

**Monday, April 8, 2024**

**Minutes of the Hardin County Conservation Board Meeting**

The Monday, April 8, 2024, 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), Julie Jeske (Vice-Chair), Kirk Rice, and Jo Baumann.

**Board Members Absent:** Bryan Meints

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

**Guests:** Tyler Prohaska, Zackary Morris, and Stan Norman

**Approval of Agenda:** Julie Jeske made a motion to approve the April 8, 2024 agenda. The motion was seconded by Kirk Rice. All members voted aye, and the motion carried.

**Public Comment:** Zackary Morris presented to the board a proposal for a bee lawn as a project for a scholarship that he is applying for. He requested an 8"x8" space where he would plant and maintain native flowers for his bee lawn, as well as posting a sign with information on his project and a QR code linking to a website with further information on bees. The Director, Wes Wiese, suggested an area just south of Daisy Long campground, which would allow the project to be seen by the public. The board agreed to allow Zackary Morris to complete his project in the designated area near Daisy Long.

**Approval of Minutes:** Jo Baumann made a motion to approve the March 11, 2024 regular and special meeting minutes as presented. The motion was seconded by Julie Jeske. All members voted aye, and the motion carried.

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

**Monthly Special Reports:**

**Chair Report:** None.

**Board Member's Report:** Julie Jeske brought up concerns with trash that has been collecting along a ditch in a ravine. She proposed a clean-up effort.

**Special Committee's Report:**

**The Lodge Committee:** Wes noted that he had presented The Lodge Project to the Destination Iowa Grant Board in Des Moines the week prior. The board should receive news on the decision in the coming weeks.

**Fundraising Committee:** None.

**Salary Committee:** Wes requested the board consider approving a resolution that would prevent Conservation employees from making more than 85% of the Director's salary, consistent with other departments in the county. Wes also stated that the committee needs to discuss a retirement package for an individual on staff.

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

### **Old Business:**

- A. Headquarters Office Roof Repair:** The Board reviewed and discussed bids from Ken Pearce (\$16,957.96), Jacob Ackerman (\$15,101.95, \$14,637.47 without tax), and Hadwiger Roofing (\$19,915.20), for a roof replacement at the Headquarters office/shop building. The board requested Wes to make phone calls to the bidders to get more information on materials. Kirk Rice made a motion to accept the bid submitted by Jacob Ackerman. The motion was seconded by Julie Jeske. All members voted aye, and the motion carried.
- B. Greenbelt Bank CD:** Wes presented the board with rates from Iowa Falls State Bank, Greenbelt Bank & Trust, and Hardin County Savings Bank for a CD that is coming due April 19<sup>th</sup> with funds of approximately \$42,000. Jo Baumann made a motion to put \$42,000 into a 5-month CD at Iowa Falls State Bank with a 5.15% Interest, and 5.21% APY. The motion was seconded by Kirk Rice. All members voted aye, and the motion carried.

### **New Business:**

- A. Steamboat Rock Rifle Range Lease Agreement:** The board reviewed the lease agreement for the Steamboat Rock Rifle Range. The lease agreement is for a seven-month term, beginning May 1<sup>st</sup>, 2024, and ending December 31<sup>st</sup>, 2024. Additions to the lease include a rental payment of \$1,000 and no 50-caliber or larger shooting permitted at the gun range. An amendment was made to the summer shooting hours, 12 pm-7 pm on Saturdays and Sundays and the holidays of July 4<sup>th</sup> and Labor Day beginning June 1, 2024, and ending October 1, 2024. Kirk Rice made a motion to accept the lease agreement as submitted. The motion was seconded by Jo Baumann. All members voted aye, and the motion carried. The board discussed options for alternative locations.
- B. Bessman-Kemp Campground:** Laura Carr, Office Assistant, informed the board that in the efforts to move Bessman-Kemp Campground to online reservations through My County Parks, it was noted that one flat fee is recommended and common practice for campsites with multiple amp capabilities in other counties in Iowa. Bessman-Kemp currently charges two different rates, it was proposed that the board consider one flat rate. The board discussed rates. Jo Baumann made a motion to charge a flat fee of \$15/night at Bessman Kemp. The motion was seconded by Julie Jeske. 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, May 13, 2024, at 6:00 pm. The Monday, April 8, 2024, meeting of the Hardin County Conservation Board was adjourned by Chair, Trent Lambert, at 7:22 p.m.