

**Regular Meeting
Buchanan County Conservation Board
December 18, 2019**

The regular meeting of the Buchanan County Conservation Board was held December 18, 2019 at Bill's Pizza and Smokehouse in Independence, IA. The meeting was called to order at 5:01 by Board President Loren Hamilton. Board members present: Loren Hamilton, Anita Miller, Ron Wolfe, Andy Crump, and Karen Stephenson. Others present: Conservation Director Dan Cohen, County Supervisor Clayton Ohrt, Doris Ohrt, and Larry Miller.

Motion Stephenson/Miller to approve agenda and November 19 meeting minutes. All Ayes, motion carried.

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

Alliant Energy	\$643.98	AgVantage FS	\$108.00
Aurora Plumbing & Electrical	\$589.07	B&B Farm Store	\$336.20
Blake Streicher	\$25.00	Buchanan County Extension	\$180.00
City Laundry	\$69.66	Consolidated Energy	\$1412.27
Diane Johnson	\$656.93	ECI REC	\$923.57
Eastern IA Concrete	\$38,922.64	Elaine Walker	\$1079.63
Fareway Foods	\$45.08	Hamilton County Conservation	\$55.00
Heuss/The Iowan	\$38.00	IA Reg. Utility Association	\$493.25
IA. Sportsman	\$500.00	Independence Light & PWR	\$32.00
IAN	\$178.00	Iowa Outdoors	\$50.00
JD Financial	\$445.48	K&K Gardens	\$85.46
Knapp's Service	\$73.39	Ken's Electric	\$745.00
Koch Office Group	\$57.38	LEAF	\$227.34
Michaels Trucking	\$30.00	Mike VanRaden	\$28.36
Oelwein Ace	\$35.16	Oelwein Vet	\$189.50
Pesticide Bureau	\$30.00	Pinicon Ford	\$205.15
Print Express	\$313.50	Ramada NW DesMoines	\$145.60
Vern's True Value	\$29.97	Storey Kenworthy	\$50.47
VISA	\$26.44	Walmart	\$235.05
Waste Management	\$151.36	Windstream	\$275.02

Director Cohen updated the Board on progress on acquisition of 16 acres from Marty and Lahna Lohman, as per the Board's decision during the November 19 meeting. Closing has been scheduled for on or about January 20, 2020. The Purchase Agreement has been signed by all parties. The sellers agree to the Conservation Board taking over the current rental agreement and receiving rental income. The Conservation Board is paying for a survey of the subject property. Helland Engineering is conducting the survey. No action taken.

The Board discussed options for contracting with Shive-Hattery Architecture and Engineering for consultant/architectural work for a Fontana Park Master Plan. Shive-Hattery has produced

relatively low-cost quality plans for counties of similar size to Buchanan. The Plan would include potential changes and additions throughout Fontana Park, including the soon-to-be-acquired Lohman Addition. A quoted price for this service is \$17,800, and includes a Master Plan schematic for Fontana Park and architectural drawings, photos and illustrations, cost opinions, and other information for up to five larger infrastructure projects. The Board also discussed lower cost options for including fewer infrastructure projects or to work with Shive-Hattery based on an hourly cost, not to exceed a dollar amount. The Board consensus was to conduct initial in-house planning, and then decide on next steps with the consultant. No action taken.

The Board considered an offer from Joel Sauer to sell 33 acres along the Wapsipinicon River west of Independence. The Board decided not pursue the purchase, since the property is landlocked to public access and did not meet other aspects of the Board's priorities for land acquisition.

The Director's Report was presented as follows:

- Attended meetings of Buchanan County Safety Employees Meeting; Buchanan County Tourism Marketing; Board of Supervisors; I WILL; Friends of Fontana Park; Bird Friendly Iowa (phone); and Buchanan County Trails Association.
- Field Staff: Staff cut dead trees and filled wood cribs and firewood storage, conducted private lands plantings; continued prep work in the Jakway Clearcut for spring planting; conducted law enforcement during deer season weekends; assisted the Roadside Department with clearing along the road at Fontana Park. Field staff attended pesticide applicator training, and will be attending next month's Winterfest training. Jeremy and James attended the District 6 IACCBE meeting.
- Naturalist Staff: Naturalists were busy with some fall school programming. Public programs included: Harvest Centerpieces and Birdfeeders at the Depot. OWLS Programs were canceled due to numbers and illness. A new Christmas with the animals done with a group. Sondra installed a new watershed rainfall simulation exhibit in the Nature Center, and Michael created a Winter Adaptations matching game. New shelving was constructed in the basement storage area.
- Worked on the FY21 budget, and prepared a draft for Board member Review.
- Attended the regional REAP Assembly, along with Supervisor Clayton Ohrt. Provided handouts and proposed/passed resolutions in favor of extending the REAP sunset, fully funding the program, funding the Natural Resources and Outdoor Recreation Trust, and preserving REAP and Trust Fund formulas.
- Presented the FY19 Annual Report to the Board of Supervisors.
- Continued contact with Marty Lohman regarding the Board's interest in expanding Fontana Park. Lohmans have signed the Purchase Agreement, and survey and abstract work is underway. There is a question about an additional survey process for the area zoned for subdivision, and I have contact Matt Even about this. Marked the lines for the driveway area carve-out (agenda item).

- Friends of Fontana Park received a donation from the Orlan Snyder Trust (thank-yous were sent), for use in the Lohman Acquisition. Approached FFP about assisting with acquisition and work on the Jakway House roof (agenda item).
- A new overhead door was ordered to replace a door damaged due to staff person accident. Insurance is covering the cost, minus deductible.
- Worked with Buchanan County Tourism on information and photos for the upcoming county brochure.
- The vault and walls for the new latrine at Buffalo Creek were installed.
- Issued another disabled hunter ATV permit to the same individual as before, for shotgun deer season. As per past discussion, a more exact policy needs to be adopted. Spoke with DNR Biologist Jason Auel regarding the DNR's new directives for disabled hunters/anglers.
- Met with Shive-Hattery Engineering regarding consulting on a comprehensive infrastructure plan for Fontana Park, including the Lohman addition (agenda item)
- Received an offer to sell land along the Wapsipinicon River west of Independence (agenda item).
- Attended the Black Hawk Gaming Association Grants Recognition (Iron Bridge Project) presentation with Board Member Anita Miller.
- The winter newsletter was completed and distributed.
- Reserved rooms for the 2020 ICCS Annual Conference.
- Began writing employee evaluations.
- Contacted the newly appointed Board Member, compiled an orientation binder, and conducted an in-person orientation.
- Rust has been a problem in the water lines on the east side of Fontana. Made calls to Rural Water and a plumber to help investigate.

The Director informed the Board of the need to replace the roof on the historic Richardson-Jakway House located in Jakway Forest. The Richardson-Jakway Foundation has approximately \$10,000 it will provide to this project, and Friends of Fontana Park has agreed to funds for the remaining approximately \$4,600 needed for the project. No funds from the Conservation Board are anticipated to be used. Motion Crump/Wolfe to proceed with roof replacement this spring. All ayes. Motion carried.

Karen Stephenson was recognized for her nearly nine years of dedicated service as a Conservation Board Meeting. She was presented with a plaque from the Conservation Board and a certificate from Iowa's County Conservation System. This meeting was Karen's last as a Board member, as she chose to retire her position. Mary Jean Blaisdell of Independence was appointed by the County Board of Supervisors to fulfill the remainder of Karen's term, effective December 19, 2019.

Cohen and Supervisor Ohrt updated the Board on the recent REAP Assembly held December 4 at Hartman Reserve in Cedar Falls. No action taken.

The next meeting of the Buchanan County Conservation Board will be held at Wolfey's Wapsi Outback in Quasqueton beginning at 1:30 p.m. on December 19. This will be the annual budget and organizational meeting, and members were reminded to bring their calendars.

Cohen mentioned that discussion on rates and policies for public facility use and services will be reviewed during the regular January Board Meeting.

Motion Wolfe/Miller to adjourn. All Ayes, meeting adjourned at 5:52 pm