

Clay County Conservation Board

Meeting Minutes

April 11, 2022

The Clay County Conservation Board met on April 11, 2022 at 5:30 PM at the Oneota Lodge with a Zoom Meeting option. The following participants being present: Lee Schoenewe; Hope Bumgarner; John Sheridan; Burlin Mathews, B.O.S.; and Will Horsley, CCCB Director.

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

#2. Approval of Agenda – Two additions were made to the tentative agenda. Motion to approve the amended April 11, 2022 meeting agenda by Hope, seconded by John, all in favor. Motion carried.

#3. Public Comments – NA

#4. Approval of Minutes – Motion to approve the March 21, 2022 meeting minutes by Hope, seconded by John, all in favor. Motion carried.

#5. Director Report – A report was provided on the FY budget and upcoming FY budget amendment, Lost Island Park maintenance contract, Lost Island public water access, 2022 seasonal employees, Ocheyedan Shooting Range, Kindlespire Complex hiking trails & bridges, Scharnberg Park, and the 2022 livestock grazing contract.

#6. Naturalist Report – A report was provided on upcoming 2022 Spring/Summer Camps and the importance of the OELC for future educational purposes. There was discussion on the future of the CCCB's environmental education programs and the potential requirements for additional staff.

Old Business:

#7. Oneota Environmental Learning Center – A report/update was provided on the OELC project. There was discussion pertaining to the USDA REDL&G funding. An attorney representing SMU is corresponding with Barry Sackett, Clay County Attorney's office, as they work to clarify the Iowa Code and REDL&G funding source. There was discussion on estimated attorney expenses/fees, and who may be responsible for these claims. A report was provided on the approved contract with CMBA Architects. It is planned to progress ahead with CMBA to complete phase #3 in the near future.

#8. (Amendment 1) Nelson Tract Management Plan / 3- Year Cropping Contract – A report was provided on the current wildlife management plan for the "Nelson Tract". The WMP includes suppressing and killing unwanted plant species by utilizing a local cooperater to crop 40 acres for a three-year term. After the three years of cropping, the CCCB will replant the 40 acres to an ecological diverse native prairie seed mix and manage the area to promote native wildlife. The three-year cropping contract has been publicly advertised and one contract bid was submitted to the CCCB office. Motion by Hope, seconded by John, to accept Mr. Jon Swenson's bid for cropping rights on the 40 acres for a three-year term. The revenue

generated by this contract is to be utilized for future planning, preparations, seeding efforts, and management practices of new native prairie acres.

New Business:

#9. Oneota Lodge and Scharnberg Park Rental Rates - A report was provided on the 2021-2022 campground operations and increased perpetual expenses. There was discussion on these expenses to include water, electric, trash and sewer. It was proposed a rental rate increase would offset these additional costs. There was discussion on the last rental rate increase which was approved on May 1st, 2018. The rentable venues this fee increase would affect would be the Oneota Lodge and the three cabins at S.P. (Pine, Oak, Maple). There was discussion on increasing fees by an additional \$50/night, except for Maple Cabin which would be subject to a \$25/night increase. Motion by Hope to accept the fee increases in discussed amounts, seconded by John. All in favor. Motion carried. Fee increases would take effect on April 12, 2022.

#10. (Amendment 2) Heating/Cooling System – New Mother Room – A report was provided on the Clay County Personnel Policy and the legal requirements of providing a privacy room for new mothers. CCCB Naturalist, Bree Blom, was consulted and she suggested to put a climate control system into a specific location of the CCCB Headquarters. Bids were received by three local heating/cooling contractors. There was discussion on the heating/cooling system and how it would be installed. All bid documents were assessed and considered. Motion by Hope, seconded by John to accept Miller Plumbing & Heating’s bid in the amount of \$2,875.00 for an AC/Heat Mini Split Unit. All in favor. Motion carried. Miller Plumbing & Heating will be contacted, and the installation of this unit is to commence asap.

#11. Audit and Approval of Bills – The CCCB members reviewed current claims from vendors and any/all questions were answered. Motion by Hope to approve all presented claims, seconded by John, all in favor. Motion carried.

#12. Adjournment – adjournment of the meeting.

CCCB, Secretary

Date

