

**WOODBURY COUNTY, IOWA, CONSERVATION BOARD
MINUTES OF THE THURSDAY, JULY 6, 2017, BOARD MEETING**

The following is a true copy of the minutes of the meeting of the Woodbury County, Iowa, Conservation Board held on Thursday, July 6, 2017, at the Brown's Lake-Bigelow Park 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, Van Voorst, Bales, and Bostwick

OTHERS PRESENT

Marty Pottebaum, County Supervisor

Greg Grupp

Steve Jauron

CALL TO ORDER

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 Bennett.

To approve the consent agenda.

VOTE: Aye: Cindy Bennett, Don Dixon, Neil Stockfleth & Suzan Boden

 Nay: None

 Absent: Chris Zellmer-Zant

Consent agenda was approved and involved the following items:

ITEM C1. Approve minutes of the June 1, 2017 monthly meeting.

ITEM C2. Approve June 2017 claims and expenditures.

ITEM C3. Receive and place on file the June 2017 financial / budget report and the 4th Quarter FY 17 Reserve Fund Report.

ITEM C4. Acceptance of Gifts/Donations:

1. Dean & Paula Van Roekel – Monetary donation (\$550) for Barred Owl adoption, 1 year.

Zellmer-Zant arrived at 4:35 p.m.

ITEM R2. UPDATE ON LAW ENFORCEMENT RIFLES AND AUTHORIZATION FOR INDIVIDUAL OFFICER PURCHASE THROUGH PAYROLL DEDUCTION. (STEHR)

Stehr reported that Sig Sauer M400 5.56 mm rifles have been ordered for each of the seven officers and should arrive in early August. The rifles will be equipped with Romeo 4H red dot optics, rail-mounted lights, three thirty-round magazines, and quick-release two-point slings. Trucks will be fitted with freestanding rifle racks with electronic release and manual key override, and gun cabinets have been purchased for each office. The officers will complete training with the Sheriff's department using 1,000 rounds for initial training and 80 rounds for qualification.

Stehr stated that the officers had asked about adding suppressors to the rifles to avoid needing hearing protection since the rifles register 160 decibels when fired. At a cost of \$497 for each suppressor, it was noted that each rifle would still cost less than \$2,000 when fully equipped.

MOTION by Stockfleth, second by Dixon.

To purchase suppressors for each of the officer rifles.²²⁻¹⁷

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

Stehr also stated that the officers had expressed interest in purchasing their rifles with payroll deduction so they could keep them when they end their employment with the county. The Sheriff's office allows their officers to purchase their weapons over a one-year period.

MOTION by Stockfleth, second by Dixon.

To offer individual officers the option to purchase their weapon on a 12-month payroll deduction.²³⁻¹⁷

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

ITEM R3. CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS REPORTS (SCHNEIDER)

a. Park residences remodeling.

Schneider reported that all park residence remodeling is complete, but that there was recently a water back-up in the Snyder Bend residence basement which will require some repairs.

b. Brown's Lake campground auxiliary drain field.

Schneider stated that the Brown's Lake campground auxiliary drain field project has not yet been started.

²²⁻¹⁷ To purchase suppressors for each of the officer rifles.

²³⁻¹⁷ To offer individual officers the option to purchase their weapon on a 12-month payroll deduction.

c. Little Sioux Park Beach renovation.

Schneider stated that he will start planning for the Little Sioux Park Beach renovation project this month. He mentioned that he would like to handle it much like how the water control structure was done, where the county purchases all materials and hires a contractor to do the installation. He will check with the engineer about reducing the size of the parking lot drain inlets and begin locating materials.

Schneider also noted that he will be contacting additional engineering firms regarding the Brown's Lake shoreline project.

ITEM R4. BOARD MEMBER/STAFF REPORTS

1. Nature Center activities (Snyder)

Snyder reported on the following Nature Center activities:

- Visitation at the Nature Center continues to be high, with an average of 150-200 visitors on Saturdays and Sundays, even with the shorter Sunday hours.
- The Nature Center is open until 7 p.m. on Thursdays through the end of July. Programs held on Thursday evenings help to draw visitors.
- Steady traffic was noted at the Nature Center on July 4th, with at least five individuals thanking staff for being open on the holiday.
- Summer day camps have been going well and interns have been doing a great job with camps and programs. The habitat intern has been working hard on the grounds and also helped the Resource Naturalist and CCI crew at Riverside Bluffs last week.
- Nature Calls update:
 - Committee meetings have started.
 - A list of potential sponsors was distributed to the board members for their help in securing donations.
 - Sponsorships totaling \$11,000 towards the \$20,000 goal have been received.
 - Beer & wine vendors have been set.
 - A new “wine wall” raffle is being planned for this year, and donations of wine and beer are being sought. Each bottle will be wrapped, and raffle winners will have their choice of a bottle from the wall.
 - A couple large caliber rifles will also be raffled.
 - The event is September 23rd at the Sioux City Convention Center.
- The Woodbury County Fair will take place in early August. A schedule was distributed for any board members who would like to volunteer for a shift in the WCCB booth.

2. Park activities (Stehr)

Stehr reported on the following park activities:

- June proved to be a good month at the parks.
- Staff have been planting food plots at Southwood, Oak Ridge, Owego and Shagbark.
- Little Sioux staff have been cleaning up dirt from the water control structure project and using it to raise the grade in the lakeside campground.
- Staff have added 13 loads of quartz on the Brown's Lake road to the shop building.
- Portable radios have been programmed and delivered, and the mobiles will be programmed soon. Another reprogramming will be required after the fire department switches to new radios.

- Stehr has contacted Dave Hoffman with the Iowa DNR regarding a trumpeter swan restoration project, but no information has been received yet.
- A Conservation Corps crew worked at Riverside Bluffs last week. Fire is still needed but is challenging within the city limits.

Dixon stated that he had been contacted by all members of the original board created to start up the Correctionville grocery store regarding their concerns about ice being sold at Little Sioux Park. It was noted and agreed that the board's focus is to serve and work for the common good of all Woodbury County park patrons.

Dixon also initiated discussion about a couple individuals who regularly are seen picking cans out of the Little Sioux trash dumpsters. Dumpster diving is specifically prohibited in the new rules and regulations recently adopted. The new rules will go into effect once the signs have been posted in each area. After that time, a special use permit with strict guidelines and timeframe may be offered to these individuals allowing them to collect cans only from the trash dumpsters and at times when it will be less obtrusive to campers.

3. Administrative items (Schneider)

Schneider reported on the following items:

a. Land acquisition and grants update

The Riverside Bluffs parcel has been sold. Schneider has ordered culvert, and the City of Sioux City will install it later this month providing access to Riverside Bluffs from Military Road.

Clearance has been given by the DNR to file for reimbursement on the Roberts property. A tribal consultant will need to be present when the ground is disturbed and work begins on the parking lot.

A piece of property is for sale on Highway 141 south of Sioux City. The owners had previously tried to rezone it for the purpose of mining fill dirt, but their request was denied. The 122-acre property is now listed at \$1 million.

b. 2017 IACCB Annual Conference: Sioux Center, Sioux & Lyon CCB's

Schneider reminded board members that annual conference registrations are due by August 15th for any who would like to attend. Schneider noted that tours go until 4:45 p.m. on the second day of the conference, but that he will need to leave at noon to return for the Nature Calls event.

c. Director replacement process

Discussion was held regarding the director replacement process. Twelve applications were received, and following review and discussion, the board chose three candidates to interview. Interviews will take place on Monday, July 17th, at the Dorothy Pecaut Nature Center. Schneider provided a list of potential interview questions, and each committee member was asked to choose two questions of importance to them. Schneider will contact the three candidates by phone to arrange interviews and will also send follow-up letters.

d. Set date/time for August meeting

The next meeting was set for Thursday, August 3rd, at Little Sioux Park.

e. Resource Manager report – Brown’s Lake

Resource Manager VanVoorst reported that the Bigelow Park has been staying busy with campers, and that approximately 1,000 people visited the beach and picnic areas on July 4th. The outdoor family movies have also been well attended. Several incidents have been reported in the last month, partly due to officers looking harder and increasing law enforcement pressure in an effort to keep the park family friendly. Boden stated that she had gotten one call about the reduced beach hours, but VanVoorst reported only a few complaints and feels it is going well.

ITEM R5. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 5:50 p.m.

The above minutes were typed by Dawn Bostwick.

Recording Secretary, Dawn Bostwick

Board Secretary, Chris Zellmer-Zant

Board President, Suzan Boden