

## May 2022

### Call to Order

The Tama County Conservation Board met in regular session on Wednesday, May 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2022 at the Tama County Nature Center. The meeting was called to order at 6:31 pm by Vice-Chair, Wrage.

**Board Members present:** Adolphs, Atchison, Keenan, and Wrage.

**Staff Members present:** Mayne, Horne.

**Public present:** Ruby Bodeker and 42 people in support of opening the campgrounds at Otter Creek Lake & Park.

### Approval of Meeting Minutes

Minutes from the April 2022 regular meeting were reviewed. It was moved by Adolphs, seconded by Atchison to approve the minutes as recorded, carried, all voting aye.

### Approval of Bills

Bills were presented to be paid from the month of April 2022. It was moved by Atchison, seconded by Keenan to approve bills, carried, all voting aye.

### Reports & Updates

**Public Comment:** N/A

**Maintenance Report:** Horne's report included opened Clark's Park, new maintainer tire, put wood duck boxes up in BMP 6, burned all interior park prairies, installed safety barriers for fuel barrels, poured concrete N.C. sidewalk by kitchen door, expanded Ike's driveway, and picked up trash at Mccoy's Boat Ramp.

**Environmental Education Report:** Mayne mentioned that Kelly was on vacation and hadn't received a report prior to his vacation.

**Meetings Attended:** Mayne's report included BMP 15 meeting with the Iowa DOT about the possibility of moving the lake restoration project for Phase 3 to begin in June. Mayne included the meetings he attended in the month of April which included appraisals meeting, Amazon rep meeting, Interviews for the new Park Officer position, Spring Conference DCIA, Middle Cedar WMA meeting, and conducted the PT Test with the newly hired Park Officer Candidate Riley Conrad.

### Old Business

**Lake Restoration Project:** Mayne updates that the Iowa DNR had called him with updates that the lake restoration project had been moved forward to possibly begin in the first or middle part of June. He also mentioned that the archaeological study had to be completed by the end of May. This study will be applied to the permit needed from the Army Corps of Engineers to begin work on BMP 15.

**New Employee Hiring Update:** Mayne announced the hiring of Riley Conrad to be the new Park Officer. He mentioned that Riley won't start until May 23<sup>rd</sup> following his graduation from Iowa State University. Mayne also mentioned that interviews will be conducted for the newly developed Naturalist position once the job posting closes. Mayne also mentioned that we haven't received any applications for the Park Ranger Intern position.

**Boat House Bids:** Mayne updated the Board and mentioned the materials have been purchased and the contractor will begin work on the building in June or July.

**John Deere Tractor – Discussion:** Horne updates the board that the 4030 had been dropped off by the John Deere dealership and was taken to the neighbor to the north of the park who provided us with a quote to fix the engine and was quoted \$7,244.73. Mayne asked for the Board to vote on the 4030 to be repaired since it is a high dollar amount. It was moved by Keenan to move forward to repair the 4030 tractor and it was seconded by Atchison, all voting aye.

### **New Business**

**Butch Kupka and Friends-Possibility of Opening the Campgrounds 2022 Season:** Mayne asked for Butch Kupka to present their topic to the Conservation Board. Following the presentation of Butch Kupka and many others in the room about requesting the Conservation Board to reopen the campgrounds for the 2022 camping season, the Board asked Mayne to investigate the liability of doing so. The Board decided that they would allow Otter Creek Lake & Park to be open to foot traffic only until staff open the campgrounds. Keenan motioned to open the park to foot traffic only until the staff have enough time to open the campground and that Mayne has enough time to investigate the liability and to find more information from the Iowa DNR regarding the starting date of the restoration project. Atchison seconded the motion, all voting aye.

Mayne mentioned once he receives the information needed regarding the liability of opening the campgrounds and once the staff have opened the campgrounds, will call an emergency meeting by possibly next Wednesday, May 11<sup>th</sup> at the earliest or soon after that date.

**OCLAP West Side Jetty Road:** Mayne mentioned that the road leading up to the west side jetty had been washing out and will need to be repaired. Mayne also mentioned that it will be looked at during the next walk through with the Iowa DNR to see if the costs of repairs can be included into Phase 3's construction.

**Ike's Shooting Range Mats:** Horne mentioned the mats at the small shooting range at Ike's needs to be replaced and was wondering where the extra shooting mats were located. Atchison mentioned they were rolled up and are in the weeds next to the range.

**OSHA Improvements Update:** Mayne updates the board with the safety write up that the Safety Director for Tama County has provided to Tama County Conservation. Mayne stated the leak in the roofline above the kitchen at the Nature Center had been repaired and was due to missing shakes from the exterior side wall above the kitchen. The rubber boots had been also replaced due to cracking. The sidewalk leading to the exit door of the Nature Center had also been poured. The leftover concrete was poured at the base of the Shop's garage door. The parking barricades surrounding the outside gas tanks had been installed and poured and needs to be painted with a safety yellow.

**New Computer for Park Officer:** Mayne mentioned that we need to purchase a new computer designed for law enforcement officers. After talking to the Tama County Sheriff's Office, received a vendor contact through Keltek, Inc to purchase this new laptop from. The computer recommended to Mayne is a

Panasonic Toughbook 55. Mayne asked that the Board would need to vote on this since it's a high dollar amount and will cost \$3,667.29 that includes the computer and docking station. Keenan motioned to purchase the new computer. Adolphs seconded the motion, all voting aye.

**Floor Discussion**

No floor discussion.

**Adjourn**

With no further discussion items, it was motioned by Adolphs, seconded by Keenan to adjourn the meeting at 8:45 p.m.

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**Board Chair**

**Tama County Conservation Board**