

Buchanan County Conservation Board  
 Regular Meeting Agenda  
 Tuesday, February 19, 2019  
 Fontana Park Nature Center Board Room

The regular meeting of the Buchanan County Conservation Board was held on February 19, 2019 at the Fontana Interpretive Nature Center. The meeting was called to order by Board President Loren Hamilton at 6 p.m. Board members present were: Andy Crump, Ron Wolfe, and Anita Miller, Secretary. Others present: Dan Cohen, Director, Adam Rodenberg, Watershed Coordinator for Middle Cedar, and Alex Davis, Assistant Buchanan County Engineer.

Motion Crump/Wolfe to approve agenda, and 1/15/19 minutes. All Ayes, motion carried.

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

Alliant Energy	682.53	Knapp's Service	30.33
BCHC	23.55	Koch Brothers	15.25
Consolidated Energy	811.11	LEAF	225.38
Dan Cohen	41.82	Michael Mass	19.96
Diane Johnson	369.29	Napa Auto Parts	127.55
East Central Ia REC	1,192.66	Nutrien Ag Systems	400.00
Eastern Ia Tourism	20.00	Oelwein Vet Clinic	213.00
Elaine Walker	584.10	Office Towne Inc	2,200.00
Fareway Foods	64.33	S & G Harvieux	35.00
Indy Light & Power	32.00	Signs & More	13.00
Ia Ass of Naturalists	84.00	Tractor Supply	849.98
Ia Com Assura	11,575.23	Visa	690.88
Ia Prison Industries	751.20	Waste Management	76.50
Ia Regional Util Assoc.	307.83	Windstream	483.32
John Deere Financial	343.68	Winthrop Sales	66.00
Total	\$ 22,329.48		

Adam Rodenberg presented the Albert Family Farm Wetland design completed through the Middle Cedar Watershed Management Authority. Once wetland development is complete, the 21 acres will be purchased by Benton County, and then Benton County plans to offer a transfer the acres to Buchanan County Conservation Board to manage. The plan allows Albert to retain about 2 acres in a strip of land between the wetland and the north side of Koutny Pond. Albert has told Rodenberg he would like to be able to access this land through the Conservation Board's property, and would like an easement to run a tile through the Conservation Board's property. Cohen emphasized to Rodenberg that Albert needs to make these requests to the Conservation Board for possible approval. Otherwise, the Conservation Board is pleased with the project, and will consider taking management pending review of final documents.

Alex Davis presented four designs for the Iron Bridge Access. The Board asked Davis to continue working on Option 3, which would provide parking for 28 cars and six vehicles with trailers. The estimated cost for this plan is \$376,648.00, with an optional additional sidewalk to take users under Nolen Ave. to the Guy Grover Timber and Tree Plantings for an additional \$37,572.81.

Cohen informed the Board of 30 acres of Wapsi Flyway property that may be for sale. The Board instructed Cohen to work with Iowa DNR Biologist Jason Auel on potential public acquisition.

Cohen informed the Board of 72 acres of wooded property in Liberty Township near the Wapsi that is for sale. The Board instructed Cohen to work with Iowa DNR Biologist Jason Auel on potential public acquisition.

The Directors Report was presented as follows:

- Attended meetings of I WiLL Executive Meeting (phone) and Messaging Group; Buchanan County Supervisors; Buchanan County Pheasants Forever; Bird Friendly Iowa (phone); ICCSE (Wintefest); and Friends of Fontana Park.
- Field Staff: Staff worked on vehicles and equipment, temporary latrine door, lots of ice and snow clearing, pruning and cutting dead trees, cutting honeysuckle, cutting firewood, etc. All field staff attended Winterfest Training in Corallville, and Van Raden attended prescribed burning refresher.
- Naturalist Staff: Naturalist provided some school and civic programs, although several were canceled. The annual My Side of the Mountain EB 7<sup>th</sup> grade Field Day was held. Sondra continued with her articles series of Conservation Board Areas and coordinated the Ding Darling Display (Open House March 14); Public programs included: Earth Too Clover Kids; Nature Kids - owls; and Moonlit Snowshoe. Coyote Club Ice Fishing and Earth Too programs were canceled.
- Met with Assistant County Engineer Alex Davis to discuss drafting engineering plans for Iron Bridge Access, including any potential for expanded parking (Agenda item).
- Submitted Water Recreation Access Cost-share (WRAC) Agreement as per the January meeting, and received a fully executed copy. Released the Water Trails Grant back to the Water Trail Development Program since the funds are not allowed for WRAC cost-share. Received notice that state permit is accepted.
- Submitted additional documents for 2018 FEMA reimbursement grant.
- Continued working with Iowa Water and Land Legacy (IWiLL) and public health professionals to develop messaging and engage other groups in funding the Natural Resources and Outdoor Recreation Trust Fund. An OpEd piece was published in the Des Moines Register, Cedar Rapids Gazette, and sub other newspapers. Materials are being sent to targeted house/senate districts to educate and engage local leaders (agenda item).
- Efforts are underway to reconstitute wilderness trips as part of the Education Program. As the most experienced past leaders, Katie Hammond (Lousia CCB) and I were asked to provide a trip to get new youth leaders/naturalists trained from our Eastern Iowa region. Following this training, a trip is being planned for Buchanan/Benton counties (agenda item).

- Worked with Supervisor Ohrt to communicate to legislators the need to protect Forest Reserve program, in light of efforts to gut the program (agenda item).
- As per a request from the Board of Supervisors, wrote an article providing information about the county landfill, recycling programs, and waste reduction.
- Presented on the topics of REAP and I WiLL during the ICCS Employees Winterfest Workshop.
- Spoke with Middle Cedar River Watershed Management Authority Coordinator Adam Rodenberg regarding plans for the Albert property adjacent to Kounty Pond (agenda item).
- Submitted a grant request in the mount of \$73,715 to the Wellmark Foundation for use at the Iron Bridge Access (agenda item).
- Began working on the Buchanan County Community Foundation Grant application (\$10,000) and mostly finished a grant request to the Black Hawk Gaming Association dollars (\$33,715). Requested an additional letter of support from Black Hawk CCB – (agenda item).
- Received a call from Curt Martin regarding potential sale of property near Otterville Bridge Wildlife Area. Spoke with the landowner, as well as Iowa DNR Fisheries and Wildlife staff regarding potential for public use. Researched recorded documents for the property (agenda item)
- Continued work on several park maps/brochures/cards, and met with Buchanan County GIS specialist for map-making options.
- Spoke Iowa DNR Biologist Jason Auel regarding property northwest of Iron bridge. Researched recorded documents for the property (agenda item)
- Developed a draft agreement to allow Conservation Board staff to conduct management burns on a neighbor's property while burning public land, and spoke with Assistant County Attorney about the terms (agenda item).
- Advertised for seasonal internship positions. Preliminary offers were made to, and accepted by, last year's seasonal conservation technicians Jacob Schwarting and Andrew Anderson.
- Work has begun for the dam removal/arch rapids project at Littleton Dam. Media releases were distributed and signs were placed to inform the public about potential dangerous ice for the coming weeks. Staff was prepped as to how to handle questions (agenda item).
- Worked with the drone videographer for winter shots, and submitted a grant request to Prairie Rapids Audubon (through Friends of Fontana Park).
- Gathered and submitted photos for the Iowa Economic Development Association and State Tourism (TravelIowa) 99 parks campaign. Fontana Park will be one of the featured attractions.
- Developed templates for invitation letters to be sent programs, facilities, and equipment users; vendors; donors; volunteers; partner groups; politicians, etc., and a blanket invitation from CCB members (agenda item).
- Began work on spring newsletter.
- Ding Darling Display was set up in the nature center, and a short promo video was developed by the exhibit designer.
- Began advertising the Buchanan County Area Conservation and Natural Resources Scholarship Program.

Cohen reported on efforts to revive wilderness education opportunities by providing a Boundary Waters Youth Wilderness experience as he had provided for many years. Cohen and another experienced leader will be leading a training trip for area naturalists in order to provide leadership capacity for future programs. Naturalist Cabell is planning a youth trip following this training, co-sponsored with Benton County Conservation Board.

Cohen reported on various bills before the Legislature and the status of the constitutionally protected Natural Resources and Outdoor Recreation Trust Fund, for which the Legislature and Governor have yet to provide funding.

Cohen reported that the Assistant County Attorney recommends that John Behan provide some funding as part of the Board's desire to have an agreement that allows burning of a wetland adjacent to Conservation Board property, and provides a liability waiver for this activity. Motion Miller/Wolfe to include a \$50 payment from Behan in a Burn Agreement. All ayes, motion carried.

Strategic Planning meeting will be held March 16 8AM-10:15AM with the regular Board Meeting to be held at 10:15 a.m.

Meeting adjourned at 7:44 p.m.