

The Tama County Conservation Board met in regular session on Wednesday, February 6, 2013, in the library, Tama County Nature Center, Otter Creek Park.

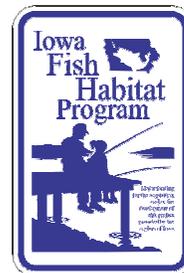
Chairman Keenan called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m.. Members present were: Adolphs, Atchison, Keenan, and Wrage. Also present: Etzel and Wise.

Minutes from the regular session of January 2, 2013, were read. It was moved by Adolphs, seconded Atchison to accept the minutes as read, carried. (All voting aye)

The following bills were presented:

TO BE PAID FROM GEN'L FUND			
		Amount of Bill	Category Total
0001-22-6100-000-41200 Postage			
Etzel, Robert	As per four (4) receipts	6.03	6.03
0001-22-6100-000-41400 Telephone			
Verizon	16Jan13, 484-2231 (office)	21.35	
	16Jan13, 484-5314 (shop)	14.35	
	19Jan13, 484-4157 (payphone)	14.96	
Windstream	18Jan13, 484-2231 (office), 484-4157 (payphone)	128.33	
	18Jan13, 484-5314 (shop)	56.31	
		235.30	235.30
0001-6110-101-22-223 Salary-Main Supervisor			
Wise, Craig	4-Jan-13	1,584.80	
	18-Jan-13	1,584.80	
		3,169.60	3,169.60
0001-6110-101-22-224 Salary			
Dolash, Ron	4-Jan-13	1,456.80	
	18-Jan-13	1,456.80	
		2,913.60	2,913.60
0001-22-6110-000-25450 Mt Veh- Minor Repair			
Carquest	#14452-71206 snow plow fluid, chrome convex	31.64	
Central Iowa Farm Store	#116351 cartridge (2), assy cartridge (2)	54.80	
J&V Auto Parts (NAPA)	#449350 cap screw (12), mois absorb, trans-tune, oil filter (2)	24.35	
		110.79	110.79
0001-22-6110-000-29252 Main & Supplies			
Central Iowa Distributing	#2825 misc supplies	555.84	
Diamond Vogel Paints	#262115923 Deck stain (4 gals) @ \$42.49 per gal	169.96	
Dolezal Farm Supply	#0060098 gate wheel kit, etc.	68.10	
Etzel, Robert	Lunch- 9Jan & 24Jan- attend meetings	13.80	
Menard's	#14586 misc painting supplies	108.17	

Reports and Correspondence. Staff Report Wise reported on work started or completed during January including snow removal, pull drywall in Nature Center Exhibit space, annual inventory, post new 911 signs, rebuild deck chairs and planters for Nature Center, build three new picnic tables, attend Winterfest./ **IACCB Spring Workshop** Event will be held on Saturday, March 9, at Reiman Gardens, Ames. This year the IACCB is offering the workshop, which includes lunch, for free for any current member of IACCB, Registration deadline: February 25./ **Fun Nite for the Nature Center** The event date is Saturday evening, April 6./ **Winterfest XLII** Staff attended the annual Winterfest Training Workshop on January 22- 24 in Waterloo./**Nature Center Exhibit Component** Etzel reported on the progress made on Phase 1- diorama. Mike & Aaron Haughey will be performing construction needed to prepare the Exhibit space for the diorama. The work will include hanging ceiling trusses, and drywall/painting of new surfaces. Other work by another contractor will include blowing closed cell foam insulation into the joist spaces./**Grants- Nature Center Exhibits** Etzel reported that word received from RJ McElroy Trust was that no funding was available for the project at this time. Work continues to get the Great Places grant contract signed. A clerical error had to be corrected on the last contract submitted and the new contract has not been received. Also requests had been filed with Dept of Cultural Affairs to receive a project completion time extension and seeking variance on the bidding requirements. A grant application has been filed with Tama County Community Foundation./**Ike's Tract** Etzel reported a grant application was not filed under the DNR's Shooting Sports grant while the board awaits a decision from Izaak Walton League of America, Inc. regarding a new lease for the property./**Fish Habitat Grant** The grant application filed in late November to rip-rap some shoreline at Otter Creek Lake had scored well enough to be recommended for funding. Action on the recommendation by the DNR commissioners is pending./ **Watershed Management Plan for Otter Creek Lake** Etzel will be meeting with representatives of the DNR, IDALS and NRCS on February 25 to coordinate efforts in completing the plan.



Crop Rental- Parcel C, Hansen Addition The Board discussed the 20 acre crop field in Parcel C- Hansen Addition. The field was rented during 2012 by Kam Koester and Clint Wobeter on a one year lease for beans. The long term plan for the 20 acres is to convert it to a woodland. Etzel proposed renting the 20 acres again this year with a gradual transition towards the woodland by planting 10 acres to trees in 2014. After discussion it was moved by Adolphs, seconded Atchison to offer a one year extension of the lease to Koester/Wobeter at the same rental rate paid in 2012. If unacceptable to them then solicit bids for a one year lease, carried. (all voting aye)



Wildlife Habitat Stamp Grant Application/Salt Creek Mitigation The grant application filed with the DNR for funding assistance to acquire the Salt Creek Mitigation LLC property was scored on January 18. The project scored well enough to receive an offer of partial funding (\$38,830) towards the \$100,000 acquisition of the 77 acre property. This was considerably less than the \$75,000 sought. The Board discussed options regarding the property and the chance of scoring higher in future grant cycles. Etzel shared that negotiations with Salt Creek Mitigation LLC continue to determine if they would donate a larger portion of the project cost to make the acquisition become reality. After considerable

discussion it was moved by Wrage, seconded Adolphs that the option to purchase be exercised if Salt Creek Mitigation LLC donates another \$30,000 toward the project, carried. (All voting aye)

iExplore STEM Event The Board had been contacted regarding possible participation in the iExplore STEM event to be held at North Tama School on Sunday, April 7. STEM, which stands for Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math is an event that grade school kids will attend with their families to experience interactive demonstrations. The goal is to pique the kids' interest and motivate them to pursue careers in these fields. All schools in Tama County will be participating in the event.



Etzel had contacted Mike Havlik, Naturalist, Des Moines Area Y-Camp, regarding his interest in participating in the event by providing two "main stage" presentations. His participation would be sponsored by the Tama County Conservation Board. Havlik is checking his calendar regarding his availability. After discussion it was moved by Adolphs, seconded Wrage to hire Havlik, if available, to provide two main stage presentations at the iExplore STEM Event on April 7, carried. (all voting aye)

Nature Center- Contract Diorama The Board reviewed a contract offered by Museum Professionals, Inc. relative to Phase 1- Nature Center Exhibit Component. The contract

Land Acquisition The Board discussed some land that may be for sale near one of their facilities.

Nature Center- Closed Cell Foam Etzel has received one quote to spray closed cell foam in the Nature Center Exhibit Room. The Board felt it would be wise to solicit another bid for the work. After discussion it was moved by Adolphs, seconded Wrage that the Board accept the low bid to have the ceiling and stud walls sprayed with 3” of closed cell foam, carried. (all voting aye)



Affordable Health Care Act Etzel shared a report filed by the National Park and Recreation Association regarding the Affordable Health Care Act and its impacts on seasonal workers. The Act is quite complex and future changes to the guidelines will be forthcoming. Etzel has been assured that he will be able to provide input into the process as the course of action to be taken by Tama County is determined.

HF 92 Natural Resources Sales Tax In 2010 63% of voters cast yes votes in support of the Iowa Water and Land Legacy Act (IWill). This act set up the Natural Resources Trust fund, a constitutionally protected fund, that would receive guaranteed funding of 3/8 of one cent of the next sales tax increase. HF 92 calls for an increase of 3/8 of one cent to the Iowa sales tax for natural resources in the state. A suggested formula for the trust fund is on record and would have a significant positive impact for water quality, wildlife management, soil conservation, outdoor recreation, environmental education, and quality of life in Iowa. The Board discussed supporting HF 92. Considerable discussion took place. All the board members felt the Natural Resources Trust Fund needs to be funded however some board members were not supportive of any tax increases.



It was moved by Wrage, seconded Atchison that the Tama County Conservation Board supports passage of HF 92 and funding of the Natural Resources Trust fund, carried. (Roll call vote: Adolphs- nay, Atchison- aye, Keenan- aye, Wrage- aye)

After discussion of assorted conservation topics it was moved by Adolphs, seconded Wrage to adjourn, carried, Adjourned 9:15 p.m..

CHAIR

VICE-CHAIR