

**WOODBURY COUNTY, IOWA, CONSERVATION BOARD
MINUTES OF THE THURSDAY, OCTOBER 5, 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, October 5, 2017, at the Brown's Lake-Bigelow Park shelter beginning at 4:00 p.m.

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT

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

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT

None

STAFF PRESENT

Schneider, Stehr, Kruid, VanVoorst, Bales, Dean, and Bostwick

OTHERS PRESENT

Dan Heissel

CALL TO ORDER

President Boden called the meeting to order at 4:00 p.m.

CORRESPONDENCE ITEMS

Schneider shared Nathan Silfies' ILEA graduation program, a recent *Spencer Daily Reporter* news article featuring Dan Heissel's acceptance of the WCCB Director position, and the latest IACCB newsletter recognizing Rick Schneider for 42 years of service and announcing his retirement reception.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

None

ITEM R1. APPROVE CONSENT AGENDA

MOTION by Stockfleth, second by Zellmer-Zant.

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 7, 2017 monthly meeting.

ITEM C2. Approve September 2017 claims and expenditures.

ITEM C3. Receive and place on file the September 2017 financial / budget report and the 1st Quarter FY 18 Reserve Fund Report.

ITEM C4. Acceptance of Gifts/Donations:

1. Wrede & Barbara Smith Legacy Fund of the Siouxland Community Foundation
 – Grant (\$11,000) for Nature Center general support.

Cindy Bennett arrived at 4:06 p.m.

ITEM R2. Report on 2017 Nature Calls event (Snyder)

Theresa Kruid reported on the 2017 Nature Calls event in Dawn Snyder's absence. Attendance and gross receipts were the highest ever. Check-in was busy, but everything seemed to go smoothly. Unfortunately, a staff member fell and broke her wrist during clean up after the event. A wrap-up meeting for the planning committee and volunteers will be held next week.

ITEM R3. Discussion of proposed legislation by Rep. Steve King – H.R.3688.

Schneider reported on the recent legislation introduced by Rep. Steve King to transfer land currently owned by the Corps of Engineers to the Bureau of Indian Affairs and gave a brief history of the situation. When the Nebraska Winnebago Indian Reservation was formed in 1865, its boundary was the Missouri River. As the river changed course, some of the reservation's land ended up in Iowa. In the early 1970's, parcels of the tribe's land were condemned by the Army Corps of Engineers, with the cooperation of the Iowa Dept. of Natural Resources, for construction of a recreational project near Winnebago Bend and Snyder Bend. The land involved includes Tract 119 (south half of Snyder Bend Lake), Tract 210 (Winnebago Bend) and Tract 113 (part of Snyder Bend Lake island). Courts have ruled that the condemnation was done illegally because the tribe didn't have authority and that the tribe failed to preserve its right to appeal before the statute of limitations ran out. Congressional action is now needed to return the land.

Schneider was invited to make a presentation on the subject at the Board of Supervisors meeting two weeks ago. Supervisors heard 1 ½ hours of remarks from both sides of the issue and then decided to take no action, deeming it a federal matter. They encouraged concerned citizens to contact their congressional representatives.

Schneider expressed concerns with a drop in Snyder Bend Park attendance if use of the lake is restricted, as well as a reduction of migratory waterfowl if the refuge is not maintained. Snyder Bend currently has 160,000 visitors per year based on traffic counts. Schneider is also devoted to preserving public access lands and the ability to hunt them with a state hunting license. He has contacted the attorney for the tribe, and she would like to present at the board's November meeting. He noted that Rep. King indicated willingness to rewrite the bill withholding Snyder Bend from the transfer, but Schneider doesn't feel that is an appropriate solution and would only hurt the board's reputation.

ITEM R4. Approval of FY 17 Annual Report (Schneider)

Schneider presented a draft of the WCCB FY 17 Annual Report. He noted one correction to equipment purchases on page 7, changing the 2005 Used Chevrolet F350 to a 2005 Used Ford F350. Board members had no other changes.

MOTION by Zellmer-Zant, second by Dixon.

To approve the FY 17 Annual Report as presented.³³⁻¹⁷

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

³³⁻¹⁷ To approve the FY 17 Annual Report as presented.

ITEM R5. Capital Improvement Projects Update (Schneider)

Schneider reported on the following capital improvement projects.

1. Brown's Lake shoreline development progress.

The survey has been done for the Brown's Lake shoreline development project. The preliminary design should be ready in two weeks and will be presented at the next meeting.

2. Oak Ridge water impoundment structure replacement status.

Schneider stated that he hadn't been able to meet with the county engineer yet regarding the Oak Ridge water impoundment structure replacement. He plans to inquire about them designing the repair of the old structure drop inlet. An engineering firm will be sought to design the main structure. The repair estimate is \$40,000.

3. Southwood road proposed resurfacing with quartzite.

The Southwood road resurfacing will begin in a couple of weeks. The materials are ready, but trucks need to be lined up to haul it. Three inches of quartzite will be put down on the road, and the shoulders will be reclaimed at the same time. Approximately 1800-1900 tons of quartzite will be needed.

4. Little Sioux Park beach renovation project.

The Little Sioux beach construction should be staked beginning on Saturday if the rain stops and should be done next week. Schneider is still working on getting proposals from contractors.

5. Little Sioux Park wireless project.

Many trees were cleared to the north of the shop yard, and a 70' communications pole has been installed near the shop at Little Sioux Park. The main equipment will be installed next, providing internet service to the shop and office. Coverage for the remaining areas will be added gradually this fall.

6. Curtin Timber parking lot.

One load of crushed concrete was brought in for the Curtin Timber parking lot, and parking posts were installed. The lot will accommodate 5-6 cars.

ITEM R6. Review and consideration of Re-Purchase Agreement with Iowa Natural Heritage Foundation. (Schneider)

Schneider reported that the land survey on the Fleming property will be done in approximately 10 days and the exact number of acres will be determined. Schneider will meet with their representative to mark boundary lines. Stockfleth encouraged him to use straight lines as much as possible for easier maintenance long term. The Iowa Natural Heritage Foundation will then make the final payment. Schneider presented the memorandum of understanding with the INHF for repurchase of the property over a period of two years. Terms are the same as the Curtin Timber repurchase agreement.

MOTION by Stockfleth, second by Zellmer-Zant.

To approve the memorandum of understanding with the Iowa Natural Heritage Foundation for purchase of approximately 90 acres of timberland near Correctionville, subject to Board of Supervisors approval.³⁴⁻¹⁷

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

ITEM R7. Discussion on FY 19 budget. (Schneider)

Schneider reviewed the proposed FY 19 budget with the board. Board approval will be needed at next month's meeting. Budget guidance will be received from the Supervisors by October 25-26th, and the final budget request will need to be entered into the system by November 20th. A one-year moratorium on equipment and motor vehicle purchases was instituted last year, so those budget items have been added back in for FY 19. Electricity was dramatically reduced last year due to expected savings from the LED conversion, but because most of the electrical usage is from the campgrounds and not affected by that conversion, electricity has been increased by \$23,500. The garbage line item has also been increased by \$4,500 due to rising costs in that area. Total increase for operations is \$136,200, the majority of which is made up by three line items (equipment, motor vehicles and electricity).

ITEM R8. Board member/staff reports

1. Nature Center activities (Snyder)

Kruid reported on the following Nature Center activities:

- The programs report for September was distributed. There weren't many school groups in September due to Nature Calls preparations.
- Kruid has agreed to provide a program for Spalding Park Elementary fourth graders every month. They requested the same for their third-grade class, but we couldn't accommodate it and still provide programs for all other Sioux City schools.
- Field trips will increase for the next few months, and then school visits will begin. Kruid noted that she has filled all but one day in May already.
- Forty-seven monarchs were tagged at the Monarch Tagging program.
- A monarch education booth was set up at ArtSpash, and people could make their own milkweed bombs to plant at home.
- Prairie programs were held in partnership with groups, such as Audubon, Sierra Club, and Briar Cliff.
- WCCF is a new sponsor and fiscal agent for Plant Some Shade Siouxland in cooperation with MidAmerican Energy and the Iowa DNR. Tyler is at Riverside Park today helping with the tree pick-up.
- The Nature Center retaining wall was finished up today. The underground drainage and concrete sidewalks will be done at the end of the month.

³⁴⁻¹⁷ To approve the memorandum of understanding with the Iowa Natural Heritage Foundation to purchase approximately 90 acres of timberland near Correctionville, subject to Board of Supervisors approval.

2. Park activities (Stehr)

Stehr reported on the following park activities:

- Parks will be open until end of the month.
- Staff have been working on the Curtin Timber parking lot and hope to have it done next Monday.
- Little Sioux staff have been prepping for the beach parking lot. Parking posts will be replaced with large rock.
- The Little Sioux Halloween event will be on October 21st.
- The local horsemen group installed hitching posts at Southwood. They also have a \$500 grant to put towards Maple trees for the equestrian area. Brian will add them to his annual tree order.
- At Snyder Bend, the Bill Anderson memorial flagpole has been installed, and rock was added around the office sign.
- Mike Barkley has started installing the new drain field at the Brown's Lake comfort station, but has had rain delays.
- Seven officers will be attending the CCPOA training at Camp Dodge next week to complete annual firearms and law enforcement qualifications.
- Field staff will be taking pesticide applicator recertification classes in October and November.
- Several old desks at the parks were replaced with those purchased from CF Industries. A staff member has asked to purchase 3 of the old desks at \$10 each. Because it would save hauling them to the City Auction, and they most likely wouldn't draw much more than that price, the board approved the sale by consensus.
- The rifles are in at Thunderbird but are on hold until the additional rifle ordered later for Dan Heissel arrives in mid-October. Training will be done through the Sheriff's department.
- The trumpeter swans won't arrive until spring, which allows time for the needed tree removal and fencing work.

3. Administrative items (Schneider)

Schneider reported on the following items:

a. 2017 IACCB Annual Conference report

Chris, Don, Brian and Rick attended the IACCB Annual Conference in Lyon and Sioux counties. Schneider shared the tour information packet. Next year's conference will be in Des Moines.

b. LAWCON grant status

All necessary clearances have been received for the LAWCON grant, and the \$175,000 reimbursement check is on the way. The parking lot is going in. Pictures are being taken during the project for the Tribal Historic Preservation Officer. Nothing of interest has been found.

c. Little Sioux Park road repairs

Most of the Little Sioux entrance road repairs were done yesterday. Slurry levelling material is being used to fill in cracks. Repairs should be finished next week.

Trail sealing is also being done at Little Sioux this month.

d. Little Sioux River access improvements

Secondary Roads has requested a permit to improve the Dixon Bridge access on the Little Sioux River. They plan to complete that work this fall.

A permit has been obtained from the DOT to improve the access lane off State Highway 31 into the new Meyer Access. Secondary Roads will do that work this fall as well.

e. Set date/time for November and December meetings

The next two meetings were set for Monday, November 6, and Thursday, December 7, both at 4:30 p.m. at the Dorothy Pecaut Nature Center.

A Regional REAP Assembly meeting will be held at the Correctionville Community Center on October 25, 2017.

ITEM R7. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 5:15 p.m.

The above minutes were typed by Dawn Bostwick.

Recording Secretary, Dawn Bostwick

Board Secretary, Chris Zellmer-Zant

Board President, Suzan Boden