

The Tama County Conservation Board met in regular session on Wednesday, March 1, 2017, at the Tama County Nature Center, Otter Creek Lake & Park. The meeting was called to order by Chair Atchison at 7 p.m.. Members present were: Adolphs, Atchison, Graff, Keenan and Wrage. Also present: Etzel, Rieger and Roy Silhanek.

Minutes from the regular session of February 2, 2017, were read. It was moved by Adolphs, seconded Graff to accept the minutes as read, carried. (All voting aye)

The following bills were presented:

<b>TO BE PAID FROM GEN'L FUND</b>			
		<b>Amount of Bill</b>	<b>Category Total</b>
<b>0001-22-6100-100-661 Salary-Director</b>			
<b>Etzel, Robert</b>	10-Feb-17	1,923.00	
	24-Feb-17	<u>1,923.00</u>	
		3,846.00	3,846.00
<b>0001-22-6100-000-26000 Office Supplies</b>			
<b>Staples Credit Plan</b>	#1753582831 Seagate Backup Plus (1), #1756751311 Seagate Backup Plus (shop)	169.98	169.98
<b>0001-22-6100-000-26100 Books, Mags</b>			
<b>Tama Toledo Newspapers</b>	1 yr subscription- News Herald/Chronicle	60.00	60.00
<b>0001-22-6100-000-41400 Telephone</b>			
<b>Windstream</b>	17Feb17, 484-5314 (shop)	57.95	
	17Feb17, 484-2231 (office)	<u>76.14</u>	
		134.09	134.09
<b>0001-6110-101-22-223 Salary- Main Supervisor</b>		-	
<b>Wise, Craig</b>	10-Feb-17	1,749.60	
	24-Feb-17	<u>1,749.60</u>	
		3,499.20	
<b>Salary- Naturalist/Park Ranger</b>			
<b>Anderson, Chris</b>	10-Feb-17	1,426.40	
	24-Feb-17	<u>1,426.40</u>	
		2,852.80	
<b>0001-6110-101-22-224 Salary- Conservation Tech/Park Ranger</b>			
<b>Rieger, Ryan</b>	10-Feb-17	1,513.60	
	24-Feb-17	<u>1,513.60</u>	
		3,027.20	
	<b>TOTAL SALARIES- MAIN &amp; OPERATIONS</b>		9,379.20
<b>0001-22-6100-000-42200 School of Instruction</b>			
<b>IACCBE</b>	Hotel room while attending Winterfest- Etzel Two nights 23 & 24Jan17	145.46	145.46

<b>0001-22-6100-000-63600 Office Equipment</b>			
<b>Watts Technologies, Inc.</b>	#369 HP PC, Viewsonic 22" monitor, Office 2016 Home & Business PKC (main shop)	930.00	930.00
<b>0001-22-6110-22-25450 Mt Veh-Minor Repair</b>			
<b>D's Auto &amp; Truck Inc.</b>	#99162 '01 Dodge pickup- battery	143.95	
<b>J&amp;V Auto Parts</b>	#503572 bulb (2), AAA batteries (2), flasher-elctronic	<u>35.85</u>	
		179.80	179.80
<b>0001-22-6110-000-29252 Main &amp; Supplies</b>			
<b>Anderson, Chris</b>	2feb17 meal- attending workshop in Ames	10.00	
<b>Etzel, Robert</b>	Regis- Dist 1 mtg- all staff @ \$10 ea, 2Feb17 Fire Training- Anderson, Rieger, Wise	70.00	
<b>IDALS</b>	Rieger- 3 yr pesticide applicators license- Categories 2, 5, 6	15.00	
<b>Menard's</b>	#49976 pin punch, drill bits; #51744 stake flags, concrete (26)	39.08	
<b>Poweshiek Water Assoc.</b>	Water, OCP- West, 20Feb17, meter read, Prev: 1224K, Cur: 1225K, Used: 1K	41.50	
	Water, OCP- East, 20Feb17, meter read, Prev: 589K, Cur: 590K, Used: 1K	41.50	
	Water, OCP- Residence 20Feb17, meter read, Prev: 44K, Cur: 47K, Used: 3K	55.60	
<b>Rieger, Ryan</b>	2feb17 meal- attending workshop in Ames	10.00	
<b>Tama County Solid Waste</b>	Landfill fees- January	22.50	
<b>Tama County Tourism</b>	17 Pocket Tourism Guide- 1/2 page ad	200.00	
<b>Tama Toledo Ace Hardware</b>	#010574 hex nut, flat washer, carriage screw, spray paint, #010575 Credit Memo	33.75	
<b>The Supply Cache</b>	#214398A fire equipment- PPE for Anderson, Rieger, Wise	1,315.45	
<b>Wise, Craig</b>	2feb17 meal- attending workshop in Ames	<u>10.00</u>	
		1,864.38	1,864.38
<b>0001-22-6110-000-43000 LP Gas</b>			
<b>New Century FS</b>	Pre-paid LP purchase, Ticket #33834, 2Feb17		
	650 gals LP @ \$1.029/gal = \$668.85, LPER = \$3.58, HAZ = \$5.85		
	Residence = 200 gals, Main shop = 450 gals		
	Begin Bal = \$796.17, Current bal = \$117.89		
<b>0001-22-6110-000-43100 Electricity</b>			
<b>Grundy Co REC</b>	OCP thru 1Feb17, 12,180 KWH- meter #1	704.50	
	Meter #2 (NC), 4,753kwh	304.19	
	PCA Public Bldgs	95.44	
	PCA Auxillary Meters	61.08	
	Monthly Service charge	29.00	
	Security lights	<u>156.00</u>	

		1350.21	1,350.21
<b>0001-22-6110-000-63700 Shop Equipment</b>			
<b>Grainger</b>	#9360072491 label maker PT E-100, label cartridge	83.55	<u>83.55</u>
<b>Total Bills Submitted, General Fund</b>			<b>18,142.67</b>
<b>To be paid from Nature Center Trust</b>			
<b>0031-22-6120-000-29272 Main &amp; Supplies</b>			
<b>Earth Day Shirts</b>	#IN219110 T-shirts for Fun Night- 45 shirts	388.45	
<b>Total Bills Submitted, Nature Center Trust</b>			<b>388.45</b>
<b>Total All Bills Submitted</b>			<b>\$18,531.12</b>

Moved by Keenan, seconded Wrage to approve bills, carried. (All voting aye).

**Reports and Correspondence. Maintenance Report** Rieger updated the Board on worked started or completed during February. The work included: Hansen Addition- Parcel A- remove interior fencing, prescribed fire on 10.5 acres at OCP, work on gooseneck trailer- repair lights, replace rollers on north sliding door, earth work in north loop camp area, install new fire rings in north loop, rebuild picnic tables, clear autumn olive in ditches along N Ave north of park entrance./ **Environmental Education Report** The Board reviewed a report generated by Anderson updating the Board on ongoing environmental education activities during February./ **Tama County Tourism** Etzel reported that a ½ page ad will be appearing in the Tama County Tourism Guidebook highlighting Otter Creek Lake and Park./ **FY '18 Budget Proposal** The Supervisor's budget hearing for the FY '18 budget is scheduled for March 13./**CRP- Hansen Additions to Otter Creek Lake and Park** Etzel reported that the CRP contracts on Parcel C & D will expire in the fall of 2017. The expiration will allow the Conservation Board to establish wetlands in the NW drainage to the lake when funds allow.

**Izaak Walton Shooting Facility- 2017 Use Request by Young Guns- 4-H Youth Shooting Club** Roy Silhanek addressed the board to request use of the Izaak Walton Shooting Facility for shooting activities of the Young Guns 4-H Shooting Club. He requested use of the range on the 2<sup>nd</sup> through 5<sup>th</sup> Thursday of each month starting in April and running through September. Shooting hours will be from 6 p.m.- 8 p.m. or sunset (whichever comes first).



Silhanek indicated they will have 24- 29 kids in the club this year. He reported on extra training that he has received and some tweaks the club is going to do to make their visits to the range more productive.

After discussion it was moved by Adolphs, seconded Keenan to allow the Young Guns to use the range in 2017 as proposed, carried. (All voting aye) Note: Etzel will review the 2016 agreement and draft documents for 2017.

**Review of Food Plots/Crop Leases on existing properties** The Board discussed the tracts they manage that have either food plots or crop leases. The discussion centered on what the Board would like to do in the short and the long term on these areas.

**Reinig Wildlife Refuge and Nature Study Area** The 46.29 acre property, which was acquired through a bequest in 2002, has a 18.5 acre crop field which the Board has leased since 2003. The funds generated have been used for improvements on the site. Funds remaining unspent are being saved for future improvements. The current crop lease will expire on April 1<sup>st</sup>.

The Board discussed what improvements they would like to achieve on the property to help decide the short term plans for the crop field. The general consensus is that long term plans for the field is to put it back to native

vegetation, most likely prairie grasses and forbs. Wrage noted the Board needs to make sure adequate funds are on hand to pay for those improvements before retiring the crop field.

Projects for Consideration		
Description		Amount
Grassed waterway		4,400.00
Wetland creation #1- 1.0 ac		20,000.00
Wetland creation #2- 0.6 ac		15,000.00
Fence Removal- interior		1,000.00
Materials- fence- west border		1,000.00
Circular hiking trail		2,500.00
Prairie grass/forb plantings		8,000.00
Fencing (repair/replace)		1,500.00
<b>Total Projected Costs</b>		<b>53,400.00</b>

**Columbia Wildlife Area** The 160 acre property, was acquired with the assistance of a Wildlife Habitat Stamp Grant in 1986. Originally the property had two small food plots/crop fields measuring 5 acres and 2 acres. Because of limited staff and the planting season conflicting with a busy work schedule the fields were allowed to revert back to brome grass in the 1990's.

Etzel reported that he had met with a custom farm operator relative to possible options for the 5 acre south crop field. The Board discussed various options for the field including putting it into row crop with a traditional crop rotation, planting a food plot, or no change in management.

Etzel reported that he had spoken with Cliff Foster, NRCS, regarding possible options for the field. Cliff recommended if the Board decides to do the traditional row crop that they should no-till if at all possible. For a food plot he also suggested going with a "succotash" mix being broadcast on the field with a variety of species beneficial to wildlife such as corn, millet, sorghum, sunflower seed, turnips, radishes, etc.

The Board was in agreement that the long term goal for the field would be to place it into native prairie grasses and forbs (perhaps a pollinator mix). The Board feels that a gradual transition for the field may be the best course of action working a couple years with the succotash food plot while working to control thistle and weeds on the site before establishing the prairie planting.

**Heritage Wetlands Wildlife Area** The Heritage Wetlands Wildlife Area was acquired in 2014, partially funded with Wildlife Habitat Stamp Funds. This 76.91 acre tract houses 35.5 acres of emergent wetland, 16.0 acres of forested wetland, 1.5 acres mature woodland, 3.0 ac of native grass buffer, and 20.9 acres of upland (which is currently in row crop). The crop lease will expire on April 1, 2018. The Board will use the crop lease revenues to fund the transition to native habitat in 2018. The Board was in agreement that the long term management for the current crop field will be to retire it to habitat more beneficial to wildlife.

Etzel recommended the staff work up a habitat plan for the crop acres to be presented to the Conservation Board in late 2017 or early 2018 for their consideration.

**Parcel C- Hansen Addition- Tree Planting Plan** Ryan Rieger, Conservation

Technician/Park Ranger for the Board presented a plan to reforest what is currently a 10.5 acre crop field located in the NE corner of Parcel C. The plan is to plant 9 acres with mixed hardwoods with a shelterbelt type planting running east to west along the northern part of the property. The trees and shrubs will be planted in rows allowing mowing between the rows to control competing vegetation.

The tract will be planted this spring using the following species: Sugar Maple, white oak, red oak, bottomland bur oak, shagbark hickory, black cherry, northern pecan, and black walnut. The shelterbelt will include white pine, white spruce, red osier dogwood, high bush cranberry, hazelnut, arrowwood, and aroniaberry.

**Tree Planting Plan**



Parcel C, Hansen Addition  
to Otter Creek  
Lake & Park

By Ryan Rieger



The estimated cost for the planting is \$8,039. Rieger successfully secured a Trees Forever grant for \$2,000 bringing the total cost to the county to \$6,039.

**First Aid/CPR Training** Etzel presented information regarding 1<sup>st</sup> Aid/CPR Training for staff this spring. Cost for the on-site training will be \$65 per person with a minimum of eight for the class. Etzel will recruit other interested in the training to lower the cost to the County Conservation Board. He is hoping the training will occur in late April.

**ARC Payments** Etzel has received word that the Conservation Board is eligible to receive ARC funds through the Farm Service Agency (FSA). The funds are for FY '14 and '15. The funds, as required in the current farm bill, must be distributed to a public school or schools in the county. The Conservation Board can give guidance to the school district(s) chosen on how the funds should be used. Also the Conservation Board must receive verification from each school board regarding any funds received. Etzel reported the amount of funds to be received will be \$17,982.

After discussion it was moved by Keenan, seconded Adolphs to accept the ARC funds for distribution among schools as decided upon by the Conservation Board.

The Board discussed how the funds should be distributed and what stipulations should be attached to the funds for the school districts chosen. Any motion was tabled until the April board meeting to allow Etzel time to generate a recommendation.

After discussion of assorted conservation topics it was moved by Wrage, seconded Adolphs to adjourn, carried. (all voting aye) Adjourned 8:30 p.m..

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CHAIR

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VICE-CHAIR