

Clay County Conservation Board

Meeting Minutes

September 20, 2021

The Clay County Conservation Board met on September 20, 2021 at 5:30 PM at the Oneota Lodge with a Zoom Meeting option. The following being present: Lee Schoenewe; Ron Creswell; Sheriffa Jones; Burlin Matthews; Bree Blom, Naturalist; BCHIA Representative Jolene Hultgren; and Will Horsley, Director.

#1. The meeting was called to order at 5:32 PM.

#2. Approval of Agenda – Motion to approve the September 20, 2021 meeting agenda by Ron, seconded by Sheriffa, all in favor. Motion carried.

#3. Public Comments – NA

#4. Approval of Minutes – Motion to approve the August 9, 2021 meeting minutes by Ron, seconded by Sheriffa, 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, REAP Grant, 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. A report was provided on the 2021 Clay County Fair, Sundholm Cabin, and the Nature Store. The 2021 Clay County Fair was a huge success with the Sundholm Cabin being very popular amongst fair guests. Bree gave a report on the OCF Board, Winnie’s Playscape, and the upcoming Winter Frolic event. The OCF board will continue to meet in order to progress with planning of the 2021 Winter Frolic.

Old Business:

#7. Bertram Reservation BCHIA Report – Jolene Hultgren with the BCHIA provided a report and power point presentation on the Bertram Reservation. There has been strong support from the local equestrian riding community, as riders have enjoyed the recreational opportunities at the Bertram Reservation. Trail maps and pictures were shared with the CCCB members. It was proposed to the CCCB members that the BCHIA group continues park renovations. The BCHIA group would like to work on rectifying the existing picnic shelter. There was discussion on funding and options to hire a local contractor to complete this work. Shelter repairs were estimated between \$7,000 - \$10,000. The BCHIA group would like to support some of these expenses as they still have grant funding to allocate to the Bertram Reservation. Cost estimates will be acquired before the next CCCB meeting and further discussion will had at that time. The CCCB members appreciated the BCHIA report and looked forward to working more with the BCHIA group.

#8. 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 was submitted to the IDNR and a review session will be scheduled in October. There was discussion on the ability for the CCCB to request local general obligation bond funding through the Board of Supervisors.

New Business:

#9. Lost Island Park WRAC Grant – The Lost Island Park WRAC grant was discussed, and a report was provided on the urgency of this new water access project. Iowa Department of Natural Resources Fisheries Biologists, Mr. Mike Hawkins and Mr. Ben Wallace, were consulted on the project. Local contractor, Mr. Steve Richards was contacted to provide insight and cost estimates on the new water access project. The total project was proposed to cost \$70,000.00. The total project local-match funding would be responsible for a minimum of 25% of the total expense. There was discussion on the Iowa Great Lakes Fishing Club's donation to the project of \$2,000.00. A report was provided on the remaining fiscal expenses that could be paid through the CCCB's FY construction line item in the amount of \$16,000.00. Motion to approve the 2021 WRAC grant as proposed by Sheriffa, seconded by Ron, all in favor. Motion carried.

#10. Audit and Approval of Bills – The CCCB members reviewed current claims from 40 vendors. All questions regarding the current CCCB bills/claims were explained and discussed. Motion by Ron to approve all presented claims, seconded by Sheriffa, all in favor. Motion carried.

#11. Adjournment – adjournment of the meeting.

CCCB, Secretary

Date