

Clay County Conservation Board

Meeting Minutes

August 9, 2021

The Clay County Conservation Board met on August 9, 2021 at 5:30 PM at the Oneota Lodge with a Zoom Meeting option. The following being present: Lee Schoenewe; Ron Creswell; Hope Bumgarner; John Sheridan; Burlin Matthews; Bree Blom, Naturalist; and Will Horsley, Director.

#1. The meeting was called to order at 5:30 PM.

#2. Approval of Agenda – Motion to approve the August 9, 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 July 12, 2021 meeting minutes by John, seconded by Hope, all in favor. Motion carried.

#5. Director Report – The current FY revenue and expenditure reports were provided to the CCCB members. Updates were provided pertaining to FEMA, Lost Island Park, Scharnberg Park, ISAC conference/training, IACCB District III meetings, and the mycountyparks.com website.

#6. Naturalist Report – A monthly report was provided on educational classes, programs, and courses. There was discussion pertaining to the 2021 Clay County Fair, Sundholm Cabin, and the Nature Store. Bree gave a report on the OCF Board, Winnie’s Playscape, and the upcoming Winter Frolic event.

Old Business:

#7. Oneota Environmental Learning Center – A project update was provided. There was discussion on future fundraising options through USDA REDL&G, general obligation bond through Clay County, private placement funds through local banking institutions, local fundraising, and grants. A report was provided on the federal American Recovery Plan (ARP) funding sources that may support the project. The 2021 REAP grant will be submitted by August 30th. There was discussion on the ability for the CCCB to request local general obligation bond funding through the Board of Supervisors.

#8. Nelson Tract Barringer Slough 28E – There was discussion pertaining to the 28E agreement has been made with the IDNR. A wildlife management plan was proposed in order 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 and other invasive species. The haying contract would allow 46 acres to be cut and baled by a local farmer, then sprayed to suppress unwanted vegetation and invasive species. The three-year agricultural contract would be established based around rotational cropping efforts to establish a high quality seed bed for future native prairie seeding efforts. This cropping contract will be drafted, publicly advertised, and open for bids this Winter. Motion by Ron to approve the Nelson Tract

28E agreement and continue with the wildlife management plan, seconded by Hope. All in favor. Motion passed.

New Business:

#9. 2021 REAP Grant Application – The current REAP grant application was discussed and reviewed. There was discussion on the OELC project and potential funding sources. The REAP grant was unanimously approved by the Clay County REAP committee and the CCCB members. The REAP grant will be electronically submitted to the IDNR by August 30th and be under review for potential funding.

#10. Audit and Approval of Bills – The CCCB members reviewed current claims from 52 vendors. All questions regarding the current CCCB bills/claims were explained and discussed. Motion by Hope to approve all presented claims, seconded by John, all in favor. Motion carried.

#11. Adjournment – adjournment of the meeting.

CCCB, Secretary

Date