

Boone County Conservation Board regular meeting
Monday, October 11, 2021
Boone County Courthouse 4th floor Conference Room

Members present: Jennifer Schieltz, Greg Stotts, Al Treloar, Pat Hagan, Marilyn Jordan (via Zoom)

Employees present: Interim Ex. Dir. Katie Healy

Chair Stotts officially called the meeting to order at 6:06 pm

Motion made by Hagan to approve the agenda, 2nd by Treloar, Passed.

Motion to approve minutes of the September 2021 meeting by Treloar, 2nd by Hagan. Passed.

Interim Ex. Dir. Healy reviewed financial information and bills for the month. Jordan moved and Hagan seconded a motion to approve monthly bills totaling \$12,191.48. Passed.

Old business:

Interim Ex. Dir. Healy gave an update on the American Rescue Plan funds available from the county. Applications from departments are due to the Board of Supervisors by October 15. Katie is in the process of getting quotes on the cost of replacing all the water lines and hydrants at Don Williams. We are also talking to Xenia water about the option of switching to them from Ogden Municipal Utilities, our current water supplier at Don Williams. We have been having issues with leaks/losing water and consequently spending a lot of money on water with Ogden Municipal over the last couple years. Katie also looked into getting an estimate for replacing the septic systems for Don Williams, but unfortunately there is a long process for having the current system evaluated and an appropriate replacement recommended, meaning we will not be able to get this done in time to apply for the current round of funds by October 15.

Interim Ex. Dir. Healy discussed the recent High Trestle Trail steering committee meeting. At that meeting they discussed the issues we are having on the trail with bikers not stopping at road crossings. The other entities are not currently in favor of pursuing a law enforcement approach with fines. They want to start by painting more visible markers on the trail approaching crossings. If this does not work as a solution, the board is in favor of resuming the conversation on possible fines.

New Business:

Interim Ex. Dir. Healy noted that last month we discussed being able to submit bill statements sooner than once a month now that the auditor's office is processing bills weekly. Schieltz moved and Hagan seconded a motion to approve and sign a statement authorizing the Executive Director to submit bills/claims to the auditor's office weekly, bi-weekly, and/or monthly for payment. The board will continue to approve the bills at the monthly board meeting. Motion passed.

Interim Ex. Dir. Healy discussed an interest in rehiring seasonal worker Jake Schleisman for off-season help. We are currently short-staffed and have the money in the budget to hire him for ~10 hours per week. Eric would appreciate the extra help. The board approved of this re-hire.

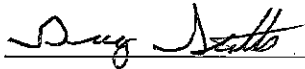
Interim Ex. Dir. Healy showed the board the large signs, flag, and framed award Boone County Conservation received for being designated as a Bird Friendly Iowa Community. A recognition ceremony was held at the High Trestle Trail during the annual hawk watch event on Sunday, October 3. There was a very good turnout for the hawk watch. The board discussed possible locations of where to install the two large "Bird Friendly" signs.

Open Discussion:

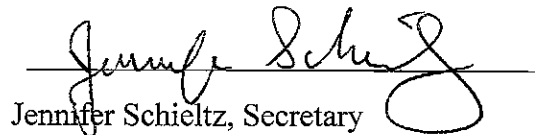
Board member Hagan asked if there is any update on the old County Home property discussed at a previous meeting. It was noted that the county is now planning to sell the property, so the conservation board will likely not be involved in any future management.

The board discussed the open executive director position. Interviews with top applicants are being arranged for October 21.

Treloar moved and Hagan seconded a motion to adjourn at 7:15 pm. Passed.



Greg Stotts, Chair



Jennifer Schieltz, Secretary