

Clay County Conservation Board

Meeting Minutes

February 14, 2022

The Clay County Conservation Board met on February 14, 2022 at 5:30 PM via Zoom Meeting. The following being present: Lee Schoenewe; Ron Creswell; Hope Bumgarner; John Sheridan; Burlin Mathews, B.O.S.; Bree Blom, Naturalist; Kevin Maassen, Chief Ranger, and Will Horsley, Director.

#1. Call to Order - The meeting was called to order at 5:33 PM.

#2. Approval of Agenda – Motion to approve the February 14, 2022 meeting agenda by Ron, seconded by Hope, all in favor. Motion carried.

#3. Public Comments – NA

#4. Approval of Minutes – Motion to approve the January 10, 2022 meeting minutes by John, seconded by Hope, all in favor. Motion carried.

#5. Director Report – Updates were discussed pertaining to ICCS/IACCB training, Clay County Engineer's Office projects, 2022 seasonal employee hiring process, Scharnberg Park/Campground, and recertification training with IDALS and Wildlife Firefighter 130/190 courses. A report was provided on 2022 RX fire operations in CCCB recreational areas and ecological goals.

#6. Naturalist Report – A report was provided on environmental education programs, classes, and courses. In addition to the local schools, Bree has offered programs to the Petersen Library, 6th Grade Science Fair, and worked on the public awareness/fundraising campaign for the OELC. Bree provided a report on her upcoming maternity leave and discussed the hiring process of a Naturalist Assistant to support her late Spring/Summer camps.

Old Business:

#7. Oneota Environmental Learning Center – A report was provided on the OELC project and there was discussion on the CMBA fee proposal for continuing services. The four phases of the OELC project were discussed and explained, as well as the timeline for final development, public bidding, and construction. It was suggested the CCCB members review the CMBA proposal documents.

#8. Stub Johnson Area – A report was provided on the Stub Johnson Area and the 26.5-acre property directly to the east of the Stub Johnson Area. The owner of the 26.5 acres has contacted the CCCB and is interested in selling the property to the CCCB. There was discussion on the potential for the CCCB to acquire the 26.5 acres. The property would need to be appraised and fair-market values would need to be assessed. Will is going to be contacting the landowner and discussing future options. There was also a report on the current drainage ditch that runs along the eastern side of the Stub Johnson Area. This ditch will be re-worked this Spring/Summer and excavation crews will be utilizing the county ground for access.

New Business:

#9. Federal/State Fish & Game Laws – There was discussion on current and new IDNR laws, regulations, and rules as they pertain to hunting and fishing. It was suggested the CCCB perpetually accept any/all IDNR laws, regulations, and rules to be applicable on all CCCB recreational areas. The Iowa 350 codes, which govern the Iowa County Conservation Boards, were discussed as the CCCB members have the authority to establish additional rules and regulation on the County owned properties. It was suggested to consult the Clay County Attorney’s office in order to get an official legal opinion on this issue.

#10. Audit and Approval of Bills – The CCCB members reviewed current claims from vendors. There was discussion on the final payment pertaining to the T770 Bobcat Skidsteer and the potential for the CCCB to research the purchase of a 125 HP Tractor instead of renting a tractor annually. Motion by Ron to approve all presented claims, seconded by John, all in favor. Motion carried.

#11. Adjournment – adjournment of the meeting.

CCCB, Secretary

Date