

Saturday, November 19, 2022
Minutes of the Hardin County Conservation Board Special Meeting
Park Tour & Strategic Planning

The Saturday, November 19, 2022, meeting of the Hardin County Conservation Board was called to order by Chair, Kirk Rice, at 11:28am at The Lodge.

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)

Guests: None.

Approval of Agenda: Jo Baumann made a motion to approve the November 19, 2022 Agenda as presented. The motion was seconded by Trent Lambert. All members voted aye, and the motion carried.

Public Comment: None.

Old Business:

Calkins Internet: No new information was available. The Director, Wes Wiese, is still following up on possible providers.

New Business:

Future Planning: The Board and Wes discussed future plans for Hardin County Conservations properties. The Board would like to focus on areas where there is a return on the investment such as areas with campgrounds, cabins, or other facilities. The Board also discussed areas that would benefit from further development or improvements such as Daisy Long Campground's boat ramp. The Board reviewed plans and financials regarding Pine Ridge campground, The Lodge, & shooting range.

Permission to Carry: An employee inquired about authorization to carry a weapon in a locked safe in their work vehicle while working due to increased safety concerns. Wes Wiese notified the Board that he has a meeting set up this coming week with Hardin County's Insurance Attorney. Information only, no motion required.

CD Rates & Funds: Wes updated the Board on concerns regarding the maximum amount of funds that would be insured by the bank if the Board were to place the funds, totaling \$300,000, in CDs at one bank. The Board discussed alternative options. Trent Lambert made the motion to split the \$300,000, placing \$150,000 in two CDs, one CD at Iowa Falls Savings Bank (IFSB), if IFSB matches the rate offered by Greenbelt Savings Bank, and the second CD at Greenbelt Savings Bank. The motion was seconded by Bryan Meints. All members voted aye, and the motion carried.

Wage Study: The Board reviewed the current wage study figures released by Iowa County Conservation System (ICCS). We requested the Board consider placing a maximum salary cap for each position so that there is transparency and clarity upon hiring. We and the Board discussed the current structure of salaries and pay increases. The Board's Salary Special Committee will review the information provided and discuss future pay structures for the Conservation Department. Information only, no motion required.

Informational Items:

Facebook Advertising: Laura Carr, Office Assistant, provided the Board information on the Hardin County Conservation Facebook page and the options for advertising on social media. The Board agreed to allow paid advertising on the Facebook page for a 30-day period during the holiday season to promote winter rates on the Tower Rock cabins and campground/cabin gift cards. Jo Baumann noted that "Giving Tuesday" would be an opportunity to fundraise for The Lodge.

Adjournment: Next Hardin County Conservation Board Meeting is scheduled to take place on Monday, December 12, 2022. The Board will be meeting at 5pm for their annual Christmas Potluck, the Regular Board Meeting will begin at 6pm at Hardin County Conservation Headquarters. The Saturday, November 19, 2022, meeting of the Hardin County Conservation Board was adjourned by Chair, Kirk Rice, at 12:38 p.m.

Gun Range – Jan/Feb – Relocation for future success of campground and The Lodge, cleanup fund – need payment for Rifle Range “financial assurance” when the facility closes, funds for proper closing of facility.

Permission to carry

Moved to December meeting.