

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

The Monday, September 11, 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, Jo Baumann, and Julie Jeske

Board Members Absent: None.

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

Guests: Jo Meints

Approval of Agenda: Jo Baumann made a motion to approve the September 11, 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 August 14, 2023 minutes as presented. The motion was seconded by Bryan Meints. All members voted aye, and the motion carried.

Approval of Claims: Julie Jeske made a motion to approve the September 11, 2023 monthly claims. The motion was seconded by Jo Baumann. All members voted aye, and the motion carried.

Monthly Special Reports:

Chair Report: Trent Lambert stated that he viewed Meier's Pond Jetty, that there is about a foot of water around it, and he understood the need to dredge along the jetty. The Director, Wes Wiese, commented that he met with the Iowa DNR and that they approved the dredge work. The plan is to dredge and extend the jetty. Trent also provided BINGO prizes that he collected for the Fall Festival.

Board Member's Report: Bryan Meints asked about the Hardin City Woodland being blocked off. Wes Wiese noted that it is a State Preserve and people were driving off-road through it. Jo Baumann informed the Board that the Southfork Watershed is celebrating 25 years. On November 30th the group will be hosting a water quality forum with speakers.

Special Committee's Report:

The Lodge Committee: Wes Wiese updated the Board on the septic project in Steamboat Rock. He attended a special meeting with the City of Steamboat Rock. The City Council agreed to a septic hook-up, either on the west side or under the river.

Fundraising Committee: Bryan Meints provided updates on donations for the UTV drawing. The Board discussed the details of the event route, volunteers, and other planning details. The Board also briefly discussed plans for the Fall Festival.

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:

Camping Permits: The Board revisited the idea of daily and/or annual camping permits for the primitive campgrounds. Primitive camping sites are parks that offer no modern amenities for campers such as water or electricity. The Board noted the maintenance costs such as mowing, aggregate, and port-a-potties of

these areas that are being utilized for free and taking business from the paid campgrounds. Bryan Meints made the motion to implement the 2024-2025 campground season overnight camping permits. The motion was seconded by Kirk Rice. All members voted aye, and the motion carried. Kirk Rice made the motion to charge \$10 per unit per night and \$100 for an annual permit for primitive camping. The motion was seconded by Bryan Meints. All members voted aye, and the motion carried. Wes Wiese also proposed discounted camping rates for the upcoming events at Pine Ridge Park. Kirk Rice made a motion that the camping rates be discounted at Pine Ridge Park at \$15 for 30-amp site and \$20 for a 50-amp site on September 22nd-23rd and October 6th- 7th. The motion was seconded by Julie Jeske. All members voted aye, and the motion carried.

New Business:

IRA Nichols Hunt Drawing: The Board drew a name for hunting the IRA Nichols Property during the Iowa Falls City Hunt. Bryan Dennis was drawn.

IA DOT Agreement: The Board reviewed the proposed agreement with the Iowa Department of Transportation (DOT) for the resurfacing of Highway 175. Bryan Meints made the motion to approve the DOT IA175 resurfacing project agreement. The motion was seconded by Jo Baumann. All members voted aye, and the motion carried.

Ranger Purchase: The Board reviewed the quote for the purchase of a new Ranger. Julie Jeske made the motion to approve the purchase of the new side-by-side at a total of \$20,648.98. The motion was seconded by Kirk Rice. All members voted aye, and the motion carried.

Donation: Bench at Bigelow: Wes Wiese informed the Board that Randi Harms has requested to donate a bench at Bigelow in memory of her father. It was noted that Hardin County Conservation would not be responsible for the upkeep and maintenance of the bench. Kirk Rice made a motion to grant permission for the placement of the bench at Bigelow Park. The motion was seconded by Julie Jeske. All members voted aye, and the motion carried.

The Lodge/Pine Ridge Architect: Wes Wiese informed the Board of the advisement provided by Region 6 regarding ARPA funds and The Lodge/Pine Ridge project to remain compliant with ARPA fund requirements. It was advised that the Board hire an architect through a bidding process to complete the plan for the area and building. Wes Wiese informed the Board of the projected cost of an architect and stated that there are future grants available to help pay for the additional expense. Kirk Rice made a motion to move forward with the hiring of an architect. The motion was seconded by Jo Baumann. 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, October 9, 2023, at 6 pm. The Monday, September 11, 2023, meeting of the Hardin County Conservation Board was adjourned by Chair, Trent Lambert, at 7:52 p.m.