

HARDIN COUNTY CONSERVATION ANNUAL REPORT

JANUARY 1, 2018 TO DECEMBER 31, 2018

The Hardin County Conservation Board held twelve-regular meetings and three-special meetings during the year.

The following is the annual report for the Hardin County Conservation Board and Director for the calendar year January 1, 2018 to December 31, 2018. The five members of the Conservation Board are as follows:

HARDIN COUNTY CONSERVATION BOARD	
Name	Term Expires
Dennis Heetland Chair	December 2018
Sandy Trampe Vice-Chair	December 2020
Jessica Lara	December 2022
Verl Duncan	December 2021
Allen Kadolph	December 2019

HARDIN COUNTY CONSERVATION STAFF	
Wes Wiese	Director
Craig Boomgarden	Maintenance/Operations Supervisor
Nick Baumgarten	Natural Resource Manager/Full Time 11/27/2017
Cody Barloon	Conservation Technician/Full Time 12/11/2017
Chris Barber	Interpretive Park Manager/Full Time
Luke Wagner	Interpretive Park Ranger/Full Time
Davis Horton	Interpretive Program Assistant/Full Time
Becky Frerichs	Office Assistant/Permanent Part Time
Martin Steiner	Seasonal/Headquarters
Blaine Becker	Seasonal/Headquarters
Daniel Schreur	Intern/Calkins
Nathan Pauli	Intern/Calkins

HIGHLIGHTS

January 2018

- ❖ The Board approved the appointment of Dennis Heetland as Chair and Sandy Trampe as Vice-Chair.
- ❖ The Iowa Falls Winter Rec Fest is scheduled for January 25-28, 2018. The Board Approved to sponsor the events with a \$150.00 donation.
- ❖ Director Wes Wiese reported on the up-coming IACCB District 1 quarterly meeting which will be held at Calkins Nature Area on February 15, 2018.

**APPROVED BY HARDIN COUNTY
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS**

Chairman

Date

February 2018

- ❖ The Board approved 2017 Hardin County Conservation Annual Report.
- ❖ The 2018 mowing season contracts were awarded to Brett Weiland of Weiland Lawn Care Service of Garden City, Iowa, Nick LaVelle of LaVelle Lawn Care of Eldora, Iowa, and Grant Johnson of J & J Lawn Care of Wellsburg, Iowa.
- ❖ Approval was made to purchase a new 20'x5' Big Tex Gooseneck Trailer with LoPro Mega Ramps less a trade-in of two older trailers for a cost of \$5,100.00.
- ❖ Director Wes Wiese presented to the Board some of the suggested names for the new wetland located along D-15 between Iowa Falls and Ackley. The Board approved the name of "*Legacy Wildlife Area*".
- ❖ Natural Resource Manager Nick Baumgarten was elected President of the Iowa Chapter of The Wildlife Society at their winter meeting on February 7-8, 2018 in Ames, Iowa

March 2018

- ❖ A *thank you* to Sandy Trampe for representing HCCB at the interview meetings held by the Hardin County Supervisors. Also, *welcome back* to Jessica Lara, HCCB member for the next five-years.
- ❖ With the addition of a new camping cabin at Daisy Long Park, approval was made to increase the Park Host pay from \$100.00 per week to \$112.50 per week.
- ❖ The Board appointed Board Members, Verl Duncan and Allen Kadolph to represent HCCB when they meet with Ellsworth Community College Trustees. The meeting is on the contract between Calkins Nature Area and the ECC Trustees.
- ❖ Discussion was held on the deteriorating bridge at Pine Ridge Park. Director Wiese will contact Hardin County Engineer, compile estimates and visit with the Pine Ridge Rifle Club.
- ❖ The Board discussed the Director's annual evaluation.
- ❖ Director Wes Wiese discussed with the Board his conversation with Claude Sears concerning old tires near the bike trail in Steamboat Rock.
- ❖ The Board set a date for the HCCB Strategic Planning Meeting to be on Tuesday, March 20, 2018 at 2:30 pm in the "Oak" Cabin in Tower Rock Park, Steamboat Rock.

April 2018

- ❖ Aaron Armstrong of Steamboat Rock was on hand to discuss with the Board his ideas for promoting Hardin County and tourism.
- ❖ Steve Priske and Randy Copeman with the Pine Ridge Rifle Club were present to submit their yearly proof of insurance and check. Director Wes Wiese and Steve Priske will meet at the Courthouse to sign and have notarized the lease agreement.
- ❖ The electric service invoice for Calkins Nature Area was paid in its entirety by The Friends of Calkins Nature Area.
- ❖ Natural Resource Manager Nick Baumgarten presented to the Board the Iowa Department of Natural Resources Wildlife Habitat Stamp Fund Grant Application for the Legacy Wildlife Area which is located along Hwy. D-15 between Iowa Falls and Ackley, Iowa. Approval of the application and resolution with the necessary changes to the project narrative was made.
- ❖ Natural Resource Manager Nick Baumgarten has been in negotiation with a goat producer from Williams, Iowa. This producer is requesting insurance for the goats while in HCC's possession this summer. The Board gave their consensus to purchase the appropriate insurance.

- ❖ Director Wes Wiese gave updates on the Pine Ridge Park bathhouse and the search for park hosts at the Daisy Long Park.

May 2018

- ❖ Roger Bernard and Marvin Bierman of the Smokey Ridge Muzzleloaders were on hand to discuss with the Board their upcoming fall and winter rendezvous'. This will be their 46th year, which is held at the Setchell Area, Steamboat Rock, IA. They also discussed their maintenance and upkeep of the area.
- ❖ Gordon Taylor discussed with the Board the possibility of selling the timber ground that the Taylor Family owns. The timber ground is located next to Leverton Timber.
- ❖ The Rules & Use of County-Owned Watercraft which includes, Safety Rules/Operation and Insurance Waiver was approved by the Board.
- ❖ Director Wes Wiese gave the Board an update on the new proposed Hardin City River Access.
- ❖ Since Gary & Linda McEwen and Mike Murphy have been park hosts at Pine Ridge Park for nine years, Approval by the Board was given to increase the Pine Ridge Park Host wage from \$100.00 to \$125.00-per-week they are on duty.
- ❖ The Board approved the purchase of a 10' HyGrade Grader after July 1, 2018 at a cost of \$13,400.00.

June 2018

- ❖ Bids were open for hay mowing at Arthur Hilker Wildlife Area (14.5 Acres) and Anders Wildlife Area (14.5 Acres). The bidder could bid on both areas or just one area. Four bids were submitted, and approval was given to the \$60.00-per-acre bid for Anders Wildlife Area from Russ & Mindy Rodamaker and the \$50.00-per-acre bid for Arthur Hilker Wildlife Area from Steve Schnormeier.
- ❖ Lucas Smith was on hand to discuss with the Board the Pine Lake Saddle Club's 2018 schedule of events. The club is requesting permission to ride the following areas: July 22, 2018-the Sac/Fox Overlook, September 16, 2018-Rainsbarger Wildlife Area & Leverton Timber, October 6, 2018 (All Day Trail Ride)- Rainsbarger Wildlife Area, Leverton Timber, and Sac/Fox Overlook. The Board approved the dates as stated.
- ❖ Director Wes Wiese presented to the Board examples of kayak/canoe rental agreements. Approval was given to a full-day rental (24-hours) at \$20.00 per kayak/canoe, which includes life-jacket(s) and paddle(s). Also required is a \$100.00 damage deposit. Replacement of missing jackets (\$20.00 value) and paddles (\$50.00 value) is also required. A draft of the final agreement was sent via email for the board's approval.
- ❖ Other items discussed by the Board was the 2018 IACCB Annual Conference and the possible purchase of the Taylor family owned timber that is adjacent to Leverton Timber. Also discussed was Legacy and Pintail Wetlands being open to hunting.

July 2018

- ❖ Daniel Schreur, a Natural Resource Intern at Calkins Nature Area introduced himself and spoke of his internship at Calkins Nature Area with the Board.
- ❖ Further discussion by the Board was held on the Agreement of the Hardin City Access.
- ❖ Authority was given to the Director by the Board to close David Bates Memorial Park to overnight camping due to the excessive garbage and abandoned tents.
- ❖ Discussions by the Board on the possible purchase of Taylor Timber which is adjacent to Leverton Timber was tabled until the August 13, 2018 Board meeting.
- ❖ The 2018 IACCB Fall Conference was attended by two Board Members and the Director.

August 2018

- ❖ Natural Resource Manager Nick Baumgarten was on hand to discuss with the Board that the Wildlife Habitat Stamp Fund grant application had been approved. This grant is for the Legacy Wildlife Area.
- ❖ Interpretive Park Manager Chris Barber presented to the Board the Iowa Falls Class of 69' Memorial Arboretum/Savanna Project Proposal. The Board gave their approval to the project.
- ❖ Sandy Trampe made a motion to adopt Resolution 1-813-18 Proposal to Publish Notice of Intent to Relinquish Interest in Real Property, John Gruis Park, Cleves, Iowa. It was seconded by Allen Kadolph. Ayes: 4, Nays: 0, Absent: 1, Abstain: 0.
- ❖ Taylor Timber discussion was tabled until the September 10, 2018 Board meeting.
- ❖ Director Wes Wiese discussed with the Board the possibility of adding two or three more camping sites with electrical service at Bessman-Kemp Campground. Approval was given by the Board to adding three more electrical sites.
- ❖ Other items discussed by the Board and Director were budget amendments, and conservation account balances. Also discussed was the signage at the Hoover Ruby Wildlife Area. All was information only.

September 2018

- ❖ The Board approved the Wildlife Habitat Stamp Fund Grant Agreement with the DNR for the Legacy Wildlife Area.
- ❖ Approval was made on the Hardin City Access Agreement with Elaine Frerichs. Also, Jessica Lara made a motion to approve the Resolution 1-910-18 to propose to Relinquish Roadway Easement and Buy Real Property owned by Elaine Frerichs. The motion was seconded by Allen Kadolph. Ayes: 3, Nays: 0, Absent: 2, Abstain: 0.
- ❖ Gordon and Royna Taylor were on hand to further discuss with the Board the possible purchase of timber ground owned by the Taylors'. The timber is located adjacent to Leverton Timber, Steamboat Rock, Iowa.
- ❖ deNeui Easement was tabled until the October 8th Board Meeting.
- ❖ Director Wes Wiese discussed with the Board the signage issue at the Hoover Ruby Wildlife Area. All was information only.
- ❖ The donation from Adam Przybyl of Onalaska, WI, for playground equipment at the Bessman-Kemp campground was approved by the Board.
- ❖ Director Wes Wiese presented to the Board, AmeriCorps 4H Environmental Education Program that Calkins Nature Area is interested in becoming a 2018-2019 host site. The program's mission is to empower youth to reach their full potential through youth-adult partnerships and research-based experiences. All was information only.

October 2018

- ❖ Verl Duncan reported on the 2018 IACCB Annual Conference that was held September 19-21, 2018 by the Polk County Conservation Board. Next year's conference will be held September 17-19, 2019 by the Muscatine & Louisa County Conservation Boards.
- ❖ Per a phone conversation, Robert deNeui of Ackley had previously spoke with Director Wes Wiese on the condition of his driveway which is also an easement for Hardin County Conservation. After the Board discussed the issues, the request was denied by the Board.
- ❖ Lucas Smith of Pine Lake Saddle Club was on hand to discuss with the Board the possibility of other date(s) that their Annual All-Day Trail ride could be held. The trail

ride that was scheduled for October 6-7, 2018 was cancelled due to rain. After further discussion, approval was made for the rain-dates of October 27-28, 2018 with, again, weather permitting and to be in contact with Director Wes Wiese.

- ❖ Director Wes Wiese gave further up-dates to the Board on the possibility of purchasing the approximately 44-acres of timber from the Taylor Family. All was information only.
- ❖ Two Estimates were presented to the Board by Director Wes Wiese to repair the geothermal heating system at headquarters. There have been several repairs done to the system over the past two years without much success, especially on the coldest days of winter. After discussion, the Board requested more estimates from other area business' and to inquire on the different energy rebates available. All was information only and no motion was needed.
- ❖ It was the consensus of the Board to have Interpretive Resource Manager, Chris Barber pursue the 2018-2019 AmeriCorps Host-Site Application. AmeriCorps 4-H Environmental Education is a partnership between AmeriCorps and Iowa State University Extension and Outreach. This program is designed to prepare Iowa's youth to be knowledgeable, active, contributing members of society.
- ❖ The Board approved the lease/management agreement between Iowa Natural Heritage Foundation and Hardin County Conservation to allow hunting at Legacy Wildlife area.
- ❖ The Director updated the Board on the status of the notice of intent to relinquish interest in the John Gruis Park. A public hearing to relinquish roadway easement and to buy real property from Elaine Frerichs is scheduled for October 31, 2018. Also, a joint-special meeting is scheduled for November 19, 2018 for Hardin County Conservation and the Hardin County Supervisors at the courthouse.

November 2018

- ❖ Director Wes Wiese presented to the Board and Hardin County Supervisors at the joint-special meeting, the Conservation's equipment needs, future projects, and improvements to the campgrounds and park shelters.
- ❖ Other items discussed by the Board and Supervisors were:
 - Park-User Fees
 - The status of Hardin City Access, John Gruis Park, and Ruempers Trail
 - Acquisition of Taylor Timber
 - Quarterly Meetings with the Supervisors
 - Annual Meeting with Supervisors at Calkins Nature Area
 - A "Big" Thank You to Chair Dennis Heetland for his 10-years of service to the Hardin County Conservation Board.
- ❖ Kirk Rice and Rick Gustin of Reliable 1 Heating/AC/Plumbing gave a presentation on the up-grade to the Hardin County Conservation Headquarters heating system. Approval was given to install a Heat Transfer Products UFT Boiler at a cost of \$7,488.07.
- ❖ Further discussion was held by the Director and Board on the process of acquiring Taylor Timber which is located adjacent to Leverton Timber. All was information only and no motion needed.
- ❖ Director Wes Wiese discussed with the Board the extensive repairs that have had to be done to the 2013 Polaris Ranger 800 6x6 and that discussions have been held with Polaris. All was information only and no motion was needed.
- ❖ Hardin County Engineer Taylor Roll presented to the Board two Petitions for Road Reclassification. The road for reclassification is adjacent to Twin Elms, Alden. The

reclassifications would classify G Avenue as Class "C" due to the maintenance of the road. Allen Kadolph made a motion to sign the first petition to gate G Avenue at 180th Street. Verl Duncan seconded the motion. All members voted aye, and the motion carried. Sandy Trampe made a motion to gate G Avenue just south of the bridge. It was seconded by Verl Duncan. All members voted aye, and the motion carried.

- ❖ Interpretive Resource Manager Chris Barber was hand to give the Board an update on the new roof for Calkins Nature Area.
- ❖ The Hoover Ruby Farm Lease has been renewed for another 2-years at the same amount of cash-rent from D & N Farms Partnership.
- ❖ The Hardin County Conservation Board holiday potluck is set for December 12, 2018 at 6 p.m. at HCC Headquarters.

December 2018

- ❖ Approval by the Board was made to dedicate the Legacy Wildlife Area to past, present and future Hardin County Conservation Board Members. A sign with the dedication will be placed at the Legacy Wildlife Area.
- ❖ The 2019/2020 budget was presented to the Board and it was approved.
- ❖ Discussion was held by the Board on the Director's evaluation.
- ❖ Director Wes Wiese brought to the Board's attention that the Tower Rock Cabin rentals have reduced a great deal and would like to offer a winter special. If a renter stays 2-nights, they would receive a third-night stay free of charge and the stay would run concurrently. The special offer would run until March 31, 2019. The Board approved the winter special.
- ❖ Director Wes Wiese presented to the Board the resignation letter from Lucas Wagner, Interpretive Park Ranger at Calkins Nature Area.

Respectfully Submitted,



Rebecca Frerichs
Office Assistant