

**Monday, December 12, 2022**  
**Minutes of the Hardin County Conservation Board Meeting**

The Monday, December 12, 2022, meeting of the Hardin County Conservation Board was called to order by Chair, Kirk Rice, at 6:00 p.m. at Hardin County Conservation Headquarters.

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

**Board Members Absent:** Jo Baumann, and Jessica Lara

**Staff Members Attending:** Wes Wiese (Director), Kit Paper (Natural Resource Manager), and Laura Carr (Office Assistant)

**Guests:** Tyler Prochaska, Julie Jeske, and Sophia Prochaska (DELTA Waterfowl), Justin Meints (Pine Lake Wildlife Club), Sandy Trampe, and Al Kadolph

**Approval of Agenda:** Bryan Meints made a motion to approve the December 12, 2022 agenda. The motion was seconded by Trent Lambert. All members voted aye, and the motion carried.

**Public Comment:** None.

**Approval of Minutes:** Bryan Meints made a motion to approve the November 14, 2022 (Regular Meeting), November 14, 2022 (Closed Meeting), & November 19, 2022 (Strategic Special Meeting) minutes as presented. The motion was seconded by Trent Lambert. All members voted aye, and the motion carried.

**Approval of Claims:** Bryan Meints made a motion to approve the December 12, 2022, monthly claims. The motion was seconded by Trent Lambert. All members voted aye, and the motion carried.

**Monthly Special Reports:**

**Chair Report:** None.

**Board Member's Report:** None.

**Special Committee's Report:**

**The Lodge Committee:** The Director, Wes Wiese, provided the board an update on current and potential grants.

**Salary Committee:** Wes Wiese noted that the committee was planning to meet this week to discuss salary ranges.

All reports were given and discussed. Trent Lambert made a motion to approve all monthly reports as presented. The motion was seconded by Bryan Meints. All members voted aye, and the motion carried.

**Old Business:**

**Calkins Internet:** Wes Wiese informed the board that the Interpretive Park Manager, Chris Barber, attempted to use the internet boosting device recommended by the county IT department for Calkins internet. Wes stated that Chris reported that it did not significantly improve the internet connection at Calkins. Chris is following up on other options.

**Permit to Carry Update:** Wes Wiese provided the board with an update on the permit to carry, after speaking to the county's insurance company it was determined that conservation employees are not permitted to carry while on the job as it is not a part of the job description and they have not been through the law enforcement academy to do so. Employees have been advised to call law enforcement officials in situations where they feel unsafe and to not engage the situation.

**New Business:**

**Mowing Bid Procedure Review:** Wes Wiese suggested that the board adjust the mowing bid procedure to update that contractors may only receive two of the three groups rather than allowing one vendor to receive all three mowing groups. The board decided that contractors must bid individually on each group and will only be awarded two mowing groups. If the contractor comes in as the lowest bid on all three groups, they may choose which two groups they prefer out of the three. The remaining group will be offered to the next lowest bid. The board will also give preference to Hardin County contractors. Bids must be received sealed, prior to the February board meeting.

**Informational Items:**

**Fiscal Year 23-24 Budget – Special Meeting Date:** Wes informed the board that a special meeting would need to be scheduled to approve the budget.

**Adjournment:** Next Hardin County Conservation Board Meeting is scheduled to take place on Wednesday, January 11, 2022. The Monday, December 12, 2022, meeting of the Hardin County Conservation Board was adjourned by Chair, Kirk Rice, at 6:48 p.m.