

Clay County Conservation Board

Meeting Minutes

July 12, 2021

The Clay County Conservation Board met on July 12, 2021 at 5:30 PM at the Oneota Lodge with a Zoom Meeting option. The following being present: Lee Schoenewe; Ron Creswell; Sheriffa Jones; Hope Bumgarner; Burlin Matthews, 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 July 12, 2021 meeting agenda by Ron, seconded by Hope, all in favor. Motion carried.

#3. Public Comments – NA

#4. Approval of Minutes – Motion to approve the June 14, 2021 meeting minutes by Sheriffa, 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 Lost Island Park, Kindlespire Complex, 5-2-1-0 live healthy Iowa, Scharnberg Park, wetland mitigation sites, FEMA, law enforcement equipment/training, 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, overnight educational events, and civic courses offered to the public in June and July. Bree gave a report on upcoming training and progress being made with the OCF Winnie’s Playscape.

Old Business:

#7. Oneota Environmental Learning Center – A project update was provided. A meeting was held between SMU, ILEC, USDA, and CCCB. The REDL&G funding source was discussed along with the estimated construction timeline and supplemental funding sources. In order for the USDA funds to be released 100% of the proposed project funds will need to be procured through Clay County. There was discussion on conducting a general obligation bond through Clay County, private placement funds through local banking institutions, local fundraising, and grants. The federal American Recovery Plan (ARP) funding source was discussed and a meeting with CMBA has been set to explore which components of the building project may qualify for ARP funding. REAP grants will be due in August and the CCCB will pursue another REAP grant pertaining to the OELC project.

#8. Bertram Reservation Trails/Shelter – A update was provided on the Bertram Reservation (BR) trail system and BR picnic shelter. There is interest in replacing/rebuilding the BR shelter as the current shelter is old and outdated. There was discussion on the original BR property acquisition and the prerequisite that no new construction projects would be allowed on the area in order to encourage wildlife and ecological diversity. It was suggested to research this

more and decide if a repair project may be in order for the building instead of a new construction project. A map of the BR trail system was discussed and the BCHIA members have continued to maintain the trails throughout the season. Another report will be provided at the August meeting.

New Business:

#9. Nelson Tract Barringer Slough 28E – There was discussion on the “Nelson Tract” located by Barringer Slough and the current 28E agreement the CCCB has with the IDNR regarding the management of the area. A proposal to update the 28E agreement has been made to include a wildlife management plan to convert acres of Smooth Brome back into native prairie components. This plan would include a haying/farming contract for three years which would allow a local producer to practice modern agriculture strategies which would suppress the Smooth Brome grass. It was suggested a MOU be composed between the IDNR and CCCB in order to ensure both agencies understand the management practices on the acres. A meeting will be set up with the IDNR to inspect the work site and discuss future management plans.

#10. Audit and Approval of Bills – The CCCB members reviewed current claims from 60 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.

#11. Adjournment – adjournment of the meeting.

CCCB, Secretary

Date

