

The Tama County Conservation Board met in regular session on Wednesday, April 5, 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, Keenan and Wrage. Also present: Etzel and Wise. [Note: Wrage served as acting vice-chair in Graff's absence.]

Minutes from the regular session of March 1, 2017, were read. It was moved by Adolphs, seconded Keenan 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>	6-Mar-17	1,923.00	
	20-Mar-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>	#1776756611 envelopes, recycled paper	31.28	31.28
<b>0001-22-6100-000-41200 Postage</b>			
<b>Etzel, Robert</b>	as per four (4) receipts	193.90	
<b>USPS</b>	200- \$0.49 stamps	<u>98.00</u>	
		291.90	291.90
<b>0001-22-6100-000-41400 Telephone</b>			
<b>Verizon</b>	1Mar17, 484-2231 (office)	15.57	
<b>Windstream</b>	20Mar17, 484-2231 (office), 484-4157 (payphone)	76.14	
	20Mar17, 484-5314 (shop)	<u>57.75</u>	
		149.46	149.46
<b>0001-6110-101-22-223 Salary-Main Supervisor</b>		-	
<b>Wise, Craig</b>	6-Mar-17	1,749.60	
	20-Mar-17	<u>1,749.60</u>	
		3,499.20	
<b>Salary- Naturalist/Park Ranger</b>			
<b>Anderson, Chris</b>	6-Mar-17	1,426.40	
	20-Mar-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>	6-Mar-17	1,513.60	
	20-Mar-17	<u>1,513.60</u>	
		3,027.20	
	<b>TOTAL SALARIES- MAIN &amp; OPERATIONS</b>		9,379.20
<b>0001-22-6110-000-29252 Main &amp; Supplies</b>			
<b>Fareway Stores</b>	#00194584 soup, crackers- OWL program	13.04	

Grainger	#9379962823 Emergency light (2) for NC, battery 6V (3)	197.16	
Hrabak Lumber	#0176263 2x10x8 reg (12) @ \$9.52 ea, 2x10x6 reg @ \$7.14 ea	185.64	
Koch Bros	#243748 contract overage charge for 13Oct- 12Jan17	30.37	
Poweshiek Water Assoc.	Water, OCP- West,20Mar17, meter read, Prev: 1225K, Cur: 1226K, Used: 1K	41.50	
	Water, OCP- East, 20Mar17, meter read, Prev: 590K, Cur: 591K, Used: 1K	41.50	
	Water, OCP- Residence 20Mar17, meter read, Prev: 47K, Cur: 50K, Used: 3K	52.30	
	Water, TFCP 20Mar17, meter read, Prev: 15K, Cur: 15K, Used: 0K	37.00	
Schendel Pest Control	#01-0199137 Bi-monthly Service Check	60.00	
Tama Solid Waste Disposal Comm.	Landfill fees February	12.00	
Tama-Toledo Ace Hardware	#010762 finish hex nut;#010929 sponge, toilet bowl brush. Spray paint, wire clips	63.39	
Thomas Co	#1614106 repair- refirg- main res	105.00	
Wilkerson Hardware	#B191399 wood plugs; #B191010 clip malleable, 1/2 (4)	11.95	
		850.85	850.85
0001-22-6110-000-43100 Electricity			
Grundy Co REC	OCP thru 1Mar16, 4,862 kwh- meter #1, 3,118 kwh- NC	958.18	958.18
<b>Total Bills Submitted, Gen'l Budget</b>			<b>15,506.87</b>
<b>FROM LAD Account</b>			
<b>0027-22-0210-000-6000 Capital Projects</b>			
Timber Mgmt LLC	#003105 vented trees shelters (700) for Hansen Add- Parcel C project	2,100.00	
<b>Total Bills Submitted, LAD Account</b>			<b>2,100.00</b>
<b>FROM NATURE CENTER TRUST</b>			
<b>0031-22-6120-000-29272 Main &amp; Supplies</b>			
Milligan, Tom	Ding Darling Program	250.00	
My Mother's Place	Fun Night (25Mar17), 160 meals @ \$9.00/meal	1,440.00	
VISA	Archery Supplies- Tama Co Comm Found Grant (Bass Pro & 3Rivers Archery)	2,060.22	
		3,750.22	3,750.22
<b>0031-22-6120-000-29672 Art Supplies</b>			
Larry Zach Wildlife Art	#56789 various art canvas prints and framed prints	457.00	
OMP (Outdoor Marketing Products)	#31156 various pieces (16) incl hickory trash bin, side table, knives, etc.	515.02	
Wild Wings	#323784, #324418, #323892, #324100 misc art items for Fun Night	1,182.56	
		2,154.58	2,154.58
<b>Total Bills Submitted, Nature Center Trust</b>			<b>\$ 5,904.80</b>

<b>FROM Machinery &amp; Motor Vehicle Account</b>			
<b>2000-22-6100-000-63500 machinery &amp; Equipment</b>			
<b>Milam's Equipment Sales, Inc.</b>	#5873 '98 Champion 720A VHP Grader, Ser #02878	42,000.00	
<b>Total Bills Submitted, Machinery &amp; Motor Vehicle Account</b>			<b>42,000.00</b>
<b>Total All Bills Submitted</b>			<b>\$ 65,511.67</b>

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

**Reports and Correspondence. Maintenance Report** Wise updated the Board on worked started or completed during March. The work included: Reinig Tract and Columbia Wildlife Area- repair cut cable in parking lot, floating t-dock- repair wheel supports, North Loop renovation- move dirt, Manatt's Landing- pick up dumped trash and paint over profanity spray painted on trees, Fun Night- help set up for event, Manatt's Landing- grade road in preparation for road stone, Otter Creek Park- picnic tables- repair/rep for spring, Nature Center- replace and repair emergency lights in building.

**Environmental Education Report** The Board reviewed a report generated by Anderson updating the Board on ongoing environmental education activities during March./ **Publicly Owned Lakes Application** Etzel shared a grant application that been submitted by the Tama SWCD to perform improvements in private acres located above Otter Creek Lake.

The work if completed will help to protect water quality in the lake./ **Tama County Community Foundation Grant** Word has been received that a grant application to help fund acquisition of archery equipment for use with youth and adult programming had been accepted. The grant award is \$1,500. An award ceremony will occur at the Traer Public Library the evening of April 19./

**FEMA- Wolf Creek Trail Restoration**

Etzel reported that he had met with L.T. Smith, Iowa Homeland Security, regarding closing out the restoration work that was completed in 2016. Smith had forwarded the information to FEMA officials for their review pending reimbursement for the work. He reported the total cost of the project was \$191,756.68. It is hoped FEMA will clear the project for full reimbursement which is 75% federal and 10% state./

**Fun Night for the Nature Center** A preliminary report was shared for the annual fundraising event that was held on March 25. Attendance for this year's event was down approximately 15- 20 people from 2016. It appears the funds raised will be in the neighborhood of \$5,000- \$5,500. Etzel pointed out while the funds are helpful in funding improvements at the nature center and environmental education programs of the board the event is an opportunity to remind supporters of the project and provide a fun and educational evening./

**Seasonal Staff** Etzel reported that two persons have accepted job offers for the two Seasonal Conservation Aide positions. Both are slated to begin work on May 8. Regarding the Seasonal Park Ranger position a candidate is still being sought. Ads will appear in local papers this week and next for that position.

**Izaak Walton Shooting Facility** Wrage reported that he had spoken with one of the members of the Izaak Walton Shooting Facility Advisory Committee. Wrage felt it might be a good idea to gather the committee to discuss things relative to the facility and possible upcoming improvements at the range. Etzel indicated that he will organize a meeting of the group and report back on what was discussed.

**Reinig Wildlife Refuge and Nature Study Area- Crop Lease** The Board discussed the crop lease on 18.5 acres of the property. The current lease expired on April 1. Etzel reported that in light of the Board's desire to continue the lease at least two more years to help fund projects on the property he had discussed possible interest of the current renters in extending the lease another two years. He reported the renters agreed to continue the lease through the 2018 crop season at the same rate as they were currently paying.



Crop Year	Crop	Crop Lease	Approx. per acre
2017	Corn	\$3,300.00	\$178.38
2018	Soybeans	\$3,300.00	\$178.38

It was moved by Wrage, seconded Keenan to enter into a two year crop lease extension with Clint Wobeter and Kam Koster for \$3,300.00 per year, carried. (All voting aye)

**Reinig Wildlife Refuge and Nature Study Area- Grassed waterway and interior fence removal** The Board considered quotes to remove approximately 1,400' feet of interior fence and to install a grassed waterway on the 18.5 acre crop field. Etzel reported that paperwork has been filed with the NRCS to perform a wetland determination on the property which is required before the grass waterway can be installed. The following quotes were received:

Contractor	Quote
MD Construction	\$8,345.00
Hatch Grading & Contracting	\$7,750.00

After discussion it was moved by Adolphs, seconded Keenan that the work be awarded to Hatch Grading & Contracting for \$7,750.00, carried. (All voting aye)

**ARC-CO Payments** It was reported that a check had been received in the amount of \$17,991.99. As part of the program the Conservation Board is to distribute the funds to a school or schools in the county in any manner they see fit. Also the County Conservation Board can dictate how those funds are to be spent by the receiving school district.

Etzel recommended a fair and equitable way to distribute the funds to the school districts serving students in Tama County. He had generated information from each school district regarding the number of students who resided in Tama County and attended the school district. He presented a spread sheet showing the number of students and a distribution of funds based on the percentage of total students in the county served by each school district.

The Board discussed what requirements should be placed upon the school districts regarding use of the funds. The Board was in agreement that the funds should be used by the school districts to fund environmental education field trips to Otter Creek Lake and Park and the Tama County Nature Center. The staff of the Board are committed to working with the school districts to provide enjoyable and educational experiences for all students.

Etzel presented a draft of a letter which could be used in communicating with the school districts.

After discussion it was moved by Adolphs, seconded Keenan that the funds be distributed in a manner as presented, and that the funds be used by the school districts to provide their students with environmental education opportunities at Otter Creek Lake and Park and the Tama County Nature Center, carried. (All voting aye)

**Road Grader Purchase** The Board discussed the need to replace the 1963 Galion road grader. The machine has been experiencing increasing problems making it undependable and unsafe to operate. Wise presented information that he had gathered on machines falling in the price range of what was budgeted. He could not find any machines in Iowa that had lower hours, were still in decent shape, and met our price point. He had located machines in various locations around the U.S. and reported that the machines are sold fairly rapidly. Of six units that he had located on Friday only two remained on Monday.



Wise presented a machine that would meet the needs of the Conservation Board and is in relatively good shape.

Etzel presented the Board with the Machinery, Motor Vehicle- Funding Strategy spreadsheet that portrays a strategy for equipment to be purchased in the current fiscal year through FY '21. The information reflected the purchase would be possible in FY '17 using funds available in the Machinery & Motor Vehicle Account. The FY '17 budget will have to be amended to cover this purchase.

After discussion it was moved by Adolphs, seconded Keenan to purchase a 1998 Champion 720A VHP Grader from Milam's Equipment Sales Inc. (Sutherlin, VA) for \$42,000.00, carried. (All voting aye) [Note: The price includes the dealer trucking the equipment to Otter Creek Lake and Park.]

**Capital Improvement Projects** Pending capital improvement projects relative to the FY '18 budget were reviewed. The two highest priority larger projects on the Conservation Board's list are renovation/repair of the asphalt road system and electrical upgrade/renovation of the south loop camp area, both located at Otter Creek Lake and Park.

After discussion it was moved by Keenan, seconded Adolphs that the asphalt road repair be completed in FY '18, carried. (All voting aye)

It was moved by Wrage, seconded Keenan that the South Loop campground electrical upgrade is of the highest priority for completion during FY '19, carried. (All voting aye)

After discussion of assorted conservation topics it was moved by Keenan, seconded Wrage to adjourn, carried. (all voting aye) Adjourned 8:25 p.m..

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CHAIR

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VICE-CHAIR