

**WOODBURY COUNTY, IOWA, CONSERVATION BOARD
MINUTES OF THE THURSDAY, JULY 18, 2024, BOARD MEETING**

The following is a true copy of the minutes of the meeting of the Woodbury County, Iowa, Conservation Board held on Thursday, July 18, 2024, at Little Sioux Park beginning at 4:00 p.m.

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT

Aaron Gehling, Cindy Bennett, Neil Stockfleth, and Tom Limoges (by phone)

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT

Chris Zellmer-Zant

STAFF PRESENT

Brian Stehr, Theresa Kruid, Nathan Silfies, Derek Bean, Thomas Cobb, and Dawn Bostwick

OTHERS PRESENT

Mark Nelson, County Supervisor/Conservation Board Liaison

CALL TO ORDER

Chairperson Bennett called the meeting to order at 4:14 p.m.

CORRESPONDENCE ITEMS

None

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

None

ITEM R1. Approve Consent Agenda

MOTION by Tom, second by Neil.

To approve the consent agenda.

VOTE:

Aye: Aaron Gehling, Cindy Bennett, Neil Stockfleth & Tom Limoges
Nay: None
Absent: Chris Zellmer-Zant

The consent agenda was approved and involved the following items:

- C1. Approve Minutes of the June 20, 2024, Regular Meeting
- C2. Approve the June 2024 Claims and Expenditures
- C3. Receive and Place on File the June 2024 Financial/Budget Report and 4th Quarter FY24 Reserve Fund Report
- C4. Acceptance of Gifts/Donations:
 - \$100 from Ken & Kris Girard for Bernice Hughes memorial
 - \$250 via WCCF from INHF/State Parks Grant for Playscape
 - 2 bags of In-the-Shell Peanuts from Bill Dooley

ITEM R2. CF Filter Strip Agreement – Brown’s Lake

Neil stated that there have been discussions at CF Industries about their piece of property north of Brown’s Lake and a possible 28E agreement with Woodbury County Conservation. Tyler Flammang created a map outlining the area and suggested an alternate access on the west side. Brian will have him update the map with that change and send it to Neil for use in getting CF approval. The proposal is for two chains 132’ wide for a total 10.39 acres.

Responsibility details are yet to be determined but will include 4,000 feet of fence, purchase of the seed, and planting. County staff would do the planting and maintenance. The big thing will be the cost of the fence and seed. Board members expressed by consensus a desire to proceed. Aaron said the lake association would also be very interested. Brian stated that Josh and the district staff would be very supportive and willing to take it on.

ITEM R3. Capital Improvement Projects Update

1. Little Sioux Park Sewer Project

Brian reported that the Little Sioux Park sewer project is complete other than landscaping, which may include a pourable edging, river rock and bushes. The system is not full and hasn’t kicked the fans on yet as it was designed with enough capacity to allow for future expansion. The engineer needs to do the final check off for Harris Construction. Positive feedback has been received from campers.

ITEM R4. Board Member/Staff Reports

1. Administrative Items (Dan)

Brian reported on the following items:

a. Set Next Meeting Date

The next meeting will be held at 4:00 p.m. on September 12, 2024, at Snyder Bend Park.

2. Nature Center Activities

Theresa reported on the following Nature Center activities:

- The programs and visitors report for June was presented.
- Flooding affected programming forcing the cancellation of two four-day summer camps. A two-day camp was also cancelled at the beginning of June because there was only one child registered.
- Recent staff anniversaries were acknowledged for Dorothy Shamblen (2 years) and Mariah Myers (1 year).
- Theresa received a Gilchrist grant award of \$50,000 toward exhibit additions.
- GroFin Aquatics will start the aquarium renovation next week. They will rebuild it with live plants and native fish and maintain it. They have agreed to do this at no charge other than on-site advertising.
- Theresa has been working with Pam Ridgway to transfer the foundation treasurer responsibilities.
- Nature Calls:
 - Sponsorships are currently at \$11,500 with a goal of \$26,000.

- Theresa has met with the new food and beverage manager at the Sioux City Convention Center and will be meeting with the manager next week. They probably won't be accepting donated meat unless it is coming directly from the refrigerated truck. They do not have a pastry chef on staff, so they will accept donated desserts if from a business.
- New elements for the playscape have arrived, and installation date needs to be determined. New woodchips have been purchased for the playscape.
- The raptor house needs more repairs than anticipated. Tyler is putting together a supply list.
- The nature center will be participating in seed collecting with Golden Hills RC&D again. They will come talk about prairies and seeds and then do some harvesting.

3. Park Activities

Brian reported on the following park activities:

- Field staff has been busy with flood-related activities.
- Parks experienced some damage in areas.
 - Little Sioux Park: The biggest damage was to the Union Bridge trail at Little Sioux Park with two sections washed out. Dan and Brian met with Secondary Roads on Tuesday to determine how to repair it. Overburden is available nearby. It will have to be determined if any money is available through FEMA. If not, WCCB will pay Secondary Roads to do the work. It will cost approximately \$20,000 to fill the dirt back in on both sections, and then there will be an additional cost for concrete. It is hoped that it can be done soon, because the fiber project is dependent on it. Mark Nahra suggested installing a control structure at the place of the big blow out, and this could be a great opportunity to do that. Luckily the bridge is still in good shape, but there is some fence damage on approaches to the trail. There was minimal damage to the park, just a little bit of water on the pads by the lake. Mark noted that the water was up over the bridge on the approaches four to five feet higher than the record set in 1891.
 - Snyder Bend Park: Flood water was around the cabins and in the crawl spaces. Sump pumps controlled the water level in the crawl spaces except in Falcon cabin because electricity was lost there. The other three cabins have been cleaned, sprayed with mold preventer, and put back in service, but Falcon cabin will need remediation. Brian has tried calling three remediation companies but hasn't heard back from any yet. The water is still fairly high on the shoreline, and the boat ramp is not open yet.
- Southwood staff continues to work on getting rid of sumac, as well as other timber stand improvement projects.
- The gooseneck trailer has been received, and staff has been very happy with it.
- Little Sioux staff has been getting caught up on mowing and knocking thistles down on the Briese land.
- Tom noted that Woodbury County Pheasants Forever had their annual youth fishing derby at Little Sioux a month ago, giving fishing rods to the 25 kids there. Nature Center interns were also involved. He stated that it was a good event, and they appreciate WCCB's support.

4. Board Information

None

5. Other Business

Goats: Discussion was held about trying a goat-grazing project in the Southwood area. Brian stated that Fowler Forest would be a good place to start as there is a lot of underbrush that they like to eat, and no hunting is allowed there. A neighbor raises goats and would be willing to loan the goats for a trial period, but fencing supplies would be needed to try it in a section. Black

Hawk County has used goats for years, and they recommend Kiko goats or milk goats as they will reach up to eat and not get so fat. They normally keep some breeding stock back and sell a few off every year to keep renovating the herd. They run two acres at a time for about 2 ½ weeks and then move them again, covering approximately four acres per month.

Aaron expressed concern about the time involved and wondered if there would be a third party or farmer that could provide this service. Mark stated that he wasn't sure the department should get in the livestock business and suggested using a goat rental company, like Goats to Go, or a local farmer to do this. He stated that with a local farmer, a lease would be needed to set expectations for the responsibility of keeping them fenced in. Bids should be opened publicly to be fair. The board was supportive of the idea. Brian added that staff will still need to clear the areas where the fence will be. Mark said that preferential treatment to local and young farmers could be specified also.

MOTION by Neil, second by Aaron.

To proceed on a goat-grazing project with an effort to get bids from local goat wranglers.

VOTE:

Aye: Aaron Gehling, Cindy Bennett, Neil Stockfleth & Tom Limoges

Nay: None

Absent: Chris Zellmer-Zant

Little Sioux Park Fiber: Brian reported that the trail will need to be repaired for the fiber project to be completed, but in the meantime, the contractor will make the connection from the Co-Op to the trailhead.

Winnebago Land Transfer: Mark asked if the board lost any land in the Winnebago Land Transfer. Brian stated that it is yet to be determined, but from what he has read, it looks like it will be based on the old tribal line and will be south of the park.

ITEM R5. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 5:09 p.m.

The above minutes were recorded by Dawn Bostwick.

Recording Secretary, Dawn Bostwick

Board Secretary, Aaron Gehling

Board Chair, Cindy Bennett