

Clay County Conservation Board

Meeting Minutes

December 13, 2021

The Clay County Conservation Board met on December 13, 2021 at 5:30 PM at the Oneota Lodge with a Zoom Meeting option. The following being present: Lee Schoenewe; 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 5:31 PM.

#2. Approval of Agenda – Motion to approve the December 13, 2021 meeting agenda by Sheriffa, seconded by John, all in favor. Motion carried.

#3. Public Comments – NA

#4. Approval of Minutes – Motion to approve the November 8, 2021 meeting minutes by Sheriffa, seconded by Ron, all in favor. Motion carried.

#5. Director Report – A FY budget report was provided to the CCCB members. Updates were provided pertaining to FEMA, Summit Wildlife Area, Nelson Tract, Lost Island Park, potential grants funding, and CCDA & District III meetings/training.

#6. Naturalist Report – A end of the year report was provided on environmental education programs, classes, and courses. Bree gave another report on her goals and objectives for 2022. There was discussion on hiring another AmeriCorps employee and/or a seasonal employee to assist with environmental education programs.

Old Business:

#7. Oneota Environmental Learning Center – A report was provided on the OELC project and the current budget summary. A meeting has been arranged with Clay County officials and other vested agencies to secure the USDA REDL&G funding. The four potential components to the project funding were discussed and future grant writing/fundraising was explained. Meetings with other local officials are being arranged to gain additional support.

#8. FY 2022-2023 Budget – A report was provided on the FY 2022-2023 budget worksheets that have been distributed by the Auditor's office. There was discussion on the county compensation board, budgeting meetings, and future budget hearings in January. The OELC project was discussed as fiscal resources will be required during this upcoming FY. There was discussion on other large-scale projects to include the Summit Wildlife Area, Scharnberg Park, and Lost Island Park. Additional FY data will be provided to the CCCB members as the FY budgeting process continues.

New Business:

#9. 5-2-1-0 Environmental Education Grant – A report was provided on the current 5-2-1-0 funding source in Spencer. There was discussion on ways to utilize the potential funding to promote environmental education, mental health, physical fitness, and communication skills. It was suggested the CCCB consider applying for the 5-2-1-0 grant to support EE equipment and learning tools. Bree has been working to get a CCCB archery program established for her students. All required equipment would cost approximately \$2,818.56. There was additional discussion on the benefits this would provide the students and ways to promote safety throughout the course. Motion by Sheriffa to apply for the 5-2-1-0 grant in the amount of \$2,818.56 to support the EE program, seconded by John, all in favor. Motion carried.

#11. 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 Sheriffa to approve all presented claims, seconded by John, all in favor. Motion carried.

#12. Adjournment – adjournment of the meeting.

CCCB, Secretary

Date