

ITEM R2. Acknowledge Derek Bean’s promotion to Assistant Resource Manager and to set salary at recommended rate from Director. – (Heissel) - Action

Dan reported that he promoted Derek Bean to Assistant Resource Manager and peace officer at Little Sioux Park effective June 17, 2019. His starting salary is \$47,474, and he will have a six-month probationary period within which time he will need to pass the pre-testing for the Iowa Law Enforcement Academy.

MOTION by Suzan, second by Cindy.

To approve Derek Bean’s promotion to Assistant Resource Manager and appointment as a peace officer with a starting salary of \$47,474.²⁷⁻¹⁹

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

ITEM R3. Acknowledge hire of Resource Technician for Little Sioux Park and set starting wage upon recommendation of Director. (Heissel) – Action

Dan stated that over 30 applications had been received for the Resource Technician position at Little Sioux Park. Six applicants were interviewed, and an offer was made to Tanner Petersen, who is currently employed as a Summer Ranger at Southwood Conservation Area. He will start on Monday, July 15, 2019 with a starting wage of \$41,584 or \$19.84/hour with a six-month probationary period.

MOTION by Aaron, second by Neil.

To approve the hiring of Tanner Petersen as Resource Technician at Little Sioux Park with a starting wage of \$41,584 or \$19.84/hour.²⁸⁻¹⁹

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

Dan stated that one of the three-month seasonal workers at Southwood would be moved to a six-month position for the remainder of the season since Tanner will be moving to Little Sioux Park.

ITEM R4. Accept and approve RFP’s on mower. (Stehr) - Action

Brian presented four proposals for a 72” mower to replace the 2007 John Deere 3280D mower at Bigelow Park/Snyder Bend Park. He recommended the John Deere 1550 TerrainCut 4WD 72” rear discharge mower from AgriVision Equipment at a cost of \$16,950 after trade-in.

MOTION by Aaron, second by Neil.

²⁷⁻¹⁹ To approve Derek Bean’s promotion to Assistant Resource Manager and appointment as a peace officer with a starting salary of \$47,474.

²⁸⁻¹⁹ To approve the hiring of Tanner Petersen as Resource Technician at Little Sioux Park with a starting wage of \$41,584 or \$19.84/hour.

To approve the purchase of a John Deere 1550 TerrainCut 4WD 72” Rear Discharge mower for Bigelow Park/Snyder Bend Park at a cost of \$16,950 after trade-in of a 2007 John Deere 3280D mower.²⁹⁻¹⁹

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

ITEM R5. Capital Improvement Projects Update (Dan)

1. DPNC – HVAC/Roof

Dan reviewed the remaining items to be finished on the Nature Center HVAC and roof replacement projects. There are a couple unit controls to be replaced due to them getting wet when a contractor was using a wet saw. There is also trouble with two thermostats, and Dan has requested that they be replaced. The filters in each unit are very dirty from running them while construction was still going on. He has asked that they be replaced as well.

The issues with the flashing, siding and gutters are being taken care of this week and will be completed before the Chamber event on July 18th.

It was also just discovered that there is a pipe leak inside from the wells. The insulation was soaked, and a puddle of glycol was on the floor. The holding tank level was down a half inch. The system will have to be shut down to fix it.

2. Southwood – Building

Dan reported that the dirt has been moved at Southwood for the cold storage building, and the area has been seeded. The contractor cut the building site down too far and had to bring dirt in to fill it back in. They packed it well, but it was decided it would be best to wait for a full freeze/thaw cycle before erecting the building. Bids will be requested for the building in a couple of months.

3. Brown’s Lake Concession Bldg.

Dan stated that he had a conversation with Jake of JEO and expressed concern that the architect fee was too high on their bid for the Brown’s Lake concession building. He agreed and will speak to the engineering firm. Brian has bids ready to go out next month for the building razing.

4. Snyder Bend Solar Panel Project

Dan reported that the county attorney had reviewed the power purchase agreement for the solar panel project at Snyder Bend and had a few problems with it. If the issues can’t be resolved soon, Dan stated that he would put it out to public bid instead.

²⁹⁻¹⁹ To approve the purchase of a John Deere 1550 TerrainCut 4WD 72” Rear Discharge mower for Bigelow Park/Snyder Bend Park at a cost of \$16,950 after trade-in of a 2007 John Deere 3280D mower.

ITEM R6. Board member/staff reports

1. Administrative items (Dan)

Dan reported on the following items:

a. Set August meeting date and location

The next meeting was scheduled for 4:00 p.m. on Wednesday, August 7th, at Little Sioux Park.

b. Zook Property

Dan reported that the Iowa Natural Heritage Foundation was successful in purchasing the 82 ½-acre Zook property at less than the appraised value. INHF asked about plans for the property and if the board would be interested in planting a pollinator mix as they have grant money available to help pay for the seed. They also have some funds remaining this year that might be used to convert some brome fields to natives as well.

Dan will put together the REAP grant request in August. Dawn is having volunteers conduct an inventory of animals, insects and plants on the Zook and Briese properties for use in writing grants. There was also a vegetation survey done on the Frost property which could also be used.

Discussion was held regarding the direction given to the INHF for the Zook property purchase and the potential ramifications of setting a precedence of purchasing land above appraised value. This will be taken into consideration in any future purchases.

c. Grants

Dan stated that a grant request has been submitted to the Gilchrist Foundation in the amount of \$100,000 to be used for the Brown's Lake handicap fishing pier.

Authorization was received to submit a MHRD grant application requesting \$100,000 for the Brown's Lake shoreline improvements, including the fishing jetty and rock pier.

Dan is preparing two REAP grant requests for the Briese and Zook properties. The deadline for these is August 15th.

Fish Habitat grant applications are due in November, and Dan plans to request \$50,000-75,000 for bank armoring and fishing jetty at Brown's Lake. This grant requires a 90/10 match.

d. Equipment

Brian reported that the Schulte mower has been ordered and will be delivered in a week or so. The Yamaha boat motors will be picked up tomorrow. The wood splitter was delivered on Tuesday.

Brian stated that he has located a 2016 Dodge Caravan with 33,000 miles at a cost of \$10,185 with trade-in of the Prius.

Next month, proposals will be brought to the board for two replacement trucks for Little Sioux and Brown's Lake.

e. ICCS Annual Conference in Muscatine

Dan asked for a final count on attendance at the ICCS annual conference in September. Dan and Chris are the only ones attending at this point.

f. Other

Aaron reported that he talked to Leonard Jorgensen about the possibility of building a berm on their property adjacent to Snyder Bend to help prevent minor flooding. The county attorney will be consulted to confirm that it can be done on private property, and if so, an easement agreement proposal will be pursued.

Discussion was held regarding a proposed housing development project owned by Lieber Holdings LLC near North Middle School. The City Council addressed it on Monday and postponed a decision for two weeks. Joe McGovern, President of the Iowa Natural Heritage Foundation met with Dan on site to look at it. They have asked the WCCB to go on record as opposed to the project to promote preservation of the Loess Hills. Dan asked the board if they were willing to take a stance on this project as it will include removing the hills and putting a housing development in their place. After considerable discussion about the board mission statement and all of the conservation easements held and monitored, the board felt that its mission statement speaks volumes, but they aren't comfortable getting involved in a city issue. The board is conflicted about balancing the needs of the community to provide housing and pursuing the protection of fragile natural resources. The board desires to preserve the Loess Hills at every opportunity, especially in those areas with native remnants. The planning and zoning commission and the City Council will be making the decisions regarding this project since it is inside the city limits.

Dan reported that Lieber Construction had approached him a year ago about clearing approximately one-half acre of ground behind Sacred Heart School to add a playground, and he had told them he was against it because the Loess Hills could start sloughing and it would affect the WCCB property and property line. Dan highly discouraged the project at the time. However, they now have cleared more than an acre, built a couple terraces and plan to hydroseed it for a playground. In the process of moving dirt, they cut into the WCCB Riverside Bluffs property about half the width of a bulldozer. No notification as a neighbor of the project was received from the school or the planning and zoning board. The damage has been done, and Dan will monitor the site to see what happens. Dawn noted that the endangered ten-petal blazing star has previously been identified on the property that they just demolished.

2. Park Activities

Brian reported on the following park activities:

- June has been a busy month for the parks.
- Southwood and Little Sioux staff have been getting food plots planted and sprayed.
- Replanting was done at Little Sioux last week.
- Staff have been mowing pollinator plots and will mow the Briese property once the new mower comes in.
- Little Sioux Park had 605 tons of washed concrete sand delivered to the beach. Secondary Roads provided a payloader and operator to lift the sand over the fence and

staff then spread the sand with the tracked skid loader. Another 300 tons of masonry sand will also be mixed in.

- Two loads of wood chips have been added to the Brown's Lake playground since the playground replacement has been delayed.

3. Nature Center Activities

Dawn reported on the following Nature Center activities:

- Copies of the newsletter were distributed.
- Summer day camps are going well.
- Seven public programs were held last week.
- Trumpeter swan interpretive signs have been ordered for Little Sioux.
- The turtle sculpture purchased with Bradford Kollars memorials was delivered last week.
- Nature Calls contact lists were provided in packets for board members to make calls.
- A meeting of the Nature Calls committee was held at the Sioux City Convention Center. The third gallery will not be available this year due to construction going on, so the atrium will be used for check-in.
- The Chamber Rush Hour Connect event will be held at the Nature Center on Thursday. Refreshments will include craft beer samples from Marto Brewing and Jackson Street Brewing, chili dogs from Milwaukee Weiner House, pasta salad from the Sioux City Convention Center, and other items. Chris Zellmer-Zant will speak on behalf of the board. Polo shirts were ordered for board members and staff.
- A kayaking program will be held at Southwood on July 19th. A two-year-old was brought to a previous kayaking event this summer, prompting the adoption of a minimum age limit of 8 years old and the requirement that a parent attend with anyone 15 years or under. The county attorney is helping to develop an activity waiver as well.
- Three big oak trees by the playscape have been dying, and Chad Rustwick will be removing them in August after camps are over. Tyler recently borrowed the lift being used for the Nature Center roof to take down another dead oak tree near the raptor house.

ITEM R7. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 5:40 p.m.

The above minutes were recorded by Dawn Bostwick.

Recording Secretary, Dawn Bostwick

Board Secretary, Aaron Gehling

Board President, Chris Zellmer-Zant