

**Regular Meeting  
Buchanan County Conservation Board  
March 16, 2019**

The regular meeting of the Buchanan County Conservation Board was held on March 26, 2019 at the Fontana Interpretive Nature Center. The meeting was called by Board President Loren Hamilton at 10:15 am. Board members present: Karen Stephenson, Anita Miller, Ron Wolfe and Andy Crump. Others present: Dan Cohen, Director and Diane Johnson, Secretary.

Motion Crump/Miller to approve agenda and February 19, 2019 minutes. All Ayes, motion carried.

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

Alliant Energy	\$996.28	Buchanan County Treasurer	\$484.00
Consolidated Energy	\$706.27	Diane Johnson	\$744.33
Elaine Walker	\$415.36	IA. Regional Utilities	\$319.67
Independence Light & Power	\$32.00	JD Financial	\$302.45
K&M Services	\$102.85	Larry Stone	\$40.00
Michael Maas	\$12.40	Napa Auto Parts	\$228.31
Vern's True Value	\$39.98	VISA	\$16.50
Waste Management	\$76.50		

The Financial Report was reviewed and discussed. Motion Crump/Miller to approve Financial Report. All Ayes, motion carried.

Director Cohen updated the Board on the Iron Bridge Access. The Board reviewed several options provided by Assistant County Engineer Alex Davis. The Board felt an option for picnic area was not needed as it would require more tight curves in a walkway. No action taken.

The April Board meeting was discussed. Motion Miller/Wolfe to reschedule the Board meeting on April 23, 2019 to allow for a presentation of an Iron Bridge Access Engineering Plan from Davis. All Ayes, motion carried.

Director Cohen stated that he has been in waiting for more information from State Biologist Jason Auel on potential land additions.

The Director Report was submitted as follows:

- Attended meetings of I WiLL Executive Meeting (phone) and at Capitol (HF542 and SB1221), ISAC and County Conservation Directors Assoc; Eastern Iowa Tourism; Buchanan County Pheasants Forever; Bird Friendly Iowa (phone); and Watershed Management Authorities (Wapsi and Maquoketa).

- Field Staff: Staff worked on vehicles and equipment, replaced latrine door, lots of ice and snow clearing, pruning and cutting dead trees, checking wood duck nest boxes, writing burn plans, etc.
- Naturalist Staff: Naturalist provided some school and civic programs, although several were canceled. Sondra continued with her articles series of Conservation Board Areas. The Ding Darling Display Open House was held. Public programs included: Earth Too Clover Kids; Nature Kids - bison; and owls program 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).
- Submitted grant applications to Buchanan County Community Foundation and Black Hawk Gaming Association for work on the Iron Bridge Access (agenda item).
- Sought cost estimates for 2018 FEMA reimbursement grant to construct permanent steps at the Main Shelter House to the creek.
- Continued working with Iowa Water and Land Legacy (IWILL) on communicating about the Natural Resources and Outdoor Recreation Trust Fund. Presented to a group of city and county officials and chamber of commerce representatives from Southeast Iowa during their legislative meeting. Coordinated an effort between Public Health directors and CCBs to target communication in specified counties.
- 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.
- Worked with the County Conservation Board Directors Association, Board of Supervisors, staff, and Board members to counter legislative attacks on the ability of state and municipalities to acquire public land (including CCBs) (agenda item).
- Advertised and conducted the Volunteer Workshop with Diane Johnson. Turnout was down but the program went well.
- Attended the Maquoketa River Watershed Management Authority meeting as an alternate for Supervisor Gary Gissel.
- Worked with IDNR Biologist Jason Auel regarding potential land acquisitions, as per February Board meeting.
- Continued work on several park maps/brochures/cards.
- Developed a draft agreement to allow Conservation Board staff to conduct management burns on a neighbor's property while burning public land, with the neighbor making a payment, as per the February Board meeting (agenda item).
- A preliminary offer was made to, and accepted by, Samantha Hanson to fill the Naturalist Intern position, subject to pre-employment requirements.
- Began sending invitations to users of programs, facilities, and equipment; vendors; donors; volunteers; partner groups; politicians, etc., and a blanket invitation from CCB members and others (agenda item).
- Completed the spring newsletter.
- Advertised the Buchanan County Area Conservation and Natural Resources Scholarship Program.
- Prepared information for Board strategic planning.

Cohen updated the Board on legislative bills aimed toward conservation. No action taken.

As per recommendation of the County Attorney's Office, a Burn Agreement with a neighboring landowner will include \$50 payment to the Board. The Board approved the agreement, and decided an additional review would not be needed.

Cohen reminded the Board of the Nature Center 25 Year Anniversary Banquet being held on April 22.

Motion Wolfe/Crump to adjourn. All Ayes, meeting adjourned at 11:06 am.

Diane Johnson  
Secretary