding source was discussed, and a series of documents are currently being reviewed and prepared in order for the funds to be released to the CCCB. All documents have been

forwarded to the Clay County Attorney's office for review. It was suggested a single document be prepared to ensure SMU, ILEC, and the CCCB all have a solid understanding of the funding and the funding allocation process. There was discussion regarding a Bank Commitment Letter and/or a Commitment Letter from the Clay County B.O.S. Another meeting with CMBA is scheduled and the public awareness campaign will continue as future fundraising efforts are being coordinated. It was estimated that with anticipated funding being allocated to the project in the near future, construction phase one could begin as early as this Fall.

New Business:

#9. Wildlife Habitat Management / Livestock Grazing Contract – There was discussion on the CCCB wildlife management plans and the utilization of a livestock grazing effort to promote ecological diversity and suppress the cool-season grasses in the Kindlespire Complex. It was proposed to conduct a livestock grazing event in the Heissel Addition. This grazing contract will be publicly advertised and offered to a cattle producer starting on June 15th for 76 days on native prairie acres of the Heissel Addition. Motion by John to approve a 2021 Livestock Grazing Contract in the Kindlespire Complex, seconded by Ron, all in favor. Motion carried.

#10. CCCB Rentable Venue Policy – Early Check-In Option – A report was provided pertaining to additional inquires where guest prefer to occupy the CCCB rentable venues earlier than 11:00 AM. There was discussion on allowing the renter to check into the venue 90 minutes early for an additional fee of \$50. This would allow guest to have additional time in the venue and prepare for mid-day gatherings/events. Motion by Ron to approve a CCCB Early Check-In option of 90 minutes for a fee of \$50.00, seconded by Sheriffa, all in favor. Motion carried.

#11. Audit and Approval of Bills – The CCCB members reviewed current claims from 36 vendors. All questions regarding the current CCCB bills/claims were explained and discussed. Motion by John to approve all presented claims, seconded by Ron, all in favor. Motion carried.

#11. Adjournment – adjournment of the meeting.

CCCB, Secretary

Date