

Monday, January 8, 2024

Minutes of the Hardin County Conservation Board Meeting

The Monday, January 8, 2024, meeting of the Hardin County Conservation Board was called to order by Chair, Trent Lambert, at 6:07 p.m. at Headquarters Office.

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

Board Members Absent: None.

Staff Members Attending: Wes Wiese (Director), Laura Carr (Office Assistant)

Guests: None.

Approval of Agenda: Kirk Rice made a motion to approve the January 8, 2024 agenda with the removal of the item, Boundary Fence: Heetland. The motion was seconded by Bryan Meints. All members voted aye, and the motion carried.

Public Comment: None.

Approval of Minutes: Julie Jeske made a motion to approve the December 11, 2023 minutes as presented. The motion was seconded by Bryan Meints. All members voted aye, and the motion carried.

Approval of Claims: Kirk Rice made a motion to approve the January 8, 2024, monthly claims as presented. The motion was seconded by Julie Jeske. All members voted aye, and the motion carried.

Monthly Special Reports:

Chair Report: Trent Lambert noted the number of ash trees at one of the parks.

Board Member's Report: Julie Jeske informed the Board that the annual Delta Waterfowl Banquet is scheduled for January 27th at the Amory in Iowa Falls. Bryan Meints informed the Board that the Pine Lake Wildlife Club will do a meal for the ice fishing derby scheduled in February and donate towards the event. Jo Baumann requested that the Steamboat Rock Rifle Range be added to the agenda for next month.

Special Committee's Report:

The Lodge Committee: The Director, Wes Wiese, stated that the Lodge Committee has met with the architect. The Board discussed layouts for The Lodge.

Fundraising Committee: The Director noted that Julie Winters, the grant writer with Region 6, has suggested the department have an ongoing fundraiser for the project. The Board discussed fundraising options for the new building.

Salary Committee: None.

All reports were given and discussed. Jo Baumann 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:

- A. **Headquarters Office Roof Repair:** The Board reviewed a quote submitted by Ken Pearce Construction. The Board requested more quotes for review. Bryan Meints made a motion to table the decision until next month. The motion was seconded by Kirk Rice. All members voted aye, and the motion carried.

New Business:

- A. Election of Chair & Vice Chair:** Julie Jeske made a motion to nominate Trent Lambert for the position of Board Chair. The motion was seconded by Bryan Meints. All members voted aye, and the motion carried. Kirk Rice made a motion to nominate Julie Jeske for the position of Board Vice Chair. The motion was seconded by Bryan Meints. All members voted aye, and the motion carried.
- B. Septic Project Resolution:** The Director suggested the Board create a resolution designating funds towards the Pine Ridge Sewer Project to include in the grant application. Kirk Rice made a motion to adopt a resolution pledging a minimum of \$100,000 towards the Pine Ridge Sewer Project. The motion was seconded by Bryan Meints. Roll call vote: “Ayes” Kirk Rice, Jo Baumann, Julie Jeske, Trent Lambert, and Bryan Meints. “Nays” None. The motion carried.
- RESOLUTION NO. – 2024.1.8 is hereby adopted as follows:
RESOLUTION PLEDGING FUNDS TOWARDS THE PINE RIDGE SEWER PROJECT.
WHEREAS it is the responsibility of Hardin County Conservation Board to designate funds for a specific purpose;
BE IT RESOLVED that the Hardin County Conservation Board designates a minimum of \$100,000 towards the Pine Ridge Sewer Project.
- C. Lower Eagle City Boat Ramp:** The Director noted that the new boat ramp at Lower Eagle City is complete, and that Bart Rieks is going to pay for the ramp expenses. We did note that Bart has requested that the Conservation Department riprap the rest of the Eagle City banks to prevent further erosion.
- D. Tower Rock Cabin Donations:** The Board discussed the Tower Rock Cabin Donation Policy. Kirk Rice made a motion to allow \$1,500 towards cabin donations per year and to remove the previous policy #9. The motion was seconded by Bryan Meints. All members voted aye, and the motion carried. Julie Jeske made a motion to amend the first sentence of the policy and to replace “a two-night stay” to “a stay.” The motion was seconded by Kirk Rice. All members voted aye, and the motion carried. Bryan Meints made a motion to remove items number 3,4,6, and 7 from the policy. The motion was seconded by Kirk Rice. All members voted aye, and the motion carried. Bryan Meints made a motion to donate a one-night cabin stay towards the Steamboat Rock Fire Department Fundraiser. The motion was seconded by Julie Jeske. All members voted aye, and the motion carried. Kirk Rice made a motion to donate a two-night cabin stay to Pine Lake Wildlife, Delta Waterfowl, and South Hardin Rec. The motion was seconded by Jo Baumann. Kirk Ricke and Jo Baumann voted Aye, Julie Jeske and Bryan Meints abstained, the motion carried.

Informational Items: None.

Adjournment: Next Hardin County Conservation Board Meeting is scheduled to take place on Monday, February 12, 2024, at 6:00 pm. The Monday, January 8, 2024, meeting of the Hardin County Conservation Board was adjourned by Chair, Trent Lambert, at 7:30 p.m.