

Buchanan County Conservation Board Meeting Minutes

Thursday, December 20, 2018
Bill's Restaurant, Independence, IA

Hamilton called the meeting to order at 5 p.m. Board members present were Hamilton, Wolfe, Crump, and Miller. Others present were Director Cohen and Larry Miller.

Motion to approve agenda and minutes Crump/Wolfe. All aye.

Motion to approve claims by Miller/Wolfe . All aye.

Fareway Foods	31.03	Diane Johnson	692.41
Forestry Supplies Inc.	481.73	East Central Ia REC	486.19
Greenley Lumber	52.36	Elaine Walker	1009.20
Ia Reg Util. Assoc.	215.74	Fareway Foods	9.96
Indep. Light + Power	32.00	Menards	156.62
Jeremy Whittle	180.00	Mike Van Raden	244.99
John Deere Financial	304.48	Napa Auto Parts	255.10
Johnson Plumbing	327.42	Oelwein Veterinary	80.00
Kluesner Sanitation	996.00	Office Towne Inc	65.35
Knapp's Service	24.19	Pneu-Dart	31.88
Koch Office Group	62.19	Safelite Fulfillment	79.95
LEAF	225.38	Spahn & Rose Lumber	70.35
Menards	434.85	Steve Sauer	180.00
Alliant Energy	502.94	Unity Point Health	92.20
Andy Kremppes	144.00	VISA	22.39
Aurora Plumbing	785.88	Walmart Community	56.33
Buch Co Second Rds	300.00	Waste Management	76.50
Chris Hansen	180.00	Windstream	241.75
Consolidated Energy	2240.30	Dan Cohen	180.00
Total	\$11551.66		

The Board discussed current fees for facilities and services. Cabin fees are \$85 per night, with \$25 pet fee for whole time. The fee from the website for online reservations recently was raised to \$4. Campsites for drop-in use at Fontana and Jakway are \$18 electrical, \$12 primitive, and \$20 for reservable sites. The Board also discussed planting and equipment fees. Motion to keep current fees in place for 2019, and to allow the Director to reduce fees from time-to-time to offer special deals during slow periods - Wolfe/Crump. All aye.

The Board discussed the Iron Bridge Access upgrade project. The Water Recreation Access Costshare grant application received the highest score in the state, and was awarded the majority of funds for the grant period. The grant will costshare 75% of the project – up to \$266,145.00. Next steps are to get final permitting and engineering completed so that specs and forms can be produced for taking bids.

The Director's Report was presented as follows:

- Attended meetings of I WiLL Executive Meeting (phone) and Public Health Committee; Buchanan County Supervisors; Friends of Fontana Park; and Buchanan County Safety Committee.
- Field Staff: Staff worked on vehicle/equipment/facility checks, painting/replacing latrine doors, preparing animals for winter season, pruning and cutting dead trees, cutting firewood, using forestry mower. Sauer worked on paperwork for animal display permits. Park rangers patrolled shotgun deer season weekends.
- Naturalist Staff: Naturalist provided some school and civic programs. Public programs included: Earth Too Clover Kids; Nature Kids Nature Play; OWLS – Birding 101; Nature Kids – Backyard Birds; and Indoor Farmers Market. Display work was discussed.
- Coordinated use of the Hawkeye Community College Wildlife Management Class' skid loader with forestry attachment, as part of an educational work day with the students. The class instructor allowed Conservation Staff to use the equipment for an additional two days, allowing for meaningful work to be accomplished at Roberts Wildlife Area and Crumbacher Wildlife Area.
- Continued working with County Engineer (Assistant Engineer) and DNR Rivers Program to get information for DNR floodplain permit for work at Iron Bridge Access (agenda item).
- Hosted the District 6 Meeting of IACCBE at Fontana Park on December 19. Topics included Fish Habitat Grant; Universal Launch Design (Iron Bridge); and report from Cabins Task Force, as well as regular business meeting.
- Worked with Iowa Water and Land Legacy (IWiLL) to help with messages about the funding formula for communication with farm commodity groups. Also worked with a group of public health professionals to develop messaging and engage other groups.
- Informed Tom Peyton regarding the Board's decision not to allow a drainage ditch at Troy Mills Access. We discussed several other potential fixes. Revisited the area and saw most all of the water was down.
- Met with FEMA representative Tim Baker and an Engineer regarding final costs for June Flood Disaster Reimbursement.
- County Engineer Keierleber and several staff from Secondary Roads attempted a concrete patching fix on the Fontana Park, using a product called phoscrete. The patch did not work well due to a slight seep in the concrete. They may come back and try a different product.
- Completed work on the Winter newsletter, and began advertising for the upcoming Friends of Fontana Park Nature Center Banquet.
- Sought quotes on installing lights and outlets – thus far only one quote received was received (agenda item).

- Met with Brian Keierleber and Board of Supervisors regarding partnership to fix the bridge at the Fontana Park nature trail. Secondary Roads has some concrete slabs, and would coordinate setting a pylon along with other work. Supervisors agreed to the work partnership, with materials/equipment rental fees billed to Conservation Bd
- Worked on a sign order.
- Completed a draft FY20 budget, and distributed it ahead of the Conservation Board budget meeting (agenda item)
- Completed employee evaluations and interviews. Discussed issues with staff involved in some issues, and followed county policy regarding handling issues.
- Signed/submitted various state and federal permits for wildlife display.
- Began work on several park maps/brochures/cards, and met with Buchanan County GIS specialist for map-making options.
- Assisted park rangers with law enforcement issues.
- Received notification that Buchanan County Board of Health approved a Policy Statement in support of the Natural Resources and Outdoor Recreation Trust Fund (one of the messaging pieces I helped work with).
- Discussed issues with a park neighbor regarding people shooting within 200 yards of his house (some people were charged). It is a problem area, and I plan placing more signs.

The Director informed the Board about 32.75 acres of floodplain woodland for sale on Benton/Buchanan County line in the far southwest corner of the county. The land is adjacent to property managed by Benton County Conservation Board, and the Director has discussed this with the Benton CCB Director. Motion Wolfe/Crump to continue to assess the site for potential acquisition/protection. All aye.

The Director informed the Board of a request from a private landowner adjacent to Putty Root Preserve to allow Conservation Board staff to conduct a management burn on his wetland while burning public land at Patton Prairie. The wetland in question, and additional buffer strips maintained by the landowner, add to the wildlife value of Patton Prairie. Motion Wolfe/Crump to pursue a management/liability agreement to allow staff to burn on this site. All aye.

County Supervisor Ohrt approached the Board regarding whether a trail from Winthrop to Buffalo Creek would get considerable public use. He also asked about additional parking along Nolen Ave. at Iron Bridge access. No action taken.

Next meeting January 15 at Fontana Board Room at 6 p.m.

Motion Wolfe/Crump to adjourn at 5:53 p.m. All aye.