

Monday, August 14, 2023
Minutes of the Hardin County Conservation Board Meeting

The Monday, August 14, 2023, meeting of the Hardin County Conservation Board was called to order by Chair, Trent Lambert, at 6:00 p.m. at Headquarters Office.

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

Board Members Absent: Jo Baumann

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

Guests: John Ziebell, Tyler Prohaska, and Roger Bernard

Approval of Agenda: Bryan Meints made a motion to approve the August 14, 2023 agenda. The motion was seconded by Kirk Rice. All members voted aye, and the motion carried.

Public Comment: None.

Approval of Minutes: Bryan Meints made a motion to approve July 10, 2023 minutes as presented. The motion was seconded by Julie Jeske. All members voted aye, and the motion carried.

Approval of Claims: Julie Jeske made a motion to approve the August 14, 2023 monthly claims. The motion was seconded by Kirk Rice. All members voted aye, and the motion carried.

Monthly Special Reports:

Chair Report: None.

Board Member's Report: Julie Jeske stated that Delta Waterfowl would be willing to sponsor the lunch for the UTV Ride at Calkins Nature Center.

Special Committee's Report:

The Lodge Committee: The Director, Wes Wiese, updated the Board on the status of the septic project in Steamboat Rock and the directions that he was provided from Region 6 regarding the project moving forward. The Director was advised to hire an architect to assist with the project. Wes also noted that KCCI will be doing an interview on the project this week.

Fundraising Committee: The Board and Director discussed various plans regarding the UTV Ride event including sponsors and door prizes. Wes informed the Board of the advice provided by the county attorney and insurance regarding the event and also shared about the progress made with the Fall Festival planning.

Salary Committee: None.

All reports were given and discussed. Julie Jeske 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: None.

New Business:

Eagle Scout Project: Meier's Refuge: John Ziebell commented on the Meier's Pond jetty and asked the Board about dredging around the new jetty to provide more fish habitat. The Director asked for more

information regarding equipment, labor, and what would be done with the fill. The Director stated the next step would be to speak with the Iowa DNR Fishery department. John also shared that there is an individual, Scott Thompson, interested in doing a stair/landscaping project on the south end of the pond for their Eagle Scout Project. John also noted that the public is using the jetty as a driveway and suggested boulders at the entrance.

Smokey Muzzleloaders Rendezvous: Roger Benard, with the Smokey Muzzleloaders, thanked the Board for allowing the group to utilize the Setchell Area for their annual Rendezvous event. The group has removed all the stumps, leveled the ground, and planted eighteen new trees. The Smokey Muzzleloader Rendezvous will be September 2nd-4th. He also noted that many visitors have commented on how wonderful the location is. The Board invited the club to host a stand at Setchell area during the upcoming UTV ride.

Jason Leverton: Timber Line Survey: The Director informed the Board that Jason Leverton would like to complete timber harvesting on his property. There is no existing survey identifying the timberline to establish property boundaries. Jason is asking the Board to pay for half of the total boundary survey. Kirk Rice made the motion to go 50/50 up to \$2,500 total, or \$1,250 each, for the survey. The motion was seconded by Julie Jeske. All members voted aye, and the motion carried.

Camping Permits: The Board and Director discussed camping permits for the County's primitive campgrounds. Julie Jeske made the motion to start at \$10 for a seasonal primitive camping fee per camping unit. The motion was seconded by Bryan Meints. Two members voted aye, and one member abstained. Julie Jeske withdrew her motion regarding camping permit rates. Bryan Meints made the motion to table the decision until the Board had more information regarding the websites capability to charge a nightly and annual fee. The motion was seconded by Kirk Rice. All members voted aye, and the motion carried.

Daisy Long Boat Ramp: The Director informed the Board of the need for Daisy Long's boat ramp to be repaired and presented the board with a previous quote from 2022. Wes noted that there is a Water Recreation Access Cost-Share Program (WRAC) grant available for the boat ramp and asked the Board for their approval to pursue the grant. It was the consensus of the Board to approve the application for the WRAC grant.

IRA Nichols Hunt Drawing: The Director requested to do a drawing for the IRA Nichols area for the Iowa Falls City Hunt. It was the consensus of the Board to draw a name for permission to hunt the Ira Nichols Area. The name will be drawn during the next board meeting.

Informational Items:

INHF Donation: The Board reviewed the annual Iowa Natural Heritage Foundation's donation request. Bryan Meints made the motion to donate \$100 to INHF for Annual Due Rates. Julie Jeske seconded the motion. All members voted aye, and the motion carried.

Adjournment: Next Hardin County Conservation Board Meeting is scheduled to take place on Monday, September 11, 2023, at 6 pm. The Monday, August 14, 2023, meeting of the Hardin County Conservation Board was adjourned by Chair, Trent Lambert, at 8:03 p.m.