

**THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE
WASHINGTON COUNTY CONSERVATION BOARD
July 11th, 2019**

Meeting to order: President Craig Capps called the meeting to order at 4:28 PM at the Washington County Conservation Education Center.

Roll call:

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT: Craig Capps, Barb Donkersloot, Kim Prier, Stan Stoops, & Bill Nickell

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT:

STAFF PRESENT: Executive Director Zach Rozmus, Ranger Tech Cody Smith, & Ranger Tech Brett Johnson,

GUESTS PRESENT: Brandon Shanahan KCII

Approval of agenda: A motion was made to approve the agenda as provided by Stan Stoops and seconded by Bill Nickell. Carried unanimously.

Review previous meeting minutes: A motion was made by Bill Nickell to approve the June 13th, 2019 regular meeting minutes. Motion was seconded by Barb Donkersloot and carried unanimously.

DISCUSSIONS AND ACTIONS:

Naturalist Resignation Acknowledgment

Rozmus acknowledged the resignation of Naturalist Pamela Holz. Rozmus stated this specific agenda item was meant to serve as a reference point regarding the board's recognition of Holz' resignation. Rozmus added that specific information pertaining to any member of his staff is not public information. Rozmus reiterated that the acknowledgment was simply to serve as a point of reference in the meeting minutes. Rozmus concluded by explaining that future discussions regarding the naturalist position would occur at a later date.

At this time Board President Craig Capps made a motion to recognize the resignation of Pamela Holz with her last day with Conservation being July 13th, 2019. Motion was seconded by Barb Donkersloot. Motion carried unanimously.

Conservation Center Displays

Rozmus happily explained that phase one of the conservation displays had been installed. Rozmus encouraged all those present to check out the new displays if they haven't had the opportunity to do so yet. Rozmus said he was very impressed with the quality of the displays and that they were drawing very positive reviews from all center visitors. Rozmus stated that he was working with McCullough regarding the timeline for the next phase. Rozmus said once he received fabrication plans for the next phase of displays he would share them with his staff and the board.

Planning For Annual Cookout

Rozmus explained that the August 8th, 2019 board meeting would be the yearly presentation of the annual report. In addition, the Conservation Board would hold their annual cookout. Rozmus proposed that instead of a fish fry the board consider other food choices that he felt would make things easier on staff. Rozmus said that in the past staff had contributed a significant amount of money towards the fish fry. Rozmus proposed that instead of fish the board consider pulled pork sandwiches. Rozmus explained that he had reached out to a close friend who was willing to prepare the pork for the event. Rozmus said this would alleviate conservation staff having to prepare the entire meal.

Capps added that he had spoken with former Conservation Board Director Steve Anderson. Capps said that Anderson did not have a sufficient amount of fish to feed the entire event. Therefore, Capps believed trying something new for a main course was a good idea.

Kim Prier explained that she could keep an eye on pork prices for the event if needed. Rozmus said he would make contact with the individual cooking the pork to see what he thought was the best option for purchasing the pork. Rozmus said he would keep Prier posted regarding the pork.

Rozmus asked the board how many people the event typically fed. Several board members thought that cooking for approximately 50-100 people would be about right.

Thus it was decided that the menu for the Annual Conservation Cookout would be as follows: pulled pork sandwiches, cheesy potatoes, and an additional side.

Invitations would make mention of providing a side dish for the event if possible.

Clemons Creek Gun Range Fencing

Rozmus provided pictures of a fencing issue at the Clemons Creek gun range. Rozmus explained that the south fence boarding the gun range was completely compromised and in need of repair/replacement. Rozmus said that recent updates to the range have substantially increased the number of shooters using the gun range. In order to continue those advancements Rozmus felt the fence should be addressed sooner rather than later. Rozmus proposed outsourcing the project to a local contractor. Rozmus proposed the board consider a 3 or 4 strand high tensile fence instead of woven wire. Rozmus explained that it would be significantly cheaper and would allow for easier maintenance. Rozmus openly admitted that he wasn't a fencing expert, but based on discussions with staff he thought the fence could be replaced for under \$3,000.

Rozmus did note that he would make contact with the county's insurance provider prior to the replacement of the fence.

At this time Bill Nickell made a motion to allow Rozmus to contract the replacement of the Clemons Creek gun range fence. Motion was seconded by Kim Prier. Motion carried unanimously.

Native Grass Seeding

Rozmus began this discussion by providing those present with a map of Marr Park in addition to pointing everyone's attention a large blown up map of the park that was taped to the marker board. Rozmus stated that he was wanting to explore the option of reducing the amount of mowing that is currently required at Marr Park. Rozmus explained that he believed additional native plantings could be an effective option. Rozmus pointed to areas on the map near the park's front entrance, along its main drive, surrounding the campground, and near the conservation center. Rozmus thought all these locations had the potential to be successful native plantings. Rozmus stated that the plantings would be multi-purpose. The plantings would provide food and cover for wildlife while cutting down on the amount of mowing currently required. In addition, the grass or wildflowers would be visually appealing to all park visitors.

Rozmus said currently it took two staff members one long day of work to mow Marr Park in its entirety.

Barb Donkersloot agreed that the native grass plantings are visually appealing but asked if wild flower plantings would also be an option. Rozmus said the wildflowers were definitely an option but would likely cost more money. Rozmus proposed they consider both grass and wildflowers when they do the planting, and maybe let the location dictate the type of seeding.

Kim Prier explained that she really liked the idea, but thought we could do more planting than what was proposed. Prier thought the area to the east of the Mary Marr Lodge was another option. Rozmus agreed that this was another good location because the terrain made current maintenance difficult.

Rozmus said the costs of the project would be dictated by the plant species chosen. Otherwise Rozmus thought it was a strong possibility that the staff could use the Pheasants Forever grass drill. Other costs associated with the project would be the herbicide used to kill the current established plant species.

At this time Kim Prier made a motion to establish new native seeding sites at Marr Park. Motion was seconded by Stan Stoops. Motion was carried unanimously.

Updates:

Kewash Nature Trail

Rozmus announced that Kewash trail enhancements had reached the 70% vegetation rate. Therefore, Rozmus was able to conclude their DNR storm water discharge permit. Delong Construction was in the process of removing the sediment control devices that were present on the site. Once the control devices were removed, Rozmus said that staff would mow the seeding for the first time.

Rozmus stated that the deadline for the Conservation Board's Washington County Riverboat Grant for the Kewash trail had recently elapsed. Rozmus formally thanked the Riverboat Foundation. Rozmus said that Conservation has been very lucky to have the continued support of the Riverboat Foundation. Rozmus explained that a person didn't have to look very far around Conservation managed properties to see the impact the Riverboat foundation has had. Rozmus said he's extremely thankful for that support and that he looks forward to their future involvement in projects moving forward.

Kirkwood Trail Head

Rozmus stated that the majority of this project is complete. Rozmus explained that the remaining punch list items were to install signs, remove sediment control devices, and to officially open the trail head. Rozmus said the pavilion is already garnering a lot of traffic. The location of the pavilion really grabs your attention from highway 1. Rozmus thought the trail head would be an asset for the community for the foreseeable future.

Review of monthly reports

Maintenance Technician Fritz Engel's monthly report was provided and reviewed.

Center Coordinator Randi Jenkins' monthly report was provided and reviewed.

Ranger/Technician Cody Smith's monthly report was provided and reviewed.

Ranger/Technician Brett Johnson's monthly report was provided and reviewed.

Executive Director Zach Rozmus' monthly report was submitted and reviewed.

Bills Approved For Payment

<u>TO WHOM</u>	<u>FOR</u>	<u>AMOUNT</u>
<u>Ace-N-More</u>	<u>Paint material for center, screw bolt, worms, headphones, cleaning supplies, gloves</u>	<u>\$263.58</u>
<u>Archer Appliance & Electronic</u>	<u>Phone cord</u>	<u>\$10.50</u>
<u>Arnold Motor Supply</u>	<u>Mower battery</u>	<u>\$29.99</u>
<u>Baker Paper</u>	<u>Paper towels</u>	<u>\$86.18</u>
<u>Brownells</u>	<u>Magazine for ranger gun</u>	<u>\$120.00</u>
<u>Cash-N-Carry Chemicals</u>	<u>Herbicide</u>	<u>\$75.00</u>
<u>Cody Smith</u>	<u>Uniform - Ranger</u>	<u>\$221.88</u>
<u>Copy Systems</u>	<u>Monthly contract</u>	<u>\$59.94</u>
<u>Custom Impressions</u>	<u>Uniform - Coordinator</u>	<u>\$186.71</u>
<u>Deery Brothers</u>	<u>Truck brakes</u>	<u>\$431.00</u>
<u>Eastern Iowa Light & Power</u>	<u>Electricity</u>	<u>\$1,820.40</u>

<u>G & R Miller Construction</u>	<u>Bar gaurds on Kewash</u>	<u>\$42.79</u>
<u>Iowa DNR</u>	<u>Water supply fee</u>	<u>\$25.00</u>
<u>John Deere Financial</u>	<u>Mower and gator maintenance</u>	<u>\$280.36</u>
<u>Kristen Burnstadt</u>	<u>Fabric</u>	<u>\$7.43</u>
<u>Larry Ambrose</u>	<u>Campground host</u>	<u>\$400.00</u>
<u>Luke Waste</u>	<u>Monthly trash service</u>	<u>\$440.00</u>
<u>Printers Workshop</u>	<u>Summer earthtones</u>	<u>\$802.11</u>
<u>Randi Jenkins</u>	<u>Training - lunch</u>	<u>\$6.51</u>
<u>State Hygienic Lab</u>	<u>Water sample</u>	<u>\$91.00</u>
<u>US Cellular</u>	<u>Cell Service</u>	<u>\$275.72</u>
<u>Walmart</u>	<u>Cleaning supplies, tape, program supplies, worms</u>	<u>\$288.21</u>
<u>Washington Co. Secondary Roads</u>	<u>Vehicle maintenance</u>	<u>\$258.02</u>
<u>Washington Electric</u>	<u>Parking lot lights</u>	<u>\$1,695.00</u>
<u>Washington Lumber & Home</u>	<u>Hand tools</u>	<u>\$31.46</u>
<u>Wilson's Plumbing</u>	<u>Lodge bathroom maintenance</u>	<u>\$131.23</u>
<u>Windstream</u>	<u>Internet services</u>	<u>\$193.64</u>
<u>TOTAL BILLS</u>		<u>\$8,273.66</u>

Following discussion, a motion was made by Bill Nickell and seconded by Barb Donkersloot to approve the following bills totaling \$8,273.66 for payment, and to authorize the President to sign each claim. Motion was carried unanimously.

Meeting Adjourned: A motion was made by Kim Prier and seconded by Stan Stoops to adjourn the meeting at 5:32PM. Motion was carried unanimously.

SIGNATURE

DATE