

The Tama County Conservation Board met in regular session on Wednesday, June 5, 2019, at the Tama County Nature Center, Otter Creek Lake & Park. The meeting was called to order by Chair Keenan at 7:05 p.m. Members present were: Adolphs, Atchison, Keenan, Wacha and Wrage. Also, present: Logan Roberts (Staff), Craig Wise (Staff), Brendan Kelly (Staff), and Dustin Horne (Staff).

Minutes from the May 1<sup>st</sup>, 2019 were reviewed. It was moved by Wrage, seconded by Wacha to accept the minutes as recorded, carried. (All voting aye)

Bills were presented to pay in the month of June 2019.

Moved by Atchison, seconded Adolphs to approve bills as presented, carried. (All voting aye).

### **Reports and Updates**

**Introduction of New Staff Members:** Roberts introduced the two new full-time staff members to the Board. Brendan Kelly began on May 10<sup>th</sup> as a Naturalist/Park Ranger and Dustin Horne began on June 13<sup>th</sup> as a Conservation Technician/Park Ranger. The Board expressed their welcome and excitement to have them as part of the staff.

**Maintenance Report:** Wise updated the Board on work started or completed in the month of May, including cleaning out the nature center offices, basement and storage room, opening the shower house and replacing sump pump on the men's side, getting the campgrounds open for full-season rates, cleaning and repairing Manatt's landing after flooding, setting up for 5<sup>th</sup> Grade Field Day, fixing fish station leaks, meeting with FEMA, building picnic tables for South Loop, and planting 125 trees at Otter Creek Lake & Park and Clark Park. Maintenance Staff also helped fix walls, paint, and install new light fixtures and carpet in the administrative office.

**Environmental Education Report:** Roberts and Kelly reported on Environmental Education work, events and program that happened during the month of May. This included field trip schedule & planning and summer day camp planning, a public Campfire Program, a mother/son fishing event in partnership with S.K.I.P, an OWLS event about Trees of Iowa, a Knee High Naturalists event, a preschool classroom visit and field trips with South Tama and North Tama 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> graders. Roberts also reported that interviews had been conducted for the AmeriCorps position for a Summer Environmental Educator. She indicated that they would be offering the position to a qualified candidate within the week.

**FEMA Update:** Roberts reported that we are continuing the process of seeking funds for the March flooding. The most recent rounds of flooding may rollover and be included under the same disaster.

**South Loop Campground Renovation:** Wise gave report on the South Loop Campground Renovation. Grass seed has been planted, pavers and back-in sites are still under construction, and picnic tables and fire rings will be installed when ready. The Board discussed the invoice for the electrical portion of the South Loop Campground Renovation, which was mis-estimated and came out significantly higher than the bid. The mis-estimate was discussed, as well as the project getting pushed back past completion date and revenues being lost for the early-midsummer camping season. It was moved by Wrage, seconded by Wacha, to pay an additional \$2,500 to Scharnweber, Inc. for material costs and waive overage costs, carried. (All voting aye).

**Maria Hladik Roadside Park Management:** The Board discussed the management of the Maria Hladik Roadside Park along Highway 63. The property has caused management and enforcement issues for

multiple county departments of the years and no longer serves the purpose as a roadside park as intended. It was moved back Atchison, seconded by Adolphs, to look through land records and property details and see if the property could be posted for a sealed bid sale process, carried.

End of Fiscal Year Account Financials: Roberts reported that she is working on determining final dollar amounts and will be meeting with the Board of Supervisors in June to request fund transfers into the LAD and Motor Vehicle and Machinery Accounts once final numbers are determined.

Transition to New Director: The Board requested two new estimates for the park residence at Otter Creek Lake & Park. Roberts reported that the Board had partially budgeted for Iowa Law Enforcement Academy training for one staff member in the Fiscal Year 2020. The Board discussed priorities on the Lake Restoration and Park Residence, and it was moved by Wrage, seconded by Wacha to move the priority down on ILEA until future needs arise, carried. (All voting aye).

With no new business and time needed for the Board to tour the park residence, it was motioned by Atchison, seconded by Wrage to adjourn the meeting at 7:41 pm, all carried.

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Chair

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Vice-Chair