

Monday, October 10, 2022
Minutes of the Hardin County Conservation Board Meeting

The Monday, October 10, 2022, meeting of the Hardin County Conservation Board was called to order by Chair, Kirk Rice, at 6:03 p.m. at Hardin County Conservation Headquarters.

Board Members Attending: Kirk Rice (Chair), Trent Lambert (Vice-Chair), Bryan Meints, Jo Baumann, and Jessica Lara (by phone, left meeting at 6:27pm)

Board Members Absent: None.

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

Guests: Rena Heem, Tyler Prochaska, Julie Jeske, and Sophia Prochaska (DELTA Waterfowl) Stephen Throssel (Greenbelt Trust)

Approval of Agenda: Jo Baumann made a motion to approve the October 10, 2022 agenda. The motion was seconded by Trent Lambert. All members voted aye, and the motion carried.

Public Comment: None.

Approval of Minutes: Brian Meints made a motion to approve the September 12, 2022 minutes as presented. The motion was seconded by Jessica Lara. All members voted aye, and the motion carried.

Approval of Claims: Brian Meints made a motion to approve the October 10, 2022, monthly claims. The motion was seconded by Trent Lambert. All members voted aye, and the motion carried.

Monthly Special Reports:

Chair Report: Kirk noted that he attended the Pheasants Forever banquet and that it had a good turnout. He mentioned if the conservation department needed any assistance with upcoming projects, he would be willing to draft a letter. Wes noted that the department could use assistance with seeding Hoover Ruby this upcoming year.

Board Member's Report: Brian Meints played a recording that was sent to him from a visitor of Pine Ridge Park of shots being fired at the Rifle Range on Labor Day weekend. The time of the recording is unknown. It was noted that a new sign has been posted by the Rifle Range Club, however the noise from the range continues to be an issue for the surrounding community. The board discussed potential solutions. Jo Baumann gave information on an initiative for the Soil and Water Commission and requested a letter of support from the board.

Special Committee's Report:

The Lodge Committee: Addressed in new business.

Salary Committee: None.

All reports were given and discussed. Trent Lambert 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:

Cell Phone Reimbursement – Office Assistant: The Director, Wes Wiese, explained to the board that the current policy allows all full-time employees to receive reimbursement for their personal cell phone at the rate of \$40 per month, however this policy excludes the part-time office assistant. Wes noted that he does contact the office assistant via her personal cell phone for work purposes. Trent Lambert made a motion to approve the office assistant receive reimbursement for personal cell phone use of \$40 per month. The motion was seconded by Brian Meints. All member voted aye, and the motion carried.

Calkins Internet: Wes explained to the board the difficulty that Calkins has with their internet connection and how it effects their ability to conduct business. Wes described the internet unit that the county I.T. department proposed and noted that it would cost approximately \$1,800 for install and \$40 per month. The board discussed alternative options. Trent Lambert made the motion to table the decision on internet at Calkins. The motion was seconded by Jo Baumann. All members voted aye, and the motion carried.

Hardin City Bridge: Wes explained to the board that the Iowa Department of Transportation had placed the Hardin City Bridge on their website under a page that advertised the bridge as “available for adoption/relocation.” It was made aware to county officials by an outside party who was interested in relocating the bridge to a different county in Iowa. Stephen Throssel, with Greenbelt Trust, shared with the board that the group is interested in completing a rehab project on the bridge with the vision of it becoming a place where the public could visit to have picnics or hold small events. It was noted that at this time other parties within the county are considering alternative uses for the bridge. Trent Lambert made the motion to retain ownership of the Hardin City Bridge. The motion was seconded by Brian Meints. All members voted aye, and the motion carried.

Barlow Challenge: Wes and the board discussed potential donation sources for the upcoming Barlow Foundation Community Challenge. Wes updated the board on preparation for the challenge including flyers that were sent out to Hardin County residents and plans for the upcoming Fall Festival on Saturday, October 15, 2022. The board and Wes discussed volunteers, events, and other details. Wes asked for volunteers to sit at a table for Barlow Challenge donations at Calkins Halloween Hike. Information only, no motion required.

Informational Items:

Picnic Area – Reece Park: Wes made the board aware of community members that inquired about an area that used to be a picnic area at Reece Park. They requested the area be mowed and maintained so that they can use the area to have a church picnic area. The board discussed maintenance and amenities that may be required. Information only, no motion required.

Adjournment: Next Hardin County Conservation Board Meeting is scheduled to take place on Monday, November 14, 2022, at 6pm at Hardin County Conservation Headquarters. The Monday, October 10, 2022, meeting of the Hardin County Conservation Board was adjourned by Chair, Kirk Rice, at 7:36 p.m.