

Monday, November 13, 2023

Minutes of the Hardin County Conservation Board Meeting

The Monday, November 13, 2023, meeting of the Hardin County Conservation Board was called to order by Chair, Trent Lambert, at 5:59 p.m. at Headquarters Office.

Board Members Attending: Trent Lambert (Chair), Kirk Rice (Vice-Chair), and Julie Jeske. Jo Baumann attending virtually.

Board Members Absent: Bryan Meints

Staff Members Attending: Wes Wiese (Director), Laura Carr (Office Assistant), Chris Barber (Interpretive Park Manager)

Guests: Tyler & Sophie Prohaska

Approval of Agenda: Julie Jeske made a motion to approve the November 13, 2023 agenda. The motion was seconded by Kirk Rice. All members voted aye, and the motion carried.

Public Comment: None.

Approval of Minutes: Kirk Rice made a motion to approve the October 9, 2023 minutes as presented. The motion was seconded by Julie Jeske. All members voted aye, and the motion carried.

Approval of Claims: Kirk Rice made a motion to approve the November 13, 2023, monthly claims as presented. The motion was seconded by Jo Baumann. All members voted aye, and the motion carried.

Monthly Special Reports:

Chair Report: None.

Board Member's Report: Julie Jeske noted that her daughter enjoyed Calkin's Halloween Hike. Jo Baumann noted the upcoming Southfork Watershed Alliance event, Water Quality & Soil Health Forum and Trade Show, scheduled for November 30th.

Special Committee's Report:

The Lodge Committee: None.

Fundraising Committee: None.

Salary Committee: None.

Wes Wiese informed the board that there are two CDs that are reaching maturity dates. Wes presented the board with new CD rates from numerous banks. It was the consensus of the Board to renew the CDs at their current banking locations, \$153,049.72 at Iowa Falls State Bank for 9 months and \$154,626.38 at Greenbelt Bank & Trust for 12 months. All reports were given and discussed. Kirk Rice 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:

- A. The Lodge Architect Contract:** The Board reviewed the final architect contract from Roseland, Mackey, Harris Architects. It was noted that the Board of Supervisors was listed as the owner, instead of Hardin County Conservation Board. Kirk Rice made the motion to approve the AIA Document with the change ownership from the Board of Supervisors to the Hardin County Conservation Board with at the appropriate address. The motion was seconded by Julie Jeske. All members voted aye, and the motion carried.
- B. Region 6: Destination Iowa Grant:** Wes informed the Board that Region 6 would assist with writing a Destination Iowa Grant and that the Conservation Board's project is eligible for up to almost \$600,000 in funds. Julie Jeske made a motion to approve the Destination Iowa Grant application with Region 6, including rock toe in the grant. The motion was seconded by Jo Baumann. All members voted aye, and the motion carried.
- C. Calkins: HVAC System:** The Board discussed and reviewed quotes from Mort's, Barnhart, Reliable 1, and Carstens for a new HVAC system at Calkins Nature Center. Kirk Rice made the motion to approve the bid from Carstens for a new HVAC system at \$12,884.00. The motion was seconded by Julie Jeske. All members voted aye, and the motion carried.

- D. Bessman-Kemp: Online Reservations:** Laura Carr presented the Board with information regarding online campground reservations through My County Parks and proposed the Board consider a trial run of Bessman-Kemp campground and cabins online. Julie Jeske made a motion to do a trial run for Bessman kemp cabins and campgrounds to be moved to online reservations. The motion was seconded by Kirk Rice. All members voted aye, and the motion carried.
- E. Ira Nichols Tree Removal:** Wes informed the board of a hazardous tree in Ira Nichols and noted that Dustin Bartling will be removing the tree for \$1,000.

Informational Items:

- A. Strategic Planning Meeting Date/December Board Potluck:** The Board scheduled a Strategic Planning meeting for Monday, November 27th at 4pm as well as the December Board Potluck at 5:30 during the December meeting.
- B. Eagle City Boat Ramp Update:** Wes informed the board that the Iowa DNR approved the plans for the Eagle City boat ramp improvements. However, AmeriCorp had some follow-up questions.
- C. Leverton Survey:** Wes informed the Board that Jason Leverton will be using the Board's approved monies towards the land survey. The approved amount during the August 14, 2023 meeting was as follows; to split costs 50/50 up to \$2,500 total, or \$1,250 each, for the survey.

Adjournment: Next Hardin County Conservation Board Meeting is scheduled to take place on Monday, December 11, 2023, at 5:30 pm for the Board Christmas Potluck, the regular meeting will begin at 6pm. The Monday, November 13, 2023, meeting of the Hardin County Conservation Board was adjourned by Chair, Trent Lambert, at 7:16 p.m.