

Minutes for the Lee County Conservation Board

Meeting February 9th 2015

2:00 pm for regular meeting

Heron Bend, 2652 Hwy 61, Montrose, IA 52639

1. Call to order @ 2:00 pm by Fullhart-Snyder

Roll Call: Whitaker Holland Fullhart-Snyder Sylvester Mullan

Staff Present: Buckley, Pawling, Johnson, Bulger, Oldfield, Clark-Hudson, Steele

Special Guests: Denise Fraise, John Hansen, Zach James, Cindy Renstrom,

2. Approval of previous minutes as written

MOTION to approve minutes as written

Whitaker/Sylvester

Ayes: Fullhart-Snyder, Whitaker, Mullan, Sylvester

3. Guests or Special Interests groups

Zach James, SEIRPC

MOTION to move to #10 on the Agenda

Sylvester/Whitaker

Ayes: Fullhart-Snyder, Whitaker, Mullan, Sylvester

10. Consider proposal from SEIRPC for Heron Bend Site plan

Zach James from SEIRPC attended to show his mock up of a site plan for Heron Bend. This is merely a conceptual drawing at this time. It was discussed what we would need to proceed with a site plan for Heron Bend. Limitations of the project were covered. Cost of the plan was discussed as well. It was asked of Zach where SEIRPC funding comes from. He named several sources, including match grants, dues, and the Federal programs that support SEIRPC.

MOTION to continue with SEIRPC site planning

Sylvester/Mullan

Ayes: Fullhart-Snyder, Mullan, Sylvester

Nays: Whitaker

Motion carried on 3-1 vote majority

4. Approval of Bills

MOTION to approve bills as written

Whitaker/Sylvester

Ayes: Fullhart-Snyder, Whitaker, Mullan, Sylvester

5. Approval of Financials and Revenues

Whitaker/Sylvester

Ayes Fullhart-Snyder, Mullan, Whitaker, Sylvester

6. Foundation Report: Tom Hoffman resigned from the board effective immediately. We do have the possibility of two new board members. Mary Van Pelt and Ernie Schiller both have shown interest in the Foundation. This will be discussed at the upcoming Foundation meeting to be held February 19 2015.

7. Parks Report: Spring is on the agenda for our parks dept. Lots of snow removal this past few weeks. Trees have been taken down that were a nuisance. Oldfield stated we have replanted over 500 trees to replace what is being taken down over the years. Completed bid packet for work to be done at Wilson Lake with the sediment ponds. Some camping reservations have been coming in. Helped with Eagle Days in Keokuk. The trees down at Burk's Run are 90% undesirable wood, so we have made a deal with Tim's to have him remove the wood. We will be speaking to him about a possible trade out for labor since we are not charging for the wood he will be taking.

8. Education Report: Even though the weather was awful 9 people showed up for the Owl Prowl at the end of January. Worked Eagle days, did a program at the Keokuk Public Library. This is going to be a monthly program. Lots of school programs, wanting to break into the Middle Schools and the High Schools with our programming. Upcoming public programs are Basket Making, Easter Egg Hunt, Container Gardens, Hunter Safety etc.

11. Consider approval of support for Quail Forever Banquet

MOTION to support Quail Forever Banquet with \$250 sponsorship

Sylvester/Whitaker

Ayes: Fullhart-Snyder, Whitaker, Mullan, Sylvester

12. Updated Information on New Conservation Center: Contracts are ready to go. Questions regarding fundraising have been raised, so there will be a conference call at 4:00 pm with the bonding attorney. We have had lots of misinformation so this call is going to provide clarity to all of us. We don't want any repercussions to go back to the supervisors, so Cindy R and Denise F will attend the conference call so we all are on the same page.

13. Sign Contracts with Building Contractors

MOTION to sign Contracts

Sylvester/Whitaker

Ayes: Fullhart-Snyder, Whitaker, Mullan, Sylvester

14. Comments/Committee Reports: When will we break ground? ASAP Consider having an all day workshop that all staff would attend to gather more fund raising ideas. Also considering having each employee write a summary of their job, so the board knows how we spend our time. We need a good 5 year plan. Consider having someone from the outside facilitate the workshop to keep everyone on task. We could discuss the site plan in our work session as well. The ground breaking should happen sooner rather than later and the supervisors should be included of course.

15. Next meeting is March 10th 2015 at 6:00 pm. We will be returning to our evening meetings for the spring and summer.

16. Conference Call with bonding attorney

Summary of conversation: Anything that was included in the original plans cannot be done if it brings us over the \$750,000.00 mark. The total cost of the project CANNOT exceed this amount. If items we are discussing were NOT in the original plans we can use fundraised money for these projects. The bond is restricted to the max of \$750,000.00 including private donations. Once the foundation donates the money to the county it is included in the final cost. Attorney suggested we fundraise for outside the scope of the original plans. Examples could be displays, office equipment etc.

Minimize any challenges we might get by not doing anything with funds raised that was included in the original plans. Pursuing grants should be handled the same as fundraising is being handled. ONLY outside the scope of the original plans.

17. Adjournment

MOTION to adjourn at 4:45 pm

Sylvester/Whitaker

Ayes: Fullhart-Snyder, Whitaker, Mullan, Sylvester

Sandra Fullhart-Snyder

LCCB President

William Mullan

LCCB Secretary