

**Saturday, March 26, 2022**  
**Minutes of the Hardin County Conservation Board Special Meeting**  
**Park Tour & Strategic Planning**

The Saturday, March 26, 2022, meeting of the Hardin County Conservation Board was called to order by Chair, Kirk Rice, at 12:00 p.m. at Calkins Nature Center.

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

**Board Members Absent:** Jessica Lara

**Staff Members Attending:** Wes Wiese (Director), Laura Carr (Office Assistant), Chris Barber (Interpretive Park Manager) and Davis Horton (Interpretive Program Assistant)

**Guests:** None.

**Approval of Agenda:** Trent Lambert made a motion to approve the March 26, 2022 Agenda as presented. The motion was seconded by Bryan Meints. All members voted aye, and the motion carried.

**Public Comment:** None

**General Business**

**Future Planning – Campgrounds:** The Board and Director discussed future plans for Hardin County Conservation properties. The Board and Director discussed adding two more campsites and a future agreement regarding the shower house at Bessman-Kemp, designating seasonal spots for all campgrounds, and Pine Ridge playground equipment needing updates.

The Board discussed Eagle City Park's enclosed shelter and plans to open it up to discourage vandalism and other illegal activity. They would leave one wall to plug in utilities. The Board discussed potential of adding cabins to Eagle City Park and noted hurdles to accomplishing that goal. It was the consensus of the Board that their needs to be more discussion and development prior to the addition of cabins in that park.

The Director mentioned areas needing more rock and updated the Board on the Pine Ridge sewer project and how it could benefit future seasonal spots in the park. The Director also discussed wetland properties, acquisition, and potential partnerships with DELTA Waterfowl.

The Interpretive Park Manager, Chris Barber, provided the Board with updates needed at Calkins Nature Center. Chris noted the following priorities: updating the mammal fence, adding more rock to the driveway, updating the bucket on the tractor, and a couple of hydrants that need to be replaced or fixed. Chris provided the Board with information regarding the electricity usage and alternative power sources as electricity has become a significant expense.

**Camping Rates & Seasonal Spots:** The Director provided The Board with a breakdown of the campground's (Daisy Long, Pine Ridge, and Bessman-Kemp) revenue and expenses for the fiscal year of 2020-2021, as well as the current monthly camping agreements. The Board reviewed said documents and requested information on other county rates. The Board tabled the decision of camping rates and seasonal spots for next month's agenda.

**Addendum to Deed of Gift – Calkins:** The Director presented the Board with an Addendum to the Deed of Gift regarding a collection of Native American prehistoric artifacts and fossils donated by Jeffrey and Terri Ulch to Calkins Nature Center. Trent made a motion to approve the Addendum to Deed of Gift. The motion was seconded by Jo Baumann. All members voted aye, and the motion carried.

**Salaries – Pay Scale:** The Director discussed the need for an established pay scale for the Conservation Department. The Board discussed the structure of other pay scales. The Director requested the formation of a sub-committee to establish a pay scale. Trent Lambert and Jo Baumann were nominated to serve on said sub-committee along with the Director, Wes Wiese.

**Alliant Energy Easement – Ira Nichols:** The Board reviewed and discussed a tree work assessment provided by the Natural Resource Manager, Kit Paper, regarding the easement and its effects on the surrounding area. Jo Baumann made the motion to approve the easement with the understanding that Alliant will paint stumps and cut ends with latex paint to prevent the spread of oak wilt and properly dispose of trimmings and trees, that there be a Hardin County Conservation employee on location to provide oversight, that the limb off the red oak is trimmed, and that the oaks and shag bark trees are left if possible. The motion was seconded by Bryan Meints. All members voted aye, and the motion carried.

**Other Items:** None.

**Adjournment:** Next Hardin County Conservation Board Regular Meeting is scheduled to take place on Monday, April 11, 2022 at 6pm at Hardin County Conservation Headquarters. The Saturday, March 26, 2022 meeting of the Hardin County Conservation Board was adjourned by Chair, Kirk Rice, at 1:14 p.m.