

Clay County Conservation Board

Meeting Minutes

November 8, 2021

The Clay County Conservation Board met on November 8, 2021 at 5:30 PM at the Oneota Lodge with a Zoom Meeting option. The following being present: Lee Schoenewe; Hope Bumgarner; Ron Creswell; Sheriffa Jones; John Sheridan, Burlin Mathews, B.O.S.; Bree Blom, Naturalist; and Will Horsley, Director.

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

#2. Approval of Agenda – Motion to approve the November 8, 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 October 11, 2021 meeting minutes by Hope, seconded by John, all in favor. Motion carried.

#5. Director Report – Updates were provided pertaining to the Muller Addition, FEMA, Summit Wildlife Area, REAP, CCDA meetings/training, Scharnberg Park maintenance and winterizing, professional training through IDALS/Rx Fire, and District III meeting updates.

#6. Naturalist Report – A monthly report was provided on educational programs, courses, and classes. Bree gave a report on her additional public activities to include no school camps, IAN conference/training, Hope Haven programs, future public awareness events/fundraisers, and home school events.

Old Business:

#7. Oneota Environmental Learning Center – A report was provided on the OELC project, and a budget review was presented. For the USDA to release the REDL&G funds in the amount of \$720,000.00, the remaining balance of the total project expenses will need to be procured and approved. Meetings have been arranged with Clay County officials and other vested agencies to ensure funding. Additional information and an updated fiscal summary will be presented at the December CCCB meeting.

#8. Lost Island Park Access WRAC Grant – A report was provided on the CCCB's successful 2021 WRAC grant in the amount of \$51,750.00. These funds are designated to support the construction of a new water access (boat ramp) at Lost Island Park. There was discussion on securing a contractor for the summer of 2022 to complete this work. Motion by John to accept the WRAC grant in the amount of \$51,750.00, seconded by Ron, all in favor. Motion carried.

#9. Summit Wildlife Area – Discussions have continued with representatives from Northwest Community College, Sheldon Iowa, on the potential excavation of the Summit Wildlife Area Pit. This project would consist of NWCC utilizing their HD excavation equipment and deepening the pond/pit areas to support healthy fish populations, wildlife habitat, and provide additional

recreational opportunities. Schematics are being composed and price estimates will be generated in near future. The expenses to the renovation project would include logistical efforts per piece of equipment from Sheldon and a fee for materials moved.

New Business:

#10. FY 2022-2023 Budget – A report was offered pertaining to the current planning of the CCCB’s FY 2022-2023 budget. It has been expected the budget planning worksheets will be offered to Clay County department heads in early December. There was discussion on the county compensation board and budgeting meetings, seasonal staff, vehicles, mowers, and other FY expenses. The OELC project was discussed as fiscal resources will be required to progress into the first phase of construction during the next fiscal year. Additional FY data will be provided during the December CCCB meeting.

#11. Audit and Approval of Bills – The CCCB members reviewed current claims from 34 vendors. All questions regarding the current CCCB bills/claims were explained and discussed. Motion by Sheriffa to approve all presented claims, seconded by Hope, all in favor. Motion carried.

#12. Adjournment – adjournment of the meeting.

CCCB, Secretary

Date