

**Monday, December 11, 2023**  
**Minutes of the Hardin County Conservation Board Meeting**

The Monday, December 11, 2023, 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.

**Board Members Absent:** Jo Baumann.

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

**Guests:** None.

**Approval of Agenda:** Kirk Rice made a motion to approve the December 11, 2023, agenda. The motion was seconded by Julie Jeske. All members voted aye, and the motion carried.

**Approval of Minutes:** Bryan Meints made a motion to approve the November 13, 2023 minutes and November 27, 2023, Strategic Plan Meeting minutes as presented. The motion was seconded by Kirk Rice. All members voted aye, and the motion carried.

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

**Monthly Special Reports:**

**Chair Report:** None.

**Board Member's Report:** Kirk informed the board of a meeting with Pheasants Forever representatives. The group discussed previous projects that Pheasants Forever partnered with Hardin County Conservation on and current needs of the department such as a fire unit for the ranger and seed for future projects.

**Special Committee's Report:**

**The Lodge Committee:** The Director, Wes Wiese, presented the board with a quote from Impact7G for an ACM and Hazardous Material Survey on the current standing Lodge for a total of \$2,400. The Board advised Wes to get other bids to compare costs. Wes also updated the board on the progress of the grant application.

**Fundraising Committee:** None.

**Salary Committee:** It was noted that the salary caps need to be revisited with the restructuring of the departments staff.

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

**Old Business:** None.

**New Business:**

- a. **Fishing Derby:** The Calkins Fishing Derby is scheduled for Saturday, February 10<sup>th</sup> from 8am-12pm at Upper Pine Lake. Calkins is requesting to partner with the Pine Lake Wildlife Club and Delta Waterfowl for the event.
- b. **Conservation Property Information:** The Board discussed a property located near 170<sup>th</sup> St. as a nearby property owner requested the Board donate the property to them. It was noted by the

Board that county property cannot be donated or given away; it would need to be put up for bid. It was noted that the Conservation Board does have an easement in the deed to access the property. Kirk Rice made a motion that the Board does not sell any of its properties at this time. The motion was seconded by Julie Jeske. All members voted aye, and the motion carried. Wes also informed the Board that a property owner near Boddy Hunt reported issues with the proximity of the hunting property to their personal property. The property owner inquired about the Board passing an ordinance or closing the area to hunting. The property owner was advised that law enforcement must be contacted regarding any suspected hunting violations. It was also noted that the property owner encroached on the existing wildlife area when they built their dwelling, therefore it was the consensus of the Board that no action is required on behalf of the Conservation Department regarding the wildlife area.

- c. **Headquarters Office Roof Repair:** Wes informed the board that the Headquarters' shop/office roof needs repairs, the nails need to be replaced with screws and areas need to be repainted to prevent rusting. The Board requested Wes obtain quotes for the replacement of the roof. Julie Jeske made the motion to table the decision until the Board received quotes for the replacement of the roof. The motion was seconded by Bryan Meints. All members voted aye, and the motion carried.
- d. **Budget Discussion:** Wes informed the Board that the annual budget is coming due and explained each line of the budget to the Board.

**Informational Items: None.**

**Adjournment:** Next Hardin County Conservation Board Meeting is scheduled to take place on Monday, January 8, 2024, at 6:00 pm. The Monday, December 11, 2023, meeting of the Hardin County Conservation Board was adjourned by Chair, Trent Lambert, at 7:26 p.m.