

Monday, April 17, 2023
Minutes of the Hardin County Conservation Board Meeting

The Monday, April 17, 2023, meeting of the Hardin County Conservation Board was called to order by Chair, Trent Lambert, at 6:03 p.m. at Hardin County Conservation Headquarters.

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

Board Members Absent: Bryan Meints

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

Guests: Tyler and Sophie Prohaska (DELTA Waterfowl), Steve Prishke (Steamboat Rifle Range), and Randy Copemen (Steamboat Rifle Range)

Approval of Agenda: Jo Baumann made a motion to approve the April 17, 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 March 13, 2023, and March 25, 2023 minutes as presented. The motion was seconded by Jo Baumann. All members voted aye, and the motion carried.

Approval of Claims: Julie Jeske made a motion to approve the April 17, 2023 monthly claims. 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 stated that Delta Waterfowl had their meeting and agreed to assist the Conservation Board with upcoming fundraisers.

Special Committee's Report:

The Lodge Committee: The Board discussed fundraising plans. The Director, Wes, noted that a few of the fundraising ideas would not be covered under the county's insurance policy and the board would need to pursue a special event policy. The Board would like to move forward and get quotes on the event insurance. The Board also discussed potential dates for fundraisers. A tentative date of September 23, 2023 was noted for the Fall Festival.

Salary Committee: The Director noted that the salary committee is pending an organized meeting with the Board of Supervisors.

All reports were given and discussed. Jo Baumann made a motion to approve all monthly reports as presented. The motion was seconded by Julie Jeske. All members voted aye, and the motion carried.

Old Business:

Wildcat Management Agreement: The Board reviewed the 25-year management agreement with the Iowa DNR for the property known as Wild Cat Cave. The Director informed the Board that the Conservation Board does own property boundaries within the Wild Cat Cave property and that continuing the agreement would allow access to that property. The Board also discussed the expenses and risks

associated with the management of the property. Kirk Rice made the motion to enter into the management agreement. The motion was seconded by Julie Jeske. All members voted aye, and the motion carried.

Calkins Alcohol Policy: The Friends of Calkins Board is requesting an exemption to the “no alcohol policy” at Calkins Nature Center for an upcoming event. The Director informed the Board that the county insurance representative stated that an alcohol vendor at the event would need dram shop insurance and have the county listed as additionally insured. Chris Barber, Interpretive Park Manager, stated that the Friends of Calkins Board is meeting tomorrow and would have more information on their plans for the event. Jo Baumann made the motion to allow alcohol for the BBQ, Band, & Brew event at Calkins with the vendor having the correct permits and insurance. The motion died from lack of a second. Kirk Rice made the motion that the Board would support BBQ, Band, & Brew until the Friends of Calkins provides a more detailed agenda for the night. The motion was seconded by Julie Jeske. All members voted aye, and the motion carried.

New Business:

Pine Ridge Rifle Range – Lease: Steve Priske, with the Steamboat Rifle Range, provided the Board with an update on the rifle range’s non-profit status, name change, and planned updates to the range. Randy Copeman, Steamboat Rifle Range representative, made note of trees that appear to be dead that hang over the parking lot. The Director stated that the conservation staff will follow up on the concern. The lease was provided to the Board for review. Kirk Rice made the motion to sign another year agreement with the Steamboat Rifle Range. The motion was seconded by Julie Jeske. Two members voted aye, one member voted nay, and the motion carried. The lease was signed by both parties.

Firewood Permit: The Director presented the Board with a firewood permit request. The board discussed the presented permit for Reece Park. Jo Baumann made the motion to approve the presented firewood permit. The motion was seconded by Kirk Rice. All members voted aye, and the motion carried.

The Lodge – Non-Profit Use: The Board discussed non-profit use of The Lodge as it is currently offered at no cost. Julie Jeske made the motion to do a one-year trial of asking for donations from non-profits that are interested in utilizing The Lodge. The motion was seconded by Jo Baumann. Two members voted aye, one member voted nay, and the motion carried.

Informational Items:

Daisy Long – Boat Ramp Donation: The Director informed the Board that the location is Lower Eagle, not Daisy Long and that an individual has offered to donate funds toward further development of a boat ramp. The Board requested more information on what the individual is proposing for development. Julie Jeske made the motion to table the discussion. The motion was seconded by Kirk Rice. All members voted aye, and the motion carried.

Adjournment: Next Hardin County Conservation Board Meeting is scheduled to take place on Monday, May 8, 2023, at 6pm. The Monday, April 17, 2023, meeting of the Hardin County Conservation Board was adjourned by Chair, Trent Lambert, at 7:23 p.m.