

The Tama County Conservation Board met in regular session on Wednesday, November 4, 2009, in the library, Tama County Nature Center, Otter Creek Park.

Chairman Wrage called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.. Members present were: Adolphs, Anderson, Benda, and Wrage. Also present: Todd Kearney, Brian Sienknecht, Jeff Dostal, Jerry Ebersole, Tom Ashton, Etzel and Wise.

Minutes from the regular session of October 7, 2009, were read. It was moved by Adolphs, seconded Anderson to make corrections to the October 7, 2009, minutes as follows:

After discussion of assorted conservation topics it was moved by Keenan, seconded ~~Adolphs~~ Anderson to adjourn, carried, Adjourned 9:20 p.m..

Moved by Anderson, seconded Benda to approve the minutes as read with the above correction, carried. (All voting aye)

The following bills were presented:

TO BE PAID FROM GEN'L FUND		Amount of Bill	Category Total
0001-22-6100-00-41400 Telephones			
Iowa Telecom	484-5314 (shop), 17Oct09	62.60	
	484-2231 (office), 484-4157 (payphone) 17Oct09	122.85	
Verizon	16Oct09, 484-5314 (shop)	10.76	
	19Oct09, 484-4157 (payphone)	11.79	
	16Oct09, 484-2231 (office)	<u>11.82</u>	
		219.82	219.82
0001-6110-100-22-223 Salary- Main Supervisor			
Wise, Craig	2-Oct-09	1,520.00	
	16-Oct-09	1,619.75	
	30-Oct-09	<u>1,520.00</u>	
		4,659.75	4,659.75
0001-6110-101-22-224 Salary			
Bergmann, Sandy	2-Oct-09	461.44	
	16-Oct-09	439.88	
Gettle, Clayton	2-Oct-09	484.33	
	16-Oct-09	<u>439.48</u>	
		1,825.13	1,825.13
0001-6110-101-22-226 Salary- Conserv Tech			
Dolash, Ron	2-Oct-09	1,414.74	
	16-Oct-09	1,434.45	
	30-Oct-09	<u>1,401.60</u>	
		4,250.79	4,250.79
0001-6110-250-22-050 Mt Veh- fuels			
New Century FS, Inc.	9Sep09, #348948 224 gals unleaded gasohol @ \$2.0479/gl	458.73	

	State MFT gasohol @ \$0.19/gal	42.56	
	FET (LUST)	0.22	
	200.0 gals DX Gold ULS dyed B5 15 ppm @ \$2.1580/gal	431.60	
	Haz mat handling fee	3.82	
	FET (LUST)	0.20	
		937.13	937.13
0001-6110-253-22-050 Mt Veh- Tires			
Bear's Inc.	#01-101381 light truck tire repair	14.95	
Z Line Tire & Repair	#1-58357 9x350-4 tube (2)	15.32	
		30.27	30.27
0001-6110-254-22-050 Mt Veh- Minor Repair			
Central Iowa Farm Store	#82217 misc parts	50.73	
J&V Auto Parts	#401 360 actuator, flasher;#402400 filters (5), breather, etc		
	#402182 cable ties	287.25	
Monroe Truck Equip., Inc.	#5145653 seal kit, complete 3x10 DA	94.10	
		432.08	432.08
0001-6110-292-22-052 Main & Supplies			
Central Iowa Distributing, Inc.	#53428 misc supplies	486.20	
Etzel, Robert	Reimburse- 4Nov09 lunch, 3Nov09 Staples- two ink toners	65.55	
Hygienic Labs	Water tests- coliform, west & east wells 8Jul-16Sep09 (19)	239.00	
IDALS	Commercial Pest Appl Cert- Dolash, Wise (3 yrs)	30.00	
Iowa Fire Equip Co.	#221234 annual inspection (NC) fire alarms	223.55	
Marshalltown Water Works	#200910094791 coliform analysis (5) @ \$14 ea	70.00	
Poweshiek Water Assoc.	TFCP thru Oct, Prev meter read: 4,000, Current 4,000	34.00	
Premier Office Equipment, Inc.	#61609 Platinum monthly maintenance plan,Sharp AR-651	43.00	
Schade Lime & Rock, Inc	6& 7Oct09 30.2 T rd stone to OCP- trucking	199.32	
Wendling Quarries	#389537 6Oct09 15.07T 1" rd stone, 7Oct09 15.13T 1" rd stone	241.60	
WW Grainger	#9108891335 batteries, 9V (12 pk)	22.11	
		1,654.33	1,654.33
0001-6110-431-22 Electricity			
Grundy Co REC	OCP thru Oct09, 10,580 KWH, meter #1	893.83	
	700 KWH meter #2	30.10	
	maintenance lights	96.00	
	security lights	18.00	

Traer Municipal Utilities	TFCP thru 14Oct09, 395 KWH	<u>103.15</u>	
		1,141.08	<u>1,141.08</u>
	Total Bills Submitted, Gen'l Budget		15,150.38
TO BE PAID FROM LAD Account			
0027-22-0210-000-6000 LAD Account			
Clapsaddle-Garber	#26968 Wolf Creek Trail Renovation Construction services (95% complete)	4,040.00	
S.L. Baumeier Co.	Pay estimate #3 Wolf Creek Trail Repair FEMA PW#8539	<u>7,955.30</u>	
	Total Bills Submitted, LAD Account		11,995.30
TO BE PAID FROM Nature Center Trust Account			
0031-22-6120-000-29272 Rec Supplies			
The Garden Center	Operation Releaf		
	Bur Oak (50) @ \$40 ea	2,000.00	
	Sugar Maple (75) @ \$39.50 ea	2,962.50	
	Japanese Tree Lilac (25) @ \$25 ea	<u>625.00</u>	
	Total Bills Submitted, LAD Account		5,587.50
	TOTAL BILLS SUBMITTED		\$32,733.18

Moved by Benda, seconded Anderson to approve bills, carried. (All voting aye).

Reports and Correspondence. Staff /Work. Wise reported on work projects during October including: winterization of facilities including shut down of the showerhouse and pulling of the dock, water & power has been shut off on the west side of Otter Creek Park, Dolash & Wise attended Pesticide Applicator Training, plant trees/**Vandalism** Two camping posts were broken off and a fire ring stolen from TF Clark Park, the seat of one shooting bench was destroyed at Izaak Walton Shooting Facility)/ **Great Places Designation** Etzel had attended an orientation meeting in Des Moines this morning for the program./ **Donovan Estate** It was reported that the estate of Carole Sue Donovan, Belle Plaine, had bequeathed a large amount of funds to local charities in her estate. Over \$400,000 was left to the National Audubon Society for its work in Benton, Tama, & Iowa counties. Etzel had met with Ron Windingstad, Audubon Minnesota, who is handling the donation. It was reported that the initial funds would be used to build an observation tower overlooking Otter Creek State Marsh and perhaps a floating trail over a portion of the marsh. Audubon will save the principal of the donation and use the interest generated to fund smaller projects in the three county region./ **FEMA construction update** Due to the extremely wet weather no substantial progress has been made on the FEMA project work at Otter Creek Lake & Park./ **Operation Releaf** The event on October 8 was a success. Etzel will be filing for reimbursement from the DNR during November./**Watershed Development & Planning Assistance Grant** Etzel will be meeting with Jeff Tisl, IDALS, tomorrow to further discuss applying for a grant during January. Funds will be sought to assist in doing a watershed analysis of lands feeding Otter Creek Lake.

Members of local snowmobile clubs addressed the board regarding allowing use the Wolf Creek Nature Trail by snowmobiles this winter. (The Wolf Creek Nature Trail runs from the town of Gladbrook west to AA Ave in Tama County where it hooks to the Comet Trail. The Comet Trail travels west from AA Ave through the town of Beaman and ending in Conrad.) Members noted that last year the clubs used the Comet Trail (managed by the Grundy County Conservation Board) between Conrad and Beaman without incident. Members indicated that use of the trail by the club would provide a safer route to travel by snowmobile between the three towns. The club indicated if an agreement can be struck they will

- be responsible to groom the trail and maintain it (fallen limbs, trees, and debris).
- monitor use along the trail and assist in weeding out trouble makers.

- provide and maintain safety signage along the trail.

Etzel spoke to the history of the trail and how a citizen action committee from Gladbrook did all the grant writing, negotiation with adjoining landowners, acquired the ROW, and volunteered hundreds of hours of donated labor and equipment use. Once the corridor was acquired management of the trail was assumed by the Tama County Conservation Board. It was also pointed out the intended use of the trail is for hiking, biking, and cross country skiing and is considered a non-motorized trail.

E-mails received from two members of the Wolf Creek Nature Trail committee were shared. One of the members stood opposed to such use of the trail voicing concerns relative to wear and tear on the asphalt surface and bridge decks, and the possible negative reaction of landowners that allowed the establishment of the trail. The other committee member felt that a one year trial might be acceptable if the trail surfaces and bridges won't be damaged, walkers and cross country skiers can use the trail without undue fear or interruptions in their activities, and the use of the trail by snowmobiles is acceptable to the Iowa DOT. (Note: Federal Highway funds were used to finance construction of the trail.)

The contents of a document, "Framework for Considering Motorized Use on Non-Motorized Trails" provided by the Iowa DOT was reviewed relative to the request. Items discussed included the intended use of the trail, safety considerations and impacts upon the intended use, impact on existing trail infrastructure, and how will the existing trail users be impacted.

The Board reviewed and discussed the agreement for the Comet Trail between Central Iowa Snowmobile Club and the Grundy County Conservation Board.

Significant concerns of the board were controlling speed of snowmobiles from the trail head west to C Avenue, possible liability insurance exposures, possible impacts on asphalt and bridge decks, etc.

Jerry Ebersole, Central Iowa Snowmobile Club, shared that on the Raccoon River Trail the snowmobile club would not allow use on the asphalt surfaces when less than 4" of snow cover was present. They did this by restrictive signage that would indicate when the trail was closed to snowmobiles. He indicated that many hikers and cross country skiers like the groomed trail as it is much easier to utilize than an un-groomed trail. Also, the club can attach plywood or other protective surface to protect the bridge decks.

During discussion it was stressed the Wolf Creek Nature Trail and Comet Trail will be viewed by the Tama County Conservation Board as one continuous trail. If Grundy County chooses to open the portion of the Comet Trail from AA Ave. to Beaman and if Tama County opens the portion of trail from Gladbrook to AA Avenue any problems encountered along the entire stretch of trail reaching from Gladbrook to Conrad will be grounds for termination of any agreement struck by Tama County with Central Iowa Snowmobile Club.

After considerable discussion it was moved by Benda, seconded Adolphs, that pending approval from the Tama County Attorney and Tama County liability insurer, and drafting of an agreement acceptable to the Tama County Conservation Board that the Board will allow use of the Wolf Creek Nature Trail from its trail head in Gladbrook to AA Avenue on a one year trial basis, carried. (Roll call vote: Adolphs- aye, Anderson- aye, Benda- aye, Wrage- aye.)

Documents presented for renovation work on the Wolf Creek Nature Trail were discussed. The following documents were received from Mike Bearden, Clapsaddle-Garber Associates, Inc.

- Pay estimate #3 for recent work completed on the project totaling \$7,955.30
- Pay estimate #4 final payment on the project in the amount of the retainage, totaling \$7,971.02
- Acceptance of the Engineer's Statement of Completion

It was moved by Adolphs, seconded Wrage to accept the request for Pay estimate #3 for \$7,955.30, carried. (All voting aye)

Payment #4 and the Engineer's Statement of Completion were discussed. It was moved by Wrage, seconded Benda, that the request known as Pay Estimate #4 and the Engineer's Statement of Completion be denied pending 100% completion of the specified work on the project, carried. (All voting aye)

A "Grant Agreement- Acquisition" was presented to the Conservation Board for a REAP grant to acquire Parcels C & D-Hansen Addition to Otter Creek Lake and Park. The grant agreement, in the amount of \$296,832.00, was reviewed by the Board. After discussion it was moved by Anderson, seconded Adolphs to accept the "Grant Agreement- Acquisition" for REAP Grant #10-R2-86, carried. (All voting aye)

The Board was updated regarding the problems with the west well at Otter Creek Lake and Park. The Board reviewed available funds in the current budget that could be used for this project. Currently there is only \$3,470.51 available in the Buildings & Permanent Improvements portion of the budget. The anticipated cost of connecting to Poweshiek Water Association is approximately \$34,000. The Board feels it is important to include the Supervisors in this discussion to find the best way to accomplish the project. Supplying quality drinking water to the public using the facility is very important.

Rent to use the Nature Center for a November 23, 2009, event, was overpaid by Tama County Career Development Center. It was moved by Adolphs, seconded Benda to refund \$50 to Tama County Career Development Center, carried. (All voting aye)

A letter received from Allan Atchison, Toledo, was discussed. Atchison had extenuating family matters that prevented him from using all his camping coupons during the 2009 camp season. He was requesting the board consider letting him use the tickets during 2010. Considerable discussion ensued and the Board was in agreement that the policy is that all tickets must be used during the current camping season. It was also mentioned that any variance of that policy is considered only in the most extreme situations. It was moved by Wrage, seconded Benda that 50% of the value of the coupons remaining may be applied towards purchase of a 21 day coupon book for the 2010 camp season, carried. (All voting aye)

After discussion of assorted conservation topics it was moved by Anderson, seconded Adolphs to adjourn, carried, Adjourned 9:20 p.m..

CHAIR

VICE-CHAIR