

May 3, 2023

Call to Order

The Tama County Conservation Board met in regular session on Wednesday, May 3, 2023 at the Tama County Nature Center. The meeting was called to order at 6:30pm by Chair, Wrage.

Board Members present: Adolphs, Keenan, Kenkel, Wacha, and Wrage.

Staff Members present: Mayne, Horne, Conrad, Genaw.

Public present: Delania Halter & The Tama/Toledo Newspaper

Approval of Meeting Minutes

Minutes from the April 2023 regular meeting were reviewed. It was moved by Adolphs, seconded by Keenan, to approve the minutes as recorded, carried, all voting aye.

Approval of Bills

Bills were presented to be paid from the month of May 2023. It was moved by Kenkel, seconded by Keenan, to approve bills, carried, all voting aye.

Reports & Updates

Public Comment: N/A

Environmental Education Report: Genaw introduced. Genaw and Conrad programmed to 5th grade group at Union Grove with 275 students on May 2, 2023.

Maintenance Report: Conducted controlled burn in park, coordinated by Horne. Burned Parcel A, road sides, and hill by the shop. Removed cab and snow blower from 3990. Interviewed for new naturalist. Met with School of the Wild. Had safety meeting and safety training. Removed fire rings/picnic tables and electrical boxes from camper's hill. Picked up culverts for the entrance of the park. Picked up new John Deere mower and new Polaris ranger. Began mowing for the season. Met with CiNTAS.

Director's Report: Mayne's report included that he completed interviews for seasonal staff and naturalist. Fully staffed with seasonal employees this year. Met with Project AWARE and CiNTAS. Attended safety training and Conrad's graduation ceremony.

Old Business

Lake Restoration Project Update: Mayne reported that contractor and Iowa DNR believe that roadways, DMP15 dam construction, and seeding will be finished by July 4th at the earliest, weather permitting. Still have grading work to do in campsites elevating pads. Trying to coordinate turning power back on. Once power is back on and equipment removed, water will be turned back on in campsite. Mayne said that fishing decks are in progress, rocks need to be put in place. Contractors also dug out canal deeper. Concrete pad will need to be extended out so that when boats go down, they don't wash out the bottom of the concrete pad. Lake filling timeline was discussed. Mayne reported that the lake is expected to begin filling by July. Mayne and Adolphs discussed possibility of getting fish in lake this year with some pan fish when lake begins to fill up. Walleye stocking may occur next year, will require payment.

Trailer: Mayne discussed quotes for trailer. Horne asked for comment. Horne reported that new trailer for sale by Pattern Equipment is shorter than current one. Wacha commented that if registered weight is more than 20,000 lbs you need a Class A to drive it. Discussed practicality of driving trailer. Motion to buy trailer from Patten Equipment set forth by Keenan, seconded by Wrage, carried, all voted aye.

Camper's Hill: Will install new breakers in camping area to turn things on and off as needed. Mayne discussed that in wintertime, we currently need to keep all electricity on, which poses a risk. Installing new breakers will eliminate that challenge.

New Business

Beach Front Campsites: Grading was re-adjusted on slope outside Nature Center to be more gradual so that campers are able to stop more easily. Beach front campsites ended up on a steep 30-ft drop-off and transformer was pulled because road now intersects where transformer was. Regrading hill would cost approx. \$3000 without restoring camp sites. Camp sites would need an additional entry/exit if reinstalled.

CiNTAS First Aid Quote: Mayne and Horne met with rep from CiNTAS. Public: County uses it county-wide. Mayne discussed needs of staff. Conrad needs trauma bag for vehicle with his new status as law enforcement. First aid cabinet may be left out from initial purchase and reconsidered in future. AED needed for naturalist vehicle in case of emergency during event. Grand total for purchase is \$4,328.45 excluding first aid cabinet. This total would cover all vehicles and buildings. Wacha says CiNTAS has good and bad, says they discard and replace all open bottles during quarterly reviews. Public comment: Says CiNTAS can be a little heavy on replacement and overstocking, but monitoring it may help. Board members discussed issue with wastage and associated cost with excessive restocking and need to monitor. Wacha suggests ordering First Aid kits on Amazon. Tabled for a month to pursue less expensive option.

Nature Center Parking Lot: Lower-level parking lot lost in renovations, more parking needed in compliance with occupancy. Wacha suggests using former beach campsite area as new parking lot. Suggests regrading berm that separates Nature Center and former beach campsites or adding a retaining wall to make an entry level parking lot that is in-line with lower level of Nature Center and aids in resolving issues with ADA compliance. Discussed that this would be a future project.

Hamster Wheel at OCLAP Playground Set: Contractors removed concrete slab and rollers from playground. Mayne suggests company may be able to fabricate something to replace it. Central Iowa Machine Shop in Marshalltown may be able to make something. Wrage suggests checking with insurance company.

Floor Discussion

Floor Discussion: Keenan asked about terracing in lake for fishing areas. Mayne and Conrad discussed tree planting around fishing area and potential installation of buoys to avoid boating incidents.

Adjourn

With no further discussion items, it was motioned by Wrage, seconded by Keenan to adjourn the meeting at 7:25 p.m.

Board Chair

Tama County Conservation Board