

**WOODBURY COUNTY, IOWA, CONSERVATION BOARD
MINUTES OF THE WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 13, 2019, BOARD MEETING**

The following is a true copy of the minutes of the meeting of the Woodbury County, Iowa, Conservation Board held on Wednesday, November 13, 2019, at the Dorothy Pecaut Nature Center beginning at 4:00 p.m.

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT

Aaron Gehling, Chris Zellmer-Zant, Cindy Bennett, and Neil Stockfleth.

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT

Suzan Boden

STAFF PRESENT

Dan Heissel, Brian Stehr, Dawn Snyder, and Dawn Bostwick

OTHERS PRESENT

None

CALL TO ORDER

Chairperson Zant called the meeting to order at 4:05 p.m.

CORRESPONDENCE ITEMS

None

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

None

ITEM R1. APPROVE CONSENT AGENDA

MOTION by Aaron, second by Cindy.

To approve the consent agenda.

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

Consent agenda was approved and involved the following items:

ITEM C1. Approve Minutes of the October 17, 2019 Monthly Meeting.

ITEM C2. Approve the October 2019 Claims and Expenditures.

ITEM C3. Receive and Place on File the October 2019 Financial/Budget Report.

ITEM C4. Acceptance of Gifts/Donations

- \$1,000 memorial gift for prairie pollinator plantings in WCCB parks in memory of Donald Alan Harrison of Lawton by his family
- \$10 cash donation for raptors by Doris Swanson
- Big Give donors: Total of \$1,510 for Nature Center animal care
Anonymous, Maureen Guthrie, Rae Jean Jones, Dennis Kluver, Mike & Tammy Mahaney, Mark & Susan Nielsen, Scott & Cyndy Patten, Patty Raymond, Barbara Sloniker, Garrett Smith, Dawn Snyder, Alison Uhl, Dean & Paula Van Roekel, Kathleen Weisz, Derek Winkel, Bill & Dotty Zales
- Doris Swanson for hot dogs for campfire
- American Pop Corn Company for popcorn for Fall Fest
- Pumpkin & Gourd donations for Fall Fest: Larry Fillipi; Bomgaars on Hamilton; Patty Kollbaum; Diane Ten Napel, Diane's Pumpkin Patch; Rick Riemenschneider; Rod Tondreau; Jeff & Beckie Wahlberg

ITEM R2. FY21 Operational Budget – Action (Dan)

Dan presented the proposed FY21 operational budget which includes a \$5,625 (1.27%) increase overall in the General Basic Fund. He noted that the Board of Supervisors determines the cost of living increase and sets the salary and benefits sections of the budget.

MOTION by Aaron, second by Neil.

To approve the proposed FY21 Conservation Department budget as presented.³⁸⁻¹⁹

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

ITEM R3. Solar Bids – Action (Dan)

Dan reported that bid letting for the Snyder Bend solar project has been advertised, and one proposal has been received from Dolf Ivener and his partner as Two Hawks, LLC. The proposed project will provide a 20% savings on electricity for the four Snyder Bend cabins. The agreement term will be five years, at the end of which the board can decide to either cancel or renew. Dan stated that it is important the project be started this year to gain all possible energy credits to make the agreement feasible, but that the Assistant County Attorney will still need to review and approve the power purchase agreement.

MOTION by Cindy, second by Aaron.

To approve the proposed Bid for Solar Lease Agreement from Two Hawks, LLC, subject to review by the County Attorney's office.³⁹⁻¹⁹

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

ITEM R4. Side by Side Bids – Action (Brian)

Brian presented bids to replace the 2013 John Deere Gator at Little Sioux Park. Requests were sent to four vendors with bids being returned by AgriVision Equipment in Lawton for a John Deere Gator and Midwest Honda Suzuki Kubota in Sioux City for a Kubota Sidekick. Despite a \$675 cost difference, the board decided to go with the Kubota Sidekick due to the length of warranty and current dissatisfaction with the level of service received at AgriVision.

MOTION by Neil, second by Aaron.

To accept the proposal and approve the purchase of a 2019 Kubota Sidekick UTV 4x4 from Midwest Honda Suzuki Kubota of Sioux City at a cost of \$13,000.⁴⁰⁻¹⁹

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

³⁸⁻¹⁹ To approve the proposed FY21 Conservation Department budget as presented.

³⁹⁻¹⁹ To approve the proposed Bid for Solar Lease Agreement from Two Hawks, LLC, subject to review by the County Attorney's office.

⁴⁰⁻¹⁹ To accept the proposal and approve the purchase of a 2019 Kubota Sidekick UTV 4x4 from Midwest Honda Suzuki Kubota of Sioux City at a cost of \$13,000.

ITEM R5. Snyder Bend Water Treatment System – Arsenic, Informational, Bids discussion - Action (Dan/Brian)

Dan and Brian reported on the recent elevation of naturally occurring arsenic at Snyder Bend. Water quality has been monitored annually since 2010, with elevated arsenic requiring regular hydrogen peroxide treatment to keep it within safe levels. Recent test results indicate that arsenic has exceeded the allowable threshold. A reverse osmosis kit has been purchased and installed in the Snyder Bend residence, and two quotes have been obtained for a water treatment system for the park to remove arsenic and nitrates, as well as soften the water. After lengthy discussion, the board agreed that the long-term goal would be to obtain rural or city water, but that a local water treatment system is needed in the meantime.

Additionally, the well that supplies the Brown's Lake staff housing is above allowable bacteria levels, and shock chlorination will be performed. Dan stated that a more stringent testing regimen will be put into place to test all wells at all parks going forward.

MOTION by Neil, second by Aaron.

To purchase the proposed water treatment system from Foulk Brothers for \$30,577.56 with the stipulation that park fees be increased to recoup some of the cost.⁴¹⁻¹⁹

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

ITEM R6. Capital Improvement Projects Update (Heissel)

1. Brown's Lake – New Concession & Development – Update

Dan reported that he finally received plans for the Brown's Lake beach house building and has gotten staff input. He will meet with the engineering firm next week. Discussion was held regarding the plan details, building location, and construction schedule. Dan stated that the additional presence of concession staff will allow beach hours to be extended to 8:00 p.m. again.

2. Storage Building Information – Southwood – Bids Let

Dan stated that bids have been let for the Southwood storage building and proposals will be presented for decision at the December meeting. He has heard from at least two contractors interested in submitting a bid.

ITEM R7. Board member/staff reports

1. Administrative items (Dan)

Dan reported on the following items:

a. December Meeting Date

The December meeting date is yet to be determined.

⁴¹⁻¹⁹ To purchase the proposed water treatment system from Foulk Brothers for \$30,577.56 with the stipulation that park fees be increased to recoup some of the cost.

b. CIP Update

Dan distributed and reviewed the current FY20 CIP budget & proposed FY21 CIP budget. Other funding sources were discussed, including possible corporate sponsors and a new Canadian National Railroad grant that Dan will be writing.

c. Cabin Info – Dike, raising cabins, moving cabins, water bars, septic – options, Informational

Dan stated that he had been reassured by the engineer's office that the Snyder Bend dike is still on their radar, but it is unlikely that it will be completed before the next high-water event. Other possible solutions were discussed, including raising or moving the cabins, adding water bars, and adding a secondary septic system accessible with a switch valve.

d. Hay – Bid letting info (Brian)

Brian informed the Board that he had received a request from Jeremy Beeson to extend his hay rental contract, but it has already been extended once. After discussion, the Board decided to put it out for bids again at a later date.

e. Well Testing, Parks – Arsenic, Bacteria, New testing not done before

(Discussed earlier in the meeting.)

f. Other

Dan announced that Don Haahr, Southwood Conservation Area Resource Manager, submitted his official retirement notice to take effect on March 1, 2020. A succession and hiring plan will need to be addressed. Dan and Brian will work on a strategy and possibly ask for board input into the decision.

2. Park Activities (Stehr)

Brian reported on the following park activities:

- Campgrounds are closed and winterized for the season, except for the Snyder Bend and Southwood cabins which will remain open throughout the winter.
- The Flemming property has been signed and is ready for hunting.
- A Conservation Corps Crew is working at Owego and Oak Ridge.
- Staff moved over 40 trees from the nursery to the parks.
- The concrete sidewalk has been poured for the ADA swing set at Snyder Bend Park, and the frame has been set in concrete.
- Field staff attended the annual Secondary Roads safety meeting on October 31st.
- Pesticide continuing education has been completed for the year. Eight employees attended the training on October 16th for their roadside and aquatics category.
- Brian and Tyler are working on scheduling a prairie burn at the Nature Center this fall.

3. Nature Center Activities (Snyder)

Dawn reported on the following Nature Center activities:

- The programs and visitors report for October was presented.
- Final tabulations show a profit of nearly \$35,000 for Nature Calls 2019, the largest ever.

- Board input was requested for whether to use two or three galleries for Nature Calls next year.
- The Nature Center participated in the Siouxland Big Give online fundraising event to be used for animal care. Online giving totaled \$700, and another \$810 was collected at the Nature Center for a total of \$1510. The Big Give check presentation will take place on Tuesday.
- Dawn and Olivia attended the Iowa Association of Naturalists Fall meeting in Fort Dodge.
- Winter Fun Day will be held on December 14th.
- A power outage happened at the Nature Center recently, and one of the wells did not automatically reset. Mike Barkley will be coming to check it.
- Brian and Tyler replaced all of the toilet flush valves in the public restrooms.
- A quote is in the works for a possible website revision.
- Chris asked about applying for the Bird Friendly Iowa certification. Dawn and Brian will check into it. The deadline is in December.
- Chris also noted outdated information on some of the website maps. Updates are being done as time allows.

4. Board

Nothing presented.

ITEM R8. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 6:10 p.m.

The above minutes were recorded by Dawn Bostwick.

Recording Secretary, Dawn Bostwick

Board Secretary, Aaron Gehling

Board Chair, Chris Zellmer-Zant