



LEE COUNTY CONSERVATION BOARD

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MINUTES OF THE JANUARY 10, 2012 MEETING OF THE LEE COUNTY CONSERVATION BOARD

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT: William Mullan, Gary Johnson, Alexandra Helmick, Rodger Whitaker

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT: Kevin Taylor

EMPLOYEES PRESENT: Tom Buckley, Diana Ver Dught

GUESTS OR INTEREST GROUPS: Anne Pedersen, Lee County Auditor, Brad Wilson, Lee County Pheasants Forever, Mel Allison, Lee County Pheasants Forever

CALL TO ORDER: The meeting was called to order by Chair, Rodger Whitaker at 3:00 pm in the Board's Office at Heron Bend Conservation Area, 2652 Highway 61, Montrose, Iowa 52639

WELCOME BACK TO BILL MULLAN REAPPOINTED TO BOARD: Buckley and the Board welcomed back Mullan to the Lee County Conservation Board.

OATH OF OFFICE: Anne Pedersen, Lee County Auditor asked the Board members stand and the Oath of Office was taken by Board members.

APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MEETING MINUTES:

MOTION: Johnson/Helmick
Approve December minutes as presented

Aye: Mullan, Johnson, Helmick, Whitaker

REQUEST FROM LEE COUNTY PHEASANTS FOREVER FOR SPONSORSHIP: Brad

Wilson and Mel Allison asked the Board for a 250.00 sponsorship.

MOTION: Johnson/Helmick
Approve sponsorship at the 250.00 level for Lee County Pheasants
Forever

Aye: Mullan, Johnson, Helmick, Whitaker

APPROVAL OF BILLS:

MOTION: Johnson/Helmick
Approve bills as presented

Aye: Mullan, Johnson, Helmick, Whitaker

APPROVAL OF FINANCIAL & REVENUE:

MOTION: Johnson/Mullan
Approve financial and revenue reports as presented

Aye: Mullan, Johnson, Helmick, Whitaker

PARK REPORTS: Buckley explained to the Board that Pawling and Oldfield are in the process of cleaning up the main camping areas, fixing the main gate at Chatfield Park, cutting and bundling firewood.

Buckley informed the Board that there was some concern over the water control structure the D.N.R put in at North Heron Bend.

Buckley told the Board that he held a meeting with these people and assured them that this structure would be cleaned out periodically; Buckley told the Board that also in attendance at this meeting was Board of Supervisor's Larry Kruse and Gary Folluo.

Buckley also informed the Board that he received an e-mail from Jerry Kearns about the future of Croton Civil War Park.

Whitaker asked Buckley if Croton Community Club has signed the papers yet.

Buckley stated that he has not heard anything from them.

Whitaker told Buckley to inform Croton Community Club they have 30 days to sign that papers.

FOUNDATION UPDATE: Buckley told the Board that the fall mailing just went out and

informed the Board of donations received to date.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS:

MOTION: Johnson/Mullan
Elect Whitaker for Chair

Aye: Mullan, Johnson, Helmick, Whitaker

ELECTION OF OFFICERS: (continued)

MOTION: Johnson/Mullan
Elect Mullan for Vice Chair and Johnson for Secretary

Aye: Mullan, Johnson, Helmick, Whitaker

UPDATE ON GALLAND SCHOOL AGREEMENT WITH DNR: Buckley and the Board discussed the agreement between LCCB and the D.N.R.

Johnson stated that there should be a notice of intent to the public and to make sure the public is aware that this is the second replica and the next meeting should have a topic to discuss Galland School.

FOLLOW UP ON IDOT MITIGATION AREA FROM FORT MADISON BY-PASS: Buckley informed the Board that this area is mostly clay and is presently holding water. Buckley went on to say that if LCCB was to take over this area that the fish habitat grant program will provide funding to have the pond deepened so it would hold fish through the winter.

Buckley told the Board that with its location, it would be highly used and a great place to hang our shingle.

Whitaker told Buckley to look into the potential costs of upkeep for this area.

Johnson reminded the Board that several years ago the Board told the public LCCB would provide a pet exercise/pet training area. Johnson stated we could consider this a multi use area and provide pet exercise/training and fishing.

DISCUSS FUTURE OF CURRENT OFFICE FACILITY: Buckley told the Board that the land that the office currently sits on was not purchased with REAP money.

Several options were discussed and the Board decided to leave their options open at this time.

ASSIGN AREA NAMES TO AMEREN RIVER PROPERTIES:

MOTION: Johnson/Mullan
To name Ortho Pocket, "North Winds Conservation Area" and Linger Longer as "Lotus Flats Conservation Area" we can change these names later.

Aye: Mullan, Johnson, Helmick, Whitaker

PLIMINARY 2012-2013 BUDGET REVIEW: Buckley told the Board that there are a few changes for the upcoming budget.

Buckley told the Board that he would like to raise the ¾ time Assistant Naturalist position to full time, stating that Geerdes is an excellent asset to this organization and he does not want to lose him, Buckley told the Board that the demand is there and if we are moving towards a new facility we will need that position to be full time. Buckley went on to say that the ¾ time position offers no benefits and LCCB keep losing employees who they have invested in to other organizations due to that fact.

Buckley went on to say that the additional increases are due to fuel costs, cleaning of the office and bathroom and shower facilities in the shop and an employee going from a single to family policy.

Buckley told the Board that he would also be asking for 4 considerations as follows: to replace unit 2 the ¾ ton pickup, to expand the living quarters at the Park Ranger residence at Pollmiller and to increase electrical sites at Pollmiller Park camp ground and to move Geerdes from ¾ time to full time.

Whitaker asked for the present employee head count and what the advantage is by having Oldfield live a Pollmiller. Buckley told the Board that LCCB presently has 7 ¾ employees and told the Board that by having the Park Ranger living at Pollmiller, it reduces vandalism to that area.

MOTION: Johnson/Mullan
Present 697,710.00 with offset of 127,550.00 and the 4 considerations of 3-15-12 drop dead able on this

Aye: Mullan, Johnson, Helmick, Whitaker

Johnson stated that the budget has remained fairly steady and is only rising due to employee benefits and followed with: "we don't give our employees anything the BOS does not give theirs"

PROJECT REPORTS/UPDATE: Buckley told the Board that Oldfield has written and

received another grant to purchase trees.

Buckley told the Board that he is concerned because he has tried to contact Taylor and has gotten no response; Buckley went on to say that besides Mullan there was a woman who had turned in an application to be on the LCC Board.

A discussion took place. Whitaker told Buckley to report it to the Board of Supervisors.

COMMENTS/COMMITTEE REPORTS FROM THE BOARD: A discussion took place of a joint facility and a project in the city of Fort Madison.

Buckley told the Board that the highest bid received for North Heron Bend Ag ground was 106.00 per acre submitted by Robert Kassmeyer.

MOTION: Johnson/Mullan
To accept bid of Robert Kassmeyer at 106.00 per acre.

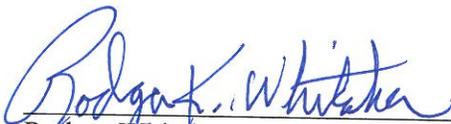
Aye: Mullan, Johnson, Helmick, Whitaker

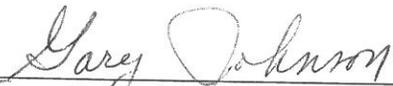
NEXT MEETING: February 14, 2012 at 3:00 PM.

ADJOURN:

MOTION: Johnson/Mullan
To adjourn 4:32 pm

Aye: Mullan, Johnson, Helmick


Rodger Whitaker
LCCB President


Gary Johnson
LCCB Secretary