

Clay County Conservation Board

Meeting Minutes

June 13, 2022

The Clay County Conservation Board met on June 13, 2022 at 5:30 PM at the Oneota Lodge. The following participants being present: Lee Schoenewe; John Sheridan; Ron Creswell; Hope Bumgarner; John Sheridan; Burlin Matthews; Bree Blom, CCCCB Naturalist; Will Horsley, CCCB Director, and one guest. Meeting participants loaded a 15-passenger van and took part in a mobile “field tour” meeting to CCCB parks/wildlife areas in eastern Clay County.

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

#2. Approval of Agenda – Motion to approve the June 13, 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 May 9, 2022 meeting minutes by John, seconded by Hope, all in favor. Motion carried.

#5. Director Report – A report was provided on the current FY budget, Kindlespire complex trail system, Nelson Tract, Law Enforcement shooting range, Summitt wildlife area, Muller addition to the Riverton Wildlife Area, Lost Island Park and Wetland Mitigation tree planting project at Oneota Park and Gillett Grove.

#6. Naturalist Report – A report was provided on the CCCB’s current environmental education (EE) programs. These recent EE programs were offered at Hope Haven, YMCA, Petersen Library, and ISU Extension. Bree reported she was excited to offer more civic programs to Clay County and that she now has a full-time seasonal employee to assist her with upcoming summer camps, courses, and programs.

Old Business:

#7. Oneota Environmental Learning Center – A report/update was provided on the OELC project. There was discussion regarding Mr. Barry Sackett, Clay County Attorney’s office, and the REDL&G funding source. Mr. Sackett is currently waiting to get additional information on the USDA funding. CMBA Architects were discussed, and it was suggested upon procurement of funding to begin construction. There has been external construction progress as the north and east parking areas have been professionally designed and developed by Clay County staff. The regional grant through Cares Connection of NW Iowa was successful in the amount of \$10,000 in order to promote mental health & ADA compliances in the OELC. A report was provided on the private fundraising efforts, and it was suggested the OCF members meet soon to continue the OELC campaign. There was discussion on the future “Winter Frolic” event.

New Business:

#8. Annual Wildlife Area / Park Field Tour – The CCCB members toured Dickens Pits, Dickens Law Enforcement Shooting Range, Lost Island Park, and the Schmerse Wildlife Area. Field Tour meeting/event lasted approximately 90 minutes.

#9. CCCB Equipment and Vehicle Update – A report was provided pertaining to the CCCB vehicles, UTV/ATVs, and Equipment. There was discussion on work trucks and the current vehicle fleet. It was suggested to continue the vehicle rotation and trade the oldest Dodge RAM truck in the new FY. There was discussion on UTVs and the importance of the UTV units for daily field operations. IDOT grant funding was discussed as it was suggested to procure another UTV. Trailer options were discussed as the CCCB currently requires another trailer in order to support UTV field operations. Local trailers options have been researched and priced. Local trailer options and prices were discussed. There was discussion on the importance of purchasing a trailer from a Clay County vendor. Motion by John to purchase one Aluma 7712HBT from Galen’s Pro Mow in the amount of \$5,120.00, seconded by Hope, all in favor. Motion carried. There was further discussion on hand tools, power tools, brush clearing equipment and chainsaws.

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

#11. Adjournment – adjournment of the meeting.

CCCB, Secretary

Date