

**Regular Meeting
Buchanan County Conservation Board
May 21, 2019**

The regular meeting of the Buchanan County Conservation Board was held on may 21, 2019 at the Fontana Interpretive Nature center. The meeting was called to order at 6:00 pm by Board President Loren Hamilton. Board members present: Loren Hamilton, Ron Wolfe and Andy Crump. Others present: Director Dan Cohen and Buchanan County Assistant Engineer Alex Davis.

Motion Wolfe/Crump to approve current agenda and April 24, 2019 Board Meeting minutes. All Ayes, motion carried.

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

Alliant Energy	\$1559.96	Andrew Anderson	\$1220.00
Banker's Adv.	\$120.67	Bruening Rock	\$671.64
BCCB petty cash	\$75.00	Buch Co Health Center	\$23.55
CapSan	\$481.20	Consolidated	\$1782.93
Cy & Charley's	\$136.06	Dan Cohen	\$20.88
Diane Johnson	\$565.47	East Central Ia REC	\$421.95
Elaine Walker	\$655.49	Fitzpatrick	\$164
Gaffney Quarries	\$173.47	Helmuth Saddle Shop	\$165.00
Heuss Printing	\$152.00	Ia Regional Utilities	\$355.25
INHF	\$50	Ind Lt & Power	\$64.00
Ind. Plumbing	\$56.24	Ia DOT	\$162.00
Jacob Schwarting	\$1580.00	John Deere Finan.	\$674.79
Knapp's	\$47.11	Koch Office Group	\$42.89
Leaf Financial	\$227.34	Linda Moyson	\$94.80
Menards	\$274.78	Oelwein Publishing	\$25.73
Palmer Hardware	\$150.00	Paul Niemann Constr.	\$854.02
Petersen Mfg	\$80.56	Print Express	\$255.00
Samantha Hanson	\$800.00	Small Time Constr.	\$8275.00
Stetson Products	\$64.33	NAPA	\$202.85
Winthrop News	\$149.50	Waste Mgmt	\$94.92
Windstream	\$244.47		

The Board reviewed and commented on a draft engineering plan and bid packet information for soliciting bidders for the Iron Bridge Access upgrades. Motion Wolfe/Crump to approve the plans and bid notice information with the following changes: Increase thickness of sidewalk at boat ramp area from 4" to 5"; provide a connecting piece of sidewalk from the transfer station to the main boat ramp; reduce street lights from 4 to 3 (as per the plan schematic); change the project end date from July 1, 2020 to June 15, 2020. All aye.

The Board discussed the process for advertising and distributing bid packets. Motion Crump/Wolfe for Cohen to submit notices to bidders in newspapers with Davis submitting notices through the DOT contractors list. Bid packets will be made available at the County Engineers office. Deadline for sealed bids delivered to Cohen by June 17, 2019 – 4 p.m. All aye.

The Directors reports was submitted and accepted as follows:

- Attended meetings of Buchanan County Tourism, Buchanan County Safety Committee, Wilderness Trip Training, Friends of Fontana Park, Hawkeye Community College advisory group, Bird Friendly Iowa; Buchanan County Department Heads; Buchanan County Trails Association.
- Field Staff: Staff conducted prairie burns at Patton Prairie, Grover Area; Anderson Addition before weather ended the effort. Staff maintained park roads, shower houses and other facilities for spring; cut dead trees and invasive shrubs, worked on buffalo corral, pulled garlic mustard, and began spring seeding for landowners, etc. The mowing/trimming season is underway.
- Naturalist Staff: Naturalist were busy with spring school programs schedule (although there were some rain-outs), and provided other group programs. Public programs included: Energy Games; Natural dyes (scarves); Nature Kids – Frogs; Earth Too Clover Kids; and spring Wildflower Walk for OWLS. Mourning kayak paddling was cancelled due to weather. Sondra organized milkweed plant sales in the nature center.
- Received notification that FEMA will approve the mitigation plan to install concrete steps from the Main Shelter to Otter Creek at Fontana. Awaiting actual paperwork before proceeding.
- Concrete work was completed on the Buffalo Creek Pavilion by Tom Erickson, Small Time Construction. Gissel (construction) began work today, and Curry (electrical) plan to begin work soon.
- Received notification that the grant application to Wellmark Foundation Large Match Grant was approved (\$73,715) for work on Iron Bridge Access.
- Assisted staff in pulling garlic mustard and conducting burn.
- Promoted Fontana Park through the 99 Parks/99 Counties marketing campaign.
- Arranged for stump grinding at Fontana, Jakway, and Lime Creek.
- Looked at ownership of land north of Lohman – owned by Sherrets. No contact made yet.
- Continued work on several park maps/brochures/cards – new maps to be printed this month. Printed new rules posters for all parks.
- Intern Samantha Hanson began work May 6, joining the other two seasonal workers.
- Made final plans for leading a Boundary Waters Training Trip for Naturalists. FFP is covering expenses.
- Confirmed tax exempt status for Roberts Wildlife Area with Assessor.
- Filled remaining campground host weekends at Fontana Park.
- Began creating potential floor plan(s) for East Entrance building (June Meeting).
- A selfie station was placed south of the Nature Center as part of the 99 Parks Tourism Campaign.

- Worked with the office manager on tracking end-of-year spending as we wind down the fiscal year. Received price quotes for replacing indoor tables.
- All staff attended meetings about county health insurance changes. Substantial employee increases take effect July 1.
- Continued monitoring bluebird nest boxes.
- Submitted budget amendment requests for grants and insurance reimbursement, and request for transfer of last year's (FY18) remaining balance into reserve.
- Additional drone footage was shot (although weather didn't allow for burn drone footage). Rafferty will return tomorrow for footage of paddlers at Fontana Park. Buchanan County IT has identified an interactive screen for displaying the video (as well as other interactive park information) in the nature center. Video drone program is being paid by FFP.

Cohen informed Board Members of potential year-end purchases that still need to be made. The Board also agreed to purchasing new tables for the nature center meeting room to replace the 25-year-old heavy tables still in use.

Cohen informed the Board that there is no new information on potential conservation lands.

The next regular Board meeting will be held Tuesday, June 18 at 6 p.m. at Fontana Park.

Motion Wolfe/Crump to adjourn. All Ayes, meeting adjourned at 6:59 pm.