



# LEE COUNTY CONSERVATION BOARD

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## MINUTES OF THE NOVEMBER 8, 2011 MEETING OF THE LEE COUNTY CONSERVATION BOARD

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

**BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT:** Kevin Taylor

**EMPLOYEES PRESENT:** Tom Buckley, Diana Ver Dught, Clint Oldfield

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

### APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MEETING MINUTES:

**MOTION:** Johnson/Helmick  
Approve October's minutes, both open and closed sessions

Aye: Whitaker, Mullan, Johnson, Helmick

**GUESTS OR INTEREST GROUPS:** Ernest Schiller, Lee County Board of Supervisors

### APPROVAL OF BILLS:

**MOTION:** Johnson/Mullan  
Approve bills as presented

Aye: Whitaker, Mullan, Johnson, Helmick

### APPROVAL OF FINANCIAL & REVENUE:

**MOTION:** Johnson/ Helmick  
Approve financial and revenue reports as presented

Aye: Mullan, Johnson, Taylor, Helmick

**PARK REPORTS:** Buckley informed the Board that he received a call about Turkey Run Wildlife Area where someone had cut down several oak and walnut trees.

Buckley told the Board that he checked into the situation and Access Energy informed him that it is now normal practice.

Buckley told the Board that on February 7, 2011 he signed a retirement of services form which was sent to us from Access Energy.

Mullan asked if Access Energy has an easement or right of way on this property.

Buckley replied there are no easements or right of ways and according to my understanding they do have authority to keep the area under the power line clear. Access Energy was to remove the poles only upon retirement of services, Buckley informed the Board that Access Energy did not contact the office and did not receive any notice that they would be performing any such work on this area.

Whitaker asked Buckley to contact Bob Petrazelka to estimate what LCCB has lost.

Buckley told the Board that someone had built a blind on the Linger Longer parcel of the Ameren Property who had not registered for the drawing.

Buckley told the Board that this person has been contacted and was asked to remove the blind within 10 days, and the blind has since then been removed.

Buckley told the Board that he is concerned about the games being played on this area and informed the Board that participants are leaving boats in their blinds overnight to keep others from using the blinds.

Buckley told the Board that it seems impossible to keep them from doing things they should not and asked the Board to store the information away for a discussion at a later date.

**FOUNDATION UPDATE:** Buckley informed the Board of donations received to date from the last mailing.

**UPDATE ON CROTON PARK AND FUTURE MANAGEMENT:** Buckley told the Board that he received a letter from June Batten which was included in their monthly package.

Buckley informed the Board that he and Pawling met with Hodson and Batten last week about materials for the shelter house roof which the Board had committed to paying for.

Buckley asked the Board if we are to rebid the mowing of this area, will it be open to anyone and

told the Board that if we continue to have some presence I would advise the Board not to turn off the security light due to vandalism which could cost more than the monthly electric.

Whitaker asked the Board members how they felt about Croton and their proposal.

Johnson stated that Croton has stepped up but the details will be difficult and told the Board that if LCCB is paying for the mowing that it would have to be rebid but that we could request the Croton Community Club to request the bids.

A lengthy discussion continued.

Whitaker asked Buckley to draft an agreement for the Croton Community Club for a 1 year agreement starting January 1, 2012 to December 31, 2012.

MOTION: Whitaker/Johnson  
LCCB will fulfill our obligation to supply the material for the shelter house roof and submit a 1 year agreement for both parties to sign.

Aye: Whitaker, Mullan, Johnson, Helmick

Whitaker informed the Director to allow the purchase of metal rather than shingles for the shelter house.

**UPDATE ON GALLAND SCHOOL AGREEMENT WITH DNR:** Buckley told the Board that he has had several discussions with the DNR and told the Board that this area just does not get any good use and informed the Board that they are working together on an agreement that would be beneficial to both parties.

A lengthy discussion continued while Buckley informed the Board of the agreements intentions, possible obstacles and the positive and negative aspects of the agreement.

**DISCUSSION ON POTENTIAL ACQUISITION OF IDOT MITIGATION AREA FROM FORT MADISON BYPASS:** Buckley asked the Board if they have any interest in this property.

Johnson asked if the wetland could be dug a little deeper.

Whitaker stated that the area has a high concentration of sand and will not likely hold water.

Buckley told the Board that it could be a matter of just getting down a little deeper and closer the water table.

Schiller asked the Board what kind of restrictions would be placed on this area, and informed the Board that it was mentioned at a B.O.S. meeting that they would like to see LCCB put together a hunting package.

Buckley informed the Board that they need to consider that there are fewer and fewer places that people can go that doesn't cost anything and told the Boards that if you receive money for hunting your are legally responsible.

Johnson informed the Board that 2-3 years ago the public came to the Board and asked that LCCB allow dog training and dog swimming at North Heron Bend Fishing Area, this area could possibly be used for this purpose. Johnson asked if the area was fenced in. Johnson stated that this area could be considered a wetland, sometimes wet – sometimes dry.

Oldfield stated that this area would be highly used and it's close to the office, unlike for instance the Croton Civil War Area.

Whitaker told the Board that he would like to make sure we are not fighting to keep water in it and that if we take maintenance that it would be at least revenue neutral.

Schiller asked the Board what would happen if LCCB did not take this area over.

Buckley told the Board that the DOT depends on these kind of partnership.

**UPDATE ON JOINT BUILDING PROCESS:** Buckley explained to the Board different grant processes and told the Board that the Steering Committee will meet again on Tuesday, November 15, 2011. Buckley told the Board that he is continuing working on site and design drawings, access from the highway and a report from archeologists.

**PROJECT REPORTS/UPDATE:** Buckley stated that LCCB had our best turn out at the Trout Release on Saturday and that about a dozen people came out just to see the fish released. Buckley told the Board that there where people from Iowa City, Cedar Rapids and as far away as Ames who came to fish at the derby.

Buckley told the Board that the Halloween Hike went well even thou attendance was down due to several other events going on county wide.

Buckley told the Board that the cygnets are flying now and that the DNR informed LCCB that we are responsible for rounding them up and relocating them. Buckley told the Board that come spring we may have to move them.

**REQUEST FOR CLOSED SESSION ACCORDING TO IOWA CODE 21.5(i):**

Buckley requested a closed session.

MOTION: Johnson/Whitaker  
To go into closed session

Aye: Mullan, Johnson, Whitaker, Helmick

**RETURN TO OPEN SESSION:**

MOTION: Johnson/Mullan  
To accept the Directors comments on evaluation

Aye: Mullan, Johnson, Whitaker, Helmick

MOTION: Johnson/Mullan  
C.O.L.A. for Director if in County Compensation for next budget year

Aye: Mullan, Johnson, Whitaker, Helmick

**NEXT MEETING:** December 13, 2011 at 2:00 PM.

**ADJOURN:**

MOTION: Johnson/Whitaker  
To adjourn 7:51 pm

Aye: Mullan, Johnson, Whitaker



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Rodger Whitaker  
LCCB President



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Gary Johnson  
LCCB Secretary