

**Regular Meeting
Buchanan County Conservation Board
April 24, 2019**

The regular meeting of the Buchanan County Conservation Board was held on April 24, 2019 at the Fontana Interpretive Nature center. The meeting was called to order at 6:00 pm by Board President Loren Hamilton. Board members present: Anita Miller, Karen Stephenson, Ron Wolfe and Andy Crump. Others present: Director Dan Cohen, Secretary Diane Johnson and Buchanan County Assistant Engineer Alex Davis.

Motion Stephenson/Miller to approve current agenda and March 16, 2019 minutes of the regular meeting and strategic planning meeting. All Ayes, motion carried.

Motion Stephenson/Wolfe to approve claims as follows. All Ayes, motion carried.

Alliant Energy	\$1075.87	Andrew Johnson	\$145.00
Bruening Rock	\$136.38	Buchanan County Extension	\$140.00
Consolidated Energy	\$288.40	Cy & Charley's	\$84.00
Dan Cohen	\$134.99	Diane Johnson	\$369.29
ECI REC	\$1112.43	Elaine Walker	\$668.47
FFP	176.00	Hawkeye Alarm	\$72.00
Iowa Department of Natural Resources	\$10.00	Iowa Regional Utilities	\$290.72
Iowa Dept. Revenue	\$112.00	Independence Light & Power	\$32.00
Jacob Schwarting	\$400	JD Financial	\$749.07
Michael Maas	\$10.00	Myers Polaris	\$115.54
Napa Auto Parts	\$56.09	Paul Nlemann Const.	\$1042.65
S&G Harvieux	\$35.00	Sondra Cabell	\$124.95
The Supply Cache	\$280.68	VISA	\$776.88
Walmart	\$66.01	Waste Management	\$76.50
Windstream	\$482.87	Winthrop Sales & Service	\$31.06

Davis presented the Board with preliminary engineering plans for work to be done at the Iron Bridge Access. The Board discussed the plans with Davis. Final plans are to be presented at the regular Buchanan County Conservation Board may meeting. Motion Wolfe/Miller to move regular meeting from May 21 at Fontana Nature Center to May 15, 2019 at Wolfey's outback in Quasqueton at 5:30. All Ayes, motion carried. Exit Davis at 6:30.

The Board discussed possible additional strategic planning options. Cohen will provide a quote from a consultant for a capital improvement plan for Fontana park. No action taken.

The Directors reports was submitted as follows:

- Attended meetings of Buchanan County Pheasants Forever; Buchanan County Tourism, Buchanan County Department Heads, Wilderness Trip Training, Friends of Fontana Park, Hawkeye Community College advisory group, Bird Friendly Iowa (phone); Buchanan County Department Heads.
- Field Staff: Staff worked on vehicles and equipment – including burn equipment, readying park roads, shower houses and other facilities for spring, opening parks, conducting management burns, cutting dead trees, fixing buffalo corral, spraying garlic mustard, etc. All field staff and I attended Mine Safety (MSHA) training/certification, which also included forklift, first aid, CPR, and other safety items.
- Naturalist Staff: Naturalist were busy with the start of the spring school schedule, and provided other group programs. Michael attended a Silos and Smokestacks meeting and a class on interpretive guide techniques by Iowa Tourism. Public programs included: Earth Too Clover Kids; Nature Kids program on vultures, trip to view sandhill cranes and prairie chickens in Nebraska, photography class, geocaching egg hunt, and signs of spring walk for OWLS. Sondra attended the Iowa Association of Naturalists workshop.
- Worked with Assistant County Engineer Alex Davis in drafting engineering plans for Iron Bridge Access (Agenda item).
- Work began on the Buffalo Creek Pavilion, with demolition and concrete work by Tom Erickson. Erickson submitted his liability and bonding forms. Coordinated work between the Erikson, Gissel (construction), and Curry (electrical). Staff removed large tree and nearby limbs prior to construction.
- Sought cost estimates for 2018 FEMA reimbursement grant to construct permanent steps at the Main Shelter House to the creek.
- Switched to an online timesheet program for all staff – a learning curve for some.
- Continued work to reconstitute wilderness trips as part of Education Programming in Buchanan County and throughout the CCB system. A training trip is planned for the end of May/early June, and a youth trip co-led by Sondra is planned for August.
- Continued to counter legislative attacks on the ability of state and municipalities to acquire public land (including CCBs).
- Offered to attend quarterly Board of Supervisors meetings to provide updates on the Conservation Board. Due to a scheduling conflict, I couldn't attend an April meeting, so provided a written report.
- Hosted the scholarship scoring meeting for the Buchanan County Area Conservation and Natural Resources scholarships, and advertised the awards.
- Communicated with Marty Lohman – no new status on land bordering Fontana Park. Other potential lands had no progress,
- Continued work on several park maps/brochures/cards.
- Entered into the burn agreement with John Behan, as per the February and March Board meetings.
- Conservation Technicians Jacob Schwarting and Andrew Anderson (limited schedule until May 6) began work. Naturalist Intern Samantha Hanson will begin May 6.
- Assisted Friends of Fontana Park on aspects of the 25th Anniversary Banquet. The event was successfully held at Heartland Acres.
- Confirmed tax exempt status for Roberts Wildlife Area with Assessor.

- Worked to schedule more campground hosts
- Received FEMA reimbursement for FY18 flood.
- A selfie station was constructed by staff, with signs provided by ICCS. The station will be moved around Fontana Park during the 99 Parks tourism promotion.
- Worked with the office manager on tracking end-of-year spending as we wind down the fiscal year.
- Received FEMA reimbursement for FY18 flood.
- Monitored bluebird nest boxes.
- Scheduled a spring drone video shoot to capture wildlife and a prairie burn. Video drone program is being paid for by FFP.

Cohen informed Board Members that the male Bison calf that was born 5/11/18 is ready to be sold. Motion Crump/Miller to advertise for bids. All Ayes, motion carried.

Cohen informed the Board that there is no new information on potential conservation lands.

The next regular Board meeting will be held at Wolfey's Outback in Quasqueton on Wednesday, May 15 at 5:30 pm.

Motion Wolfe/Miller to adjourn. All Ayes, meeting adjourned at 6:45 pm.

Diane Johnson

Secretary