

**Monday, February 13, 2023**  
**Minutes of the Hardin County Conservation Board Meeting**

The Monday, February 13, 2023, meeting of the Hardin County Conservation Board was called to order by Chair, Trent Lambert, at 6:01 p.m. at Hardin County Conservation Headquarters.

**Board Members Attending:** Trent Lambert (Chair), Kirk Rice (Vice-Chair), Jo Baumann, Julie Jeske, and Bryan Meints

**Board Members Absent:** None.

**Staff Members Attending:** Wes Wiese (Director), Hunter Kruse (Resource Technician) and Laura Carr (Office Assistant)

**Guests:** Andrew Freese (Grass Masters Lawn), Nick LaVelle (LaVelle Lawn Care LLC),

**Approval of Agenda:** Bryan Meints made a motion to approve the February 13, 2023 agenda. The motion was seconded by Jo Baumann. All members voted aye, and the motion carried.

**Public Comment:** None.

**Approval of Minutes:** Jo Baumann made a motion to approve the January 11, 2023 minutes as presented. The motion was seconded by Kirk Rice. All members voted aye, and the motion carried.

**Approval of Claims:** Kirk Rice made a motion to approve the February 13, 2023 monthly claims. The motion was seconded by Bryan Meints. All members voted aye, and the motion carried.

**Monthly Special Reports:**

**Chair Report:** Trent Lambert provided the Board a brief overview of the Pine Lake Fishing Derby event that took place on February 11<sup>th</sup>. He noted that it seemed to be a success as there was a good turnout.

**Board Member's Report:** Julie Jeske provided the Board a brief report on the success of the Delta Waterfowl Banquet that took place on January 28<sup>th</sup>. Jo Baumann and Julie Jeske noted that they attended the Board of Supervisor budget meeting and found it to be informative.

**Special Committee's Report:**

**The Lodge Committee:** The Director, Wes Wiese, presented the Board with further information on The Lodge and potential alternative plans.

**Salary Committee:** The Director noted that he plans to further discuss and present salary ranges at the next Strategic Meeting, in which he intends to extend an invite to the Board of Supervisors.

The Director informed the Board of upcoming training dates that will take place at the Headquarters Office. Joe Herring, Iowa DNR District Forester, will be doing a presentation Wednesday, February 15 at 9am on the inventory of trees located on county properties including management recommendations, timber health, and invasive species. Jason Auel, Iowa DNR Wildlife Biologist, will be providing staff training on collecting CWD samples from deer on Thursday, February 16. All reports were given and discussed. Julie Jeske made a motion to approve all monthly reports as presented. The motion was seconded by Jo Baumann. All members voted aye, and the motion carried.

**Old Business:** None.

## **New Business:**

**2023 & 2024 Mowing Bids:** The Board reviewed Contract Mowing Bids submitted for a two-year contract for mowing seasons April 2023-September 2023 and April 2024-September 2024. The properties are broken down into three groups. Bidders were able to submit a bid for one group or bids for all three. However, bidders are only eligible to receive two groups. Bids reviewed were submitted by the following: Grass Masters, LaVelle, Z&Z Glass, and Niel Pfantz. Kirk Rice made the motion to award Group 1 to Z&Z Glass at \$415. The motion was seconded by Bryan Meints. All members voted aye, and the motion carried. Kirk Rice made the motion to award Group 2 to Grass Masters at \$720. The motion was seconded by Jo Baumann. All members voted aye, and the motion carried. Jo Baumann made the motion to award Group 3 to LaVelle Lawn Care at \$975. The motion was seconded by Bryan Meints. All members voted aye, and the motion carried.

**Ruby Wildlife Resolution:** Kirk Rice made the motion to adopt RESOLUTION NO. – 2023.2.13, PARK CLOSURE/NO TRESPASS FOR RUBY WILDLIFE AREA. The motion was seconded by Julie Jeske. All members voted aye, and the motion carried. It was noted that the Resolution would need to be approved by the Board of Supervisors and it was advised that once adopted, the resolution should be advertised to the public. The Board and Director briefly discussed progress made towards parking at Ruby Wildlife Area.

**Pet & Service Animal Policy:** The Board reviewed and discussed the proposed pet and service animal policy for the county cabins. Kirk Rice made the motion to adopt the new service animal policy and amend the existing pet policy as presented. The motion was seconded by Julie Jeske. All members voted aye, and the motion carried.

**Bessman-Kemp Park Hosts:** The Director proposed making the Bessman-Kemp park host position into a paid position at the rate of \$600/campground season. Jo Baumann made the motion to pay the pack hosts at Bessman-Kemp Campground \$600 for the 2023 campground season. The motion was seconded by Julie Jeske. All members voted aye, and the motion carried.

**Annual Report Approval:** The Board reviewed the Annual Report. Kirk Rice made the motion to approve the annual report as presented. The motion was seconded by Bryan Meints. All members voted aye, and the motion carried.

**The Lodge: HVAC System:** The Director stated that further follow up is needed to be done on a quote provided and requested that the item be tabled. Jo Baumann made the motion to table the discussion for the next board meeting. The motion was seconded by Bryan Meints. All members voted aye, and the motion carried.

## **Informational Items:**

**Spring Strategic Meeting:** The Board and Director decided to schedule the Spring Strategic Meeting for Saturday, March 25<sup>th</sup> at The Lodge.

**Adjournment:** Next Hardin County Conservation Board Meeting is scheduled to take place on Monday, March 13, 2023. The Monday February, 13, 2023, meeting of the Hardin County Conservation Board was adjourned by Chair, Trent Lambert, at 7:56 p.m.