

Wednesday, January 11, 2023
Minutes of the Hardin County Conservation Board Meeting

The Wednesday, January 11, 2023, meeting of the Hardin County Conservation Board was called to order by Chair, Kirk Rice, at 6:00 p.m. at Hardin County Conservation Headquarters.

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

Board Members Absent: None.

Staff Members Attending: Wes Wiese (Director), Kit Paper (Natural Resource Manager), Chris Barber (Interpretive Park Manager), Davis Horton (Interpretive Program Assistant), and Laura Carr (Office Assistant)

Guests: Tyler Prochaska and Sophia Prochaska (DELTA Waterfowl), Justin Meints (Pine Lake Wildlife), Bridger Lawrence, Lincoln Eekhoff, and Jaiden Shahan

Approval of Agenda: Jo Baumann made a motion to approve the January 11, 2023 agenda. The motion was seconded by Bryan Meints. All members voted aye, and the motion carried.

Public Comment: None.

Approval of Minutes: Trent Lambert made a motion to approve the December 12, 2022 minutes as presented. The motion was seconded by Julie Jeske. All members voted aye, and the motion carried.

Approval of Claims: Bryan Meints made a motion to approve the January 11, 2023 monthly claims. The motion was seconded by Trent Lambert. All members voted aye, and the motion carried.

Monthly Special Reports:

Chair Report: None.

Board Member's Report: None.

Special Committee's Report:

The Lodge Committee: None.

Salary Committee: The board was provided a document for proposed salary ranges determined by the salary committee. Information only.

Justin Meints with the Pine Lake Wildlife presented Calkins a \$1,000 for their Ice Fishing Derby to take place at Pine Lake State Park on February 11th. Justin also stated that the Wildlife Club would provide a meal for the event. All reports were given and discussed. Bryan Meints 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:

Calkins Internet: Chris updated the board on Calkins' internet, he has found no other provider or booster that will improve the internet at this time. The board will revisit the subject if any new developments are made.

New Business:

Appoint Chair & Vice Chair: Julie Jeske made a motion to appoint Trent Lambert as board chair and Kirk Rice as vice chair. The motion was seconded by Bryan Meints. All members voted aye, and the motion carried.

Appoint Calkins Friends Representative: Trent Lambert made a motion to appoint Jo Baumann as the Calkins Friends representative. The motion was seconded by Julie Jeske. All members voted aye, and the motion carried.

Delta Waterfowl Banquet Donation: Bryan Meints made a motion to approve a donation of a two-night cabin stay at the Tower Rock cabins towards the Delta Waterfowl Banquet. The motion was seconded Trent Lambert. All members voted aye, and the motion carried.

Ruby Wildlife Area: Members of the public, Lincoln Eekhoff and Bridger Lawrence, discussed issues with hunters walking through Ruby Wildlife Area. The area is currently archery only. The director, Wes Wiese, proposed making Ruby Wildlife Area a seasonal refuge and noted that it would be a local ordinance to be enforced by local authorities. The board discussed placing “no trespassing” signs on the area during both shot gun seasons. Trent Lambert made a motion to make Ruby Wildlife a “no trespassing” area during the first and second shotgun season. The motion was seconded by Bryan Meints. All members voted aye, and the motion carried.

Also discussed with the board were parking issues near the area. When accessing the area, visitors do not have an established parking lot and therefore park either along a curve or in private driveways. These parking practices pose a safety concern and are an inconvenience for the private property owners. It was determined that the county engineer’s office will need to be consulted on the matter as it is a county road. Bryan Meints made a motion for the Director, Wes Wiese, to ask the county about adding parking at Ruby Wildlife near Lincoln Eekhoff’s property. The motion was seconded by Julie Jeske. All members voted aye, and the motion carried.

Approve 2023/2024 Budget: The board was presented with the proposed 2023/2024 Fiscal Year budget. The board and director reviewed the budget and discussed changes. Jo Baumann made a motion to approve the 2023-2024 fiscal year budget with the addition of the cost for Tower Rock Cabins to be stained. The motion was seconded by Bryan Meints. All members voted aye, and the motion carried.

Informational Items: None.

Adjournment: Next Hardin County Conservation Board Meeting is scheduled to take place on Monday, February 13, 2023. The Wednesday, January 11, 2023, meeting of the Hardin County Conservation Board was adjourned by Chair, Kirk Rice, at 7:44 p.m.