

September 3, 2023

Call to Order

The Tama County Conservation Board met in regular session on Wednesday, September 3, 2023 at the Tama County Nature Center. The meeting was called to order at 6:29 pm by Chair, Keenan.

Board Members present: Allen, Kenkel, Wacha, and Keenan.

Staff Members present: Horne, Conrad, Genaw.

Public present: Ruby McCallister with the Tama-Toledo Newspaper, Delania Halter, Alan Atchison and wife

Approval of Meeting Minutes

Minutes from the Aug 17, 2023 meeting were reviewed. It was moved by Keenan, seconded by Kenkel, to approve the minutes as recorded, carried, all voting aye.

Approval of Bills

Bills were presented for Sep 5, 2023 totaling 15,993.46. It was moved by Kenkel, seconded by Keenan to approve all bills, all voting aye. Additionally, a deposit of \$2610 has been made into the general fund & camping deposits fee has been made, collected from camping fees. Additionally, a \$100 deposit has been made into the Ike's account with money collected from new member fees.

Public Comment

Alan Atchison and wife inquired about the bench put out for their uncle, Bob Atchison. They were told the bench was destroyed. Horne said bench was being repaired and Mayne said bench needed parts to come by special order for repair. Bench had a concrete base with plaque and bench above. Want to know where the project stands. Horne says the bench will be replaced. Additionally, the Atchisons expressed anger over Alan's removal from the board.

Allen discussed desire to resume doing work at Ike's range using funds in the Ike's Range account.

Reports & Updates

Park Officer's Report & Maintenance Report (combined):

Total camping information: 160 total camping nights, \$2610 total camping revenue for August 3rd through September 5th, 2023. Roughly 15 camping nights and \$150 for T.F. Clarks Park.

Park officer patrolled Campgrounds, boat ramps, and public hunting areas. No incidents. Closed Cedar Rapids billing accounts. Signed up for a CCPOA training and made an AXON account for his taser.

Cut brush at along road and ranges at Ikes. Will be burned this winter. Finished cutting and moving brush along the boat ramp at OCLAP. Cut up brush and trees from the secondary roads saw class. Mowed the weeds in foodplot. Added grass seed to beach; will be continually watering. Added brassica seed to foodplot. Mowed prairie seedings and spoils sites. Rotated tires and serviced work truck. Got PTO shaft and reinstalled on Harley rake. Cleaned up water spill in basement. Began cutting the trails at Columbia and started to make a gameplan for the winter. Cleaned bathrooms, checked trash, cleaned nature center. Cleaned out Nature center office and basement. Reorganized paperwork from library and cleaned it out. Picked up moose mount from Springbrook state park. Hung taxidermy and prints back up in the Nature Center. Attended monthly safety meeting. Weed ate campground and trees. Cleaned and began organizing shop. Mowed Ike's, Reinig, Wolf Creek, and TF Clark's park.

Environmental Education Report: Deliver 15 environmental ed programs in Aug, total attendance of 191. Programs included preschool programs, library programs, paddling 101 classes at Pilgrim Heights, and setting up an educational table at the farmers market. Went to School of the Wild workshop (ran through the University of Iowa). Met with Amy in Poweshiek County to talk about the Wildlife Habitat Education Program (WHEP) and how we could start it up in Tama County. Meeting with Jenny Hulme tomorrow to talk about WHEP and plan some upcoming nature camps. Starting OWLS programs again on Sep 15th—Dustin and Riley will talk about lake restoration. Signed up for Project Feederwatch, which is a citizen science project. Will gather data for it during winter programming at the Nature Center. Prepared flyers to bring to schools for Fall Fest later this month. Have flyers for board members to take home and hang up around town. Inventoried freezer animals and have started collecting birds to make study skins. Updated inventory for salvage license for upcoming renewal and annual report. Organized books in library. Working on application for educational project permit for possession of protected animals other than raptors to use them in programming. Need Keenan's signature and approval of a \$15 fee to hold the license for 3 years. Completed charitable gambling permit to hold a raffle for Fall Fest. Need approval and payment of \$15 fee for permit. Need Keenan's signature and approval of a \$15 fee to renew the salvage permit for an additional 3 years. Kenkel moved to approve three permit fees of \$15 each (a total of \$45 for the three permits), seconded by Keenan, all voting aye. Keenan also signed the needed forms to complete the applications. Have continued planning on Fall Fest with Delania; will cover more later in meeting.

Administrative Report: Working on getting an itemized list of playground needs for TF Clark's Park and Otter Creek.

Old Business

Lake Restoration Update: Horne is working with Paul to finalize fish habitat grant. Horne received a document from the Iowa DNR to finalize the lake restoration project as well. Discussion of fish stocking

ensued, with board members wondering about the survival rate of the fish that were stocked into the dam earlier in the summer.

Nature Center's Office HVAC unit: HVAC bid from Scharnweber was presented to repair the system for the offices, with fees totaling \$8,075. It was motioned to approve this project bid by Wacha, seconded by Keenan, all voting aye.

Nature Center Deck: Nature center decking has been ordered and will be installed by Horne and Conrad. This project is hoped

Fall Festival: Hinegardners will be donating 40 lbs of apples for the cider press. Horne will arrange hay ride. Requested 50 lbs of ground beef from Iowa Premium. May also request ground beef from other group. Still seeking about six volunteers to help with the festival. Josie Wacha might be able to encourage FFA members to volunteer from South Tama High School. New vendors for Fall Fest include the Central Iowa Art Association and the Tama County Humane Society, who will be bringing live animals for the festival.

New Business

New Printer contract: Will need to consider new printer contract in October.

New Director: Keenan says Tammy Wise with HR wants the board to revise the job description. Job applications will be received by Tammy, sent to Horne via email, then reviewed by the board. The job opening will be posted in the newspaper for two weeks, possibly being posted for an extended time period as needed. Methods of creating greater accountability for the new director were discussed; including having the director fill out a daily record of how much time they spend on certain tasks. Starting salary at 65k per year was proposed, raising it as needed if applicants are not seen as suitable at 65k. It was motioned by Wacha, seconded by Kenkel, to approve posting the Director job description as proposed at 65k per year, all voting aye.

Job Descriptions: Discussion to make Horne maintenance supervisor was proposed. Horne's salary would be 52k per year. It was motioned by Wacha, seconded by Allen, to approve Horne's salary increase and new position title, all voting aye.

Floor Discussion

Floor Discussion: Approval of bills will now be done using a document from the auditor as well as a document provided by the director. Kenkel suggests including minutes for approval and additional documents for meetings to be sent out with agendas. Allen wants to know how much money is in Ike's account and wishes to use the money for improvement projects at the range. Ike's range meeting will be scheduled in January or February for the new range renewal period.

Discussion of flag pole and bench repair and reinstallation ensued. Horne is tasked with ensuring progress is carried out on both projects as soon as possible.

Adjourn

With no further discussion items, it was motioned by Keenan, seconded by Kenkel to adjourn the meeting at 7:42 p.m.

Board Chair

Tama County Conservation Board