LEE COUNTY CONSERVATION BOARD

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MINUTES OF THE MARCH 13, 2012
MEETING OF THE LEE COUNTY CONSERVATION BOARD

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT: William Mullan, Gary Johnson, Alexandra Helmick, Sandra Fullhart-Snyder

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT: Rodger Whitaker

EMPLOYEES PRESENT: Tom Buckley, Diana Ver Dught, John Pawling, Clint Oldfield

GUESTS OR INTEREST GROUPS: Ernest Schiller, Board of Supervisors, Brenda Conway, Ameren, Susan & John Garrels, Lee County residents

CALL TO ORDER: The meeting was called to order by Vice Chair, William Mullan at 6:00 pm in the Board's Office at Heron Bend Conservation Area, 2652 Highway 61, Montrose, Iowa 52639.

WELCOME TO SANDRA FULLHART-SNYDER APPOINTED TO BOARD: Buckley introduced Snyder to the Board.

APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MEETING MINUTES:

MOTION: Johnson/Helmick
Approve February's open and closed minutes as presented

Aye: Mullan, Johnson, Helmick, Snyder

GUESTS OR INTEREST GROUPS: Buckley told the Board that we had intended on placing a parking lot on the end of the roadway of this piece of property acquired west of Cryotech and adjoining the Garrels.

Buckley introduced Susan & John Garrels.

Garrels informed the Board that they purchased this property in 2008 stating "it is our dream home; we are very private people and like our privacy." Garrels told the Board that they have no tree coverage and the house is mostly glass panels on that side of their property.

A lengthy discussion took place, Garrels asked the Board to place the parking lot on lot 1423200004 from the Beacon Schneider Corp website.

Buckley informed the Garrels that upon acquiring lot 1423200003 the Board had this property surveyed and lot 1423200004 belongs to Cryotech.

Mullan asked if lot 1423200004 was of any value to Cryotech and if a parking lot would cause any problems to the residence directly across the road on lot 1423100010.

Garrels told the Board he did not think they would mind having the parking lot across from them because they have a tree line.

Johnson told the Board that if they were able to place a parking lot on lot 1423200004 it would solve LCCB's problems and Lee County Secondary Roads as well.

A discussion took place about road maintenance on 265th Avenue, area flooding and the various adjoining lots.

Mullan advised the Board to place a hold on this project until Buckley has a chance to talk to Cryotech and check with the Recorders office.

APPROVAL OF BILLS:

MOTION: Johnson/Helmick
Approve bills as presented

Aye: Mullan, Johnson, Helmick, Snyder

APPROVAL OF FINANCIAL/REVENUE:

MOTION: Johnson/Helmick
Approve financial/revenue as presented

Aye: Mullan, Johnson, Helmick, Snyder

Mullan moved to item 16.

CLOSED SESSION FOR THE PURPOSE OF REAL ESTATE DISCUSSION ACCORDING TO IOWA CODE 21.5(J):

MOTION: Johnson/Helmick
To go into closed session @ 6:24 pm

Aye: Mullan, Johnson, Helmick, Snyder

MOTION: Johnson/Mullan
To return to open session @ 7:14 pm

Aye: Mullan, Johnson, Helmick, Snyder

MOTION: Johnson/Mullan
Continue with pursue of real estate transaction

Aye: Mullan, Johnson, Helmick, Snyder

PARK REPORTS: Buckley told the Board that the parks would be open on March 23 and the water would be turned on in mid April.

Buckley told the Board that Oldfield and Pawling are cutting back and removing evasive species.

Buckley informed the Board that one of the main gates at Chatfield was rammed sometime in February also Bloom Trucking and Hall's will be working on the bottom of the ramp removing dirt at Indian Path.

Buckley told the Board that Park Rangers, Oldfield and Johnson where well versed at the last CCPOA workshop of plant poaching such as blood root and ginseng.

FOUNDATION UPDATE: Buckley informed the Board that he has applied for a grant with the Southeast Riverboat Commission and informed the Board of donations received to date.

DISCUSSION ON CHANGES THE SHELTER FEES AND GROUP CAMP FEE AT WILSON LAKE AND CABIN RENTAL: Buckley told the Board that currently we allow up to 3 R.V.'s at one time in the group camp area at Wilson Lake, Buckley went on to say that it is over crowed and the facility does not have that many electrical outlets to properly provide that many campers.

Buckley suggested to the Board that the area be changed to a family campsite of up to 8 people.

Buckley recommended to the Board that they allow that change.

MOTION: Johnson/Helmick
To change the group camp fee to 20.00 per night

Aye: Mullan, Johnson, Helmick, Snyder

Buckley informed the Board that the designated parking area by the cabins seems to be congested at times and he is considering working with the mycountyparks.com to reserve the cabins and potentially campsites.

Buckley asked the Board to consider increasing the reserved camping sites at Pollmiller and Wilson Lake parks. Increasing reserved sites at Pollmiller to 5 and Wilson Lake to 5 - 8 sites.

MOTION: Johnson/Helmick
To have 5 reserved sites at Pollmiller Park and 8 reserved sites at Wilson Lake Park

Aye: Mullan, Johnson, Helmick, Snyder

DISCUSSION ON CHANGES TO DUCK BLIND RULES: Buckley started off with changes isn't probably what I should have put here.

Buckley proceeded with LCCB made it public in May with a press release of the drawing for blinds in June. We had 11 people draw for the Ortho pocket area and only 6 blinds were actually constructed. This prevented others who may have wanted to build blinds from having that opportunity.

Buckley told the Board as duck season went on people where leaving their boats in their blinds so others could not utilize the blinds.

Buckley informed the Board that there were many complaints of people having exclusive rights to public areas.

Buckley stated that the permanent blinds do benefits some but also excludes many from the opportunity to hunt the area.

Buckley stated that most areas wash themselves out but this area does not, most public land duck hunters will not return to an area because of harassment.

Buckley told the Board that our mission is to provide areas for the public and these permanent blinds limit that, stating he would be curious to hear from the Board.

Johnson said that this was supposed to be a self policing situation and should have worked well, stating that "this did not work out well for everyone only a few".

Buckley told the Board that he would like them to think about this until next meeting and start to take a position.

Mullan stated that he would like to wait until the entire Board was present.

CONSIDER CHECK FEE FOR EQUIPMENT DAMAGE:

MOTION: Johnson/Helmick
If damage results from an equipment rental, the renter has an option to have the initial damage deposit returned to them upon writing a check for the total damage due, or allow the initial damage deposit and a claim for the balance due to be processed through the County with an additional paperwork charge of 30.00 will apply.

Aye: Mullan, Johnson, Helmick, Snyder

BUDGET AMENDMENT:

MOTION: Johnson/Helmick
Approve budget amendment

Aye: Mullan, Johnson, Helmick, Snyder

PROJECT REPORTS/UPDATE: Buckley told the Board that the DNR had their 1st one day, 8 hour Hunters Education class and most of the staff was involved. Buckley went on to say that the 2nd class will be starting on Thursday the 15th, and will continue on the 20th, 22nd and the 24th.

Buckley told the Board that the Steering Committee will be meeting on the 27th.

COMMENTS/COMMITTEE REPORTS FROM THE BOARD:

NEXT MEETING: April 10, 2012 at 6pm

ADJOURN:

MOTION: Johnson/Mullan
To adjourn 8:15pm

Aye: Mullan, Johnson, Helmick, Snyder

Rodger K. Whitaker
Rodger Whitaker
LCCB President

Gary Johnson
Gary Johnson
LCCB Secretary