

June 7, 2023

Call to Order

The Tama County Conservation Board met in regular session on Wednesday, June 7, 2023 at the Tama County Nature Center. The meeting was called to order at 6:30pm by Chair, Wrage.

Board Members present: Adolphs, 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 Kenkel, seconded by Adolphs, 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 Adolphs, seconded by Wacha, to approve bills, carried, all voting aye.

Reports & Updates

Public Comment: N/A

Environmental Education Report: 8 environmental ed programs conducted in May with a total of 600 participants. Most participants were part of school groups or families. Summer event schedule made, posted online, and will be posted throughout surrounding area in businesses and posting areas.

Park Officer's Report: Assisted with programming for Free Fishing Weekend and the 4H/Pheasants Forever seeding & tree planting. Conducted 6 fishing license checks and 12 boating safety checks. Met with Sheriff's office to get keys, set up citation filing, and discussed ride-alongs and possibly getting MAC and TraCS. Got taser set up and personalized. Showed seasonals around all TCC properties and went over daily tasks. Pulled and planted maple trees. Mowed Ike's, Reinig, Otter Creek, Wolf Creek Trail, and TF Clark's Park. Mulched playground at TF Clark's and brush bladed & weed ate around all trees, fire rings, and electrical boxes. Tilled and planted food plots and grass in campground and by new culvert. Tilled and planted prairie mix in front in Nature Center. Watched bat training video. Mowed burn breaks, cleaned Nature Center, and serviced vehicles & mowers. Put new plumbing in shower house and finished installing sinks. Working on installing shower insulation.

Maintenance Report: Bladed Wolf Creek Trail, met with Terry Brown about diorama, cleaned up trash dumped at IRNA, fixed trailer hub, put water pump in 01 dodge (blown head gasket), planted 16 trees in North and South loop, disced up two sites in parcels for food plots, seasonals had IHNF meeting for bat training for the summer, hauled wood chips to TF Clark's playground, brush bladed around trees at TF Clark's Park, mowed and sprayed boat ramps except for Duffus and McCoy's, mowed and sprayed Heritage Wetlands and Columbia parking lot, tilled area for Pheasants Forever/4H volunteer day, had Pheasants Forever and 4H volunteers plant 10 trees below Nature Center. Water is turned on throughout the park. Power has been reconnected to East side. Polaris went in to get geofencing installed and 1st service. Working on getting shower house ready and electric turned on.

Director's Report: Website meetings conducted. Safety training meeting and met with dumpster contracts. Iowa River Watershed meeting. Met with contractors and Iowa DNR. Met with board of supervisors to transfer funds into LAD account. Met with Project AWARE.

Old Business

Lake Restoration Project Update: Fish habitat structures installed in lake area. BMP-15 done, roadwork mostly done. Contractors should be finished within 3 weeks. Posts and pad installed for picnic pad. Sidewalk finished. Dam is closed and catching water. DNR stocked siltation ponds with pan fish. Keeping fish will be off-limits until spring 2024 to allow for fish to spawn, though catch and release will be allowed. Wrage: can we prohibit using minnows as bait to prevent them from taking over the lake?

Trailer/Truck: Trailer lost tire between Wolf Creek Trail and TF Clark while tractor was on it. Tractor was overweight. This is the second time the trailer has lost a tire. Need for new trailer with higher weight rating and better equipment discussed. Potential purchase or lease of skid loader discussed.

Camper's Hill: Grading needs to be finished.

CiNTAS First Aid Quote: Will not go with CiNTAS. May get first aid and PPE from Amazon or Menards as needed.

New Business

Selling Firewood/Log Splitter: There are lots of dead ash trees and we could potentially sell them as firewood. Seasonals may be able to split it and put it on a cart to sell using honor system. Would need to get splitter. Motion to buy splitter by Wacha, seconded by Adolphs, carried, all voting aye.

New Building Concrete & Retaining Wall: Former concrete contractors were fired. Pursuing concrete and retaining wall work for tan building by shop. Quote for concrete work from JRF Concrete LLC is \$7824.27 for 4" slabs and \$8284.00 for 5" slabs. Motion to approve pouring 5" concrete by Wacha, seconded by Kenkel, carried, all voting aye.

Dumpster Quotes: Emptying individual trash barrels throughout park takes up lots of staff time and dumpster service would increase efficiency for trash removal. K&M Sanitations LLC and Sanitary Refuse Garbage Services are two options. 8 dumpsters needed for Otter Creek Lake and Park. \$2080 per month (\$12480 per year) for K&M, \$4000 per month (24000 per year) for SRGS. Cost includes landfill fees. May

start by installing dumpsters at shop, north loop, and south loop. Motion to install dumpsters at shop, north loop, and south loop with K&M by Wacha, seconded by Kenkel, carried, all voting aye.

TCCB Logo: Arrowhead imagery in logo feels inappropriate and overall design is out of date. New logo proposed. Motion to phase in new logo by Wacha, seconded by Kenkel, carried, all voting aye.

Floor Discussion

Floor Discussion: Kenkel brought up roughness of rock on trail at Wolf Creek. Horne says they will add some finer sediment so the trail is smoother.

Culvert at main road: will need to wait to asphalt it until it settles for a year or so.

Adjourn

With no further discussion items, it was motioned by Adolphs, seconded by Kenkel to adjourn the meeting at 8:04 p.m.

Board Chair

Tama County Conservation Board