

## Buchanan County Conservation Board Meeting

Minutes October 20, 2020

Present: Loren Hamilton, Ronnie Wolfe, Mary Jean Blaisdell, Anita Miller (by Zoom), Dan Cohen, Craig Erickson (by Zoom) and Anita Mars. Meeting was called to order by Chairman Hamilton. Motion by Ron to accept agenda, second by Mary Jean. Motion carried.

A discussion was had on the Cost Opinion of the Master Plan for Fontana Park. Craig explained this was only a general perspective on the amounts. Amounts could vary based on contractors. Bids could be 20% higher or 20% lower than shown on the Opinion.

Claims were reviewed. Dan explained a couple of the larger amounts particularly work on the truck, \$3,522.84; work on the van at Rydell's \$1,323.61; tile on the Crumbacher acres \$2,586.33 and work on the Iron Bridge Project, \$11,598.27, which represents the final payment on that project. Motion by Mary Jean to accept claims, second by Ron. Motion carried.

One bid was received for the sale of the bison calf. James Wedeking of Waverly bid \$1,260. Mary Jean moved the bid be accepted; second by Ron. All members voted "aye: Motion carried.

Dan gave an update on the Fontana Steps and Spillway. Everyone was pleased with the work done. Dan reported a new handrail needs to be installed. To be compliant with ADA requirements, a rail needs to be on both sides of the walk. This could run \$35,000. Dan will look into getting the price reduced and send the Board members an email with the final amount. If agreement can be reached via email, a special meeting will not be necessary.

An offer for the Weltzin property was discussed. The 60 acres is along the Cedar River Bike trail. Of the 60 acres, there are 52 acres on which the owner will continue to his receive CRP payments. The total cost would be \$195,000 with \$85,000 up front, the balance over 10 years. Several points were discussed, such as potential use of the property, trails around the property, distance from Fontana for maintenance and whether there are any endangered species on the property. Dan pointed out a grant could be written to obtain some of the funding should the Board decide to purchase the property. After much discussion, it was decided to ask Dan to speak with the owner and make a counter offer, or possibly a right of first refusal.

The annual report was reviewed for FY20. Motion by Ron to accept, second by Mary Jean. All ayes. Motion carried.

Dan reported the highlight was the dedication of the Iron Bridge project. Work is also being done on establishing an ATV policy for the parks. The policy has been approved by the county attorney; however notification came too late to include on this agenda. Discussion on the ATV policy will be on the November agenda. Mary Jean moved the director's report be approved; with a second by Ron. All members voted "aye" to accept the Director's report.

Everyone agreed the Director is doing a great job. No complaints. A brief discussion was held on a replacement for the Director, if and when he retires. Possibly incorporate an assistant director for a period of time prior to any transition. No action was taken.

Dan also explained the need for an assessment survey; however, these will not be mailed until after the Nov. 2 election due to the large amount of "election" mail received by individuals and the survey could be discarded.

Mary Jean moved the next Board Meeting be held Monday November 16 as Ron has a conflict on the 17<sup>th</sup> of November; Anita seconded the motion. All members voted "aye". Motion carried.

As there was no further business, a motion to adjourn was made by Mary Jean, a second by Ron. All members voted "aye".

Respectfully submitted,

Anita Mars, Office Manager