

**Regular Meeting  
Buchanan County Conservation Board  
January 21, 2020**

The regular meeting of the Buchanan County Conservation Board was held on January 21, 2020 at the Fontana Interpretive Nature Center. The meeting was called to order by Board President Loren Hamilton. Board members present: Anita Miller, Andy Crump, Ron Wolfe and Mary Jean Blaisdell. Others present: Director Dan Cohen and Secretary Diane Johnson.

Motion Crump/Miller to approve agenda and December 18 and 19 minutes. All Ayes, motion carried.

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

Alliant Energy	\$1383.44	Andy Crump	\$55.68
Anita Miller	\$127.60	BioQuip	\$66.42
Buchanan County Conservation Board	\$75.00	Buchanan County Secondary Roads	\$235.59
Consolidated Energy	\$748.88	Craig, Wilson Flickinger Trust	\$10,000
Diane Johnson	\$469.67	ECI REC	\$534.60
Elaine Walker	\$481.32	Fareway Foods	\$20.20
Hawkeye Alarm	\$72.00	Helland Engineering	\$2100.00
IA. Reg. Utility ASSC.	\$207.21	Independence Light & PWR	\$64.00
ISAC	\$190.00	Iowa Wall Sawing	\$40.00
Jeremy Whittle	\$20.00	JD Financial	\$156.78
Karen Stephenson	\$62.64	Loren Hamilton	\$128.30
Menards	\$156.07	MI-T-M Equipment	\$284.24
Napa Auto Parts	\$24.27	Oelwein Vet	\$31.55
Ratchford	\$350.00	Ron Wolfe	\$125.28
Spahn & Rose	\$227.16	Treasurer State of Iowa	\$117.00
Trott Trophies	\$56.00	Vern's True Value	\$399.99
VISA	\$9.00	Walmart	\$63.86
Waste Management	\$77.75	Windstream	\$549.19

Cohen updated the Board on the Fontana expansion. Much of the work is done, and closing will be set once a clear title opinion is completed by the county attorney – probably the first week in February. No action taken.

Board members discussed and gave input to the comprehensive infrastructure plan at Fontana Park. Once the ideas are more flushed out, Cohen will discuss next steps with the consultant - Shive Hattery, working for a more detailed master plan with infrastructure projects. Cohen will be sending board members larger aerials of Fontana Park with an assignment to help prioritize potential projects. No action taken.

The Director's report was presented as follows:

- Attended meetings of Buchanan County Tourism Marketing; Board of Supervisors; REAP Congress; Bird Friendly Iowa (phone); Buchanan County Pheasants Forever, and Buchanan County Wildlife Association.
- Field Staff: Staff cut dead trees, continued prep work in the Jakway Clearcut for spring planting; conducted law enforcement during deer season weekends; cleared snow; checked boundaries/placed signs; cut invasive woody plants; prepped doors for new latrine; maintained vehicles, etc. Field staff will be attending the upcoming Winterfest training.
- Naturalist Staff: Naturalists were busy with some fall school programming, although the My Side of the Mountain field day was postponed to February 7 due to weather. Public programs included: Winter Trees OWLS Program; New Year's Day Hike; and two Winter Day Camps. Sondra wrote an article on litter; Michael attended a Naturalists Program Swap, and will be attending Winterfest.
- Presented the Conservation Board-approved FY21 budget to the Board of Supervisors, along with a draft asset planning sheet (mostly from 5-year Plan).
- Attended the regional REAP Congress. Proposed/passed resolutions included extending the REAP sunset, fully funding the program, funding the Natural Resources and Outdoor Recreation Trust, preserving REAP and Trust Fund formulas; and making changes to rules for the Cities competitive grants program.
- Continued work on Lohman acquisition. Survey and abstract are complete. Once the title opinion is completed by the County Attorney, a closing summary and date will be set and closing will be completed. Communicated with Lohman attorney Denny Wilson on providing the abstract, deed, and other documents. Rounded up checks for closing. Currently, \$95,000 of the approximately \$100,000 project has been secured through donations (agenda item).
- Met with Supervisor Ohrt and Engineer Keierleber regarding options for the historic bridge at the Iron Bridge access (agenda item).
- The new overhead shop door was installed.
- Worked with Buchanan County Tourism on the upcoming county visitor's brochure.
- Was notified that Wilbur Main plans to replace plugged tile that outlets in Crumbacher Wildlife Area. As per a tile agreement, Buchanan County is responsible for a third of the cost. Estimated cost is \$7,000 (\$2,333 by County).
- Conducted a very productive staff brainstorming session regarding infrastructure plans at Fontana Park. Results will be shared during the Board's Strategic Planning session January 21 (agenda item).
- Contacted Sauser regarding his offer to sell land along the Wapsipinicon River west of Independence, as per December meeting.
- Requested and received grant payment from Black Hawk County Gaming Association for the Iron Bridge Project (\$34,715).
- Completed reports for FEMA and Iowa Homeland Security. Requested and received deadline extension. Attended the Buchanan County Wildlife Association and Pheasants Forever meetings and received \$5,000 and \$10,000 respectively for the Fontana expansion.

- Met with Alex Davis regarding specs for Main Shelter steps, dam spillway, and cabin renovation. Davis intends to have bid spec sheets for the steps and spillway project ready for the February Board Meeting.
- Wrote employee evaluations and conducted interviews.
- Compiled resources for Strategic Planning.
- Began advertising for seasonal workers.
- Requested information from County Attorney's Office about legal considerations for providing a wine-testing activity in the parks.
- Checked on a rare bird sighting (varied thrush) in Independence.
- A red fox continued to exhibit health issues even after receiving medication from the local veterinarian. Took the fox to another vet in Waterloo who work in rehab wildlife species. Eventually put the fox down.
- Met via phone/Zoom to organize two session presentations I will be making as part of panels – one on interpretive planning for development of signage/brochures/etc.; and one on legislative process/policy (especially the Trust Fund) to be presented during the County Conservation Employees Conference (Winterfest). Developed materials for these presentations.

Motion Wolfe/Miller to approve Directors report. All Ayes, motion carried.

Repairs and upgrades to the Iron bridge were discussed. Cohen met with Buchanan County Supervisor Clayton Ohrt and Engineer Brian Keierleber and presented ideas for historic preservation plans for the bridge. No action taken.

The next meeting of the Buchanan County Conservation Board will be held on February 18 at 6:00 pm at Fontana Park.

Motion Crump/Miller to adjourn. All Ayes. Meeting adjourned at 6:39 pm.

Diane Johnson, Secretary