

**WOODBURY COUNTY, IOWA, CONSERVATION BOARD
MINUTES OF THE OCTOBER 6, 2016, BOARD MEETING**

The following is a true copy of the minutes of the meeting of the Woodbury County, Iowa, Conservation Board held on Thursday, October 6, 2016, at the Little Sioux Park Heritage Shelter beginning at 4:30 p.m.

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT

Chris Zellmer-Zant, Cindy Bennett, Don Dixon, Neil Stockfleth and Suzan Boden

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT

None

STAFF PRESENT

Schneider, Snyder, Stehr, Fundermann, Bales and Bostwick

OTHERS PRESENT

None

CALL TO ORDER

Acting President Boden called the meeting to order at 4:30 p.m.

CORRESPONDENCE ITEMS

None

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

None

ITEM R1. APPROVE CONSENT AGENDA

MOTION by Dixon, second by Stockfleth.

To approve the consent agenda.

VOTE: Aye: Chris Zellmer-Zant, Don Dixon, Neil Stockfleth & Suzan Boden
 Nay: None
 Absent: Cindy Bennett

Consent agenda was approved and involved the following items:

ITEM C1. Approve minutes of the September 1, 2016 monthly meeting.

ITEM C2. Approve September 2016 claims and expenditures.

ITEM C3. Receive and place on file the September 2016 financial/budget report and the 1st Quarter FY17 Reserve Fund Report.

ITEM C4. Acceptance of Gifts/Donations:

- 1. Stacey Gerhart – Monetary donation (\$1,000).**
- 2. Bob Scott – Monetary donation (\$52).**
- 3. Loess Hills Audubon Society – Monetary donation (\$270) and newsletter advertising.**
- 4. Bob Nickolson – Fishing rod and reel.**
- 5. Carol Probst – Youth snowshoes.**
- 6. Northwest Iowa Group Sierra Club – Newsletter advertising.**

7. **Siouxland Fly Fishing Club – Newsletter advertising.**
8. **Loess Hills Longbeards NWTF – Newsletter advertising.**
9. **Pam Pfautsch – Decorating supplies.**
10. **Scott Kayl – Cash donation for animals.**
11. **Wray Wright – Raptor food and deer pelt.**
12. **Sam Thomas – Raptor food.**
13. **Mike Verschoor – Live animal traps.**
14. **Morgan Mahon – Barred Owl nest box.**

President Bennett arrived at 4:39 p.m. and assumed leadership of the meeting.

ITEM R2. Approval of FY 16 Annual Report. (Schneider)

Schneider presented the FY 16 Annual Report. Snyder asked that the reference to a DNR Outdoor Intern grant be removed as there wasn't one last year.

MOTION by Zelmer-Zant, second by Dixon.

To approve the FY16 Annual Report as presented.³⁰⁻¹⁶

VOTE: Aye: Chris Zellmer-Zant, Cindy Bennett, Don Dixon, Neil Stockfleth & Suzan Boden
Nay: None
Absent: None

ITEM R3. Review of FY 18 final budget submission. (Schneider)

Schneider reported that the FY 18 Budget Proposal will be submitted to the Board of Supervisors with a 0.10% increase in the operations budget as approved at last meeting. Budget Improvement requests were made for a Resource Technician position at Southwood, a Natural Resource Coordinator position for the department, and a part-time Clerk position for the office, with the expectation that these positions won't be funded immediately. Capital Improvements included fully encrypted radios for the new statewide system, Southwood road resurfacing with class A quartzite, Snyder Bend playground surface replacement, Brown's Lake playground renovation, road replacement at Little Sioux Park and Bigelow Park, fiber optic line installation at the Nature Center, and HVAC replacement/rehabilitation to the Nature Center. Longer-term projects include playground surfacing at Fowler Forest and Little Sioux, addition of 30-amp service in tent areas, an enclosed shelter at Snyder Bend, Brown's Lake beach renovation, and the watershed dam at Oak Ridge.

ITEM R4. Capital Improvement Projects Update (Schneider)

1. Little Sioux Park beach renovation

Schneider stated that he had consulted with the engineers, and the final plans and specs should be available in a couple of weeks. He noted that the camping revenues for Little Sioux are down at least \$15,000 this year due in part to the flooded tent areas, temporary beach closure, and public perception that the entire park was affected by the flooding. The board instructed Schneider to put the project out for bid upon receiving the specs from the engineers.

³⁰⁻¹⁶ To approve the FY16 Annual Report as presented.

2. Park security light replacement

New park security light fixtures have been obtained. New poles have been set, and power has been burrowed under the road at Brown's Lake. Work will begin at Little Sioux soon.

3. Little Sioux Park cabin sidewalks

The Little Sioux Park sidewalk project is expected to begin in a couple weeks.

ITEM R5. IACCB Annual Conference review/comments. (Schneider)

Schneider reported that he, along with Don Dixon, Brian Stehr, and Don Haahr, attended the IACCB Annual Conference in Ft. Dodge in mid-September. They spent two days touring areas in Hamilton and Webster counties and enjoyed seeing what they had to offer. Next year, the conference will be held in Sioux and Lyon counties.

ITEM R6. Board member/staff reports

1. Nature Center activities (Snyder)

Snyder reported on the following Nature Center activities.

- Tyler Flammang will present a program at Little Sioux during the Halloween festivities on October 15th.
- School program requests are coming in.
- The Nature Calls budget update, receipts report, and event comments were presented. Snyder noted that the raffle receipts were down, but the auction receipts were up this year. The next Nature Calls event will be held September 23, 2017.
- The Toyota van has been received. Snyder noted that it has proven to be more flexible for removing seats and hauling things.
- The bald eagle sculpture was delivered today and will be installed tomorrow. The memorial dedication will be scheduled in the spring.

Dylan Bales arrived at 5:15 p.m.

2. Park activities (Stehr)

Stehr reported on the following park activities.

- Staff has been spraying fields in preparation to replant alfalfa.
- A Conservation Corps Iowa Crew will be here next week to help with the last of a ten-year timber stand improvement project at Oak Ridge.
- The annual Halloween weekend at Little Sioux Park will take place the weekend of October 15th. This is one of the biggest weekends for camping and day use.
- Poles are being set at Brown's Lake and Snyder Bend for the LED project.
- The 1-ton truck has been received and was available to view at the meeting. For safety reasons, the existing bed was replaced with a new steel bed and properly sized hitch.
- Fabrication of the slip-on fire unit will be started now that the truck is available for customization.
- The Case track loader has come in, but the protection package and wiring harness still need to be installed. It should be complete by the end of next week and be available for use on the TSI project after the CCI crew leaves.
- Four officers attended the CCPOA fall conference in Des Moines this week to obtain mandatory training, including firearms qualifications.

3. Administrative items (Schneider)

Schneider reported on the following items.

a. Grants/land acquisition update

Schneider contacted the Iowa Natural Heritage Foundation for a status on the Roberts property closing and discovered that it had been delayed several weeks because they forgot to send the abstracts to be updated. They agreed to set the closing costs as of October 1st due to their error.

Schneider presented an acquisition report listing the estimated costs and the available funding sources, as well as a funding sources cash flow. The Wildlife Habitat Stamp Fund Grant and the National Wild Turkey Federation Grant will be received this fall. With expected user fees and CRP payments, over \$818,000 will be available to fund this project. Schneider proposed that \$370,501 be paid from the Reserve Fund and \$64,317.40 be paid from the REAP fund to complete the purchase.

The INHF will be at the Nature Center on October 20th for a meeting and has agreed to do the closing then.

b. Time table for hiring Resource Technician positions

The Board agreed by consensus to the hiring time schedule for the Resource Technician positions at Brown's Lake/Snyder Bend and Little Sioux Park as presented. The positions will be posted on Wednesday, October 19, 2016, with an expected start date of February 13, 2017.

c. November meeting

The next board meeting will be held on Thursday, November 3, 2016, at the Dorothy Pecaut Nature Center.

The date for the December meeting will need to be changed due to the ISAC Fall School of Instruction being held November 30th – December 2nd. The date will be set at the November meeting.

ITEM R7. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 5:30 p.m.

The above minutes were typed by Dawn Bostwick.

Recording Secretary, Dawn Bostwick

Board Secretary, Neil Stockfleth

Board President, Cindy Bennett