

Minutes for the Lee County Conservation Board

Meeting June 9, 2015

6:00 pm for regular meeting

Heron Bend, 2652 Hwy 61, Montrose, IA 52639

1. Call to order @ 6:00 pm by Sylvester

Roll Call: Whitaker __x__ Holland __A__ Fullhart-Snyder __x__ Sylvester __x__ Mullan __x__

Staff Present: Buckley, Tebbs, Bulger, Oldfield, Clark-Hudson, Pawling,

Supervisor Present: Don Hunold

2. Approval of previous minutes as written

MOTION to approve minutes as written

Sylvester/Mullan

Ayes: Whitaker, Mullan, Sylvester, Fullhart-Snyder

3. Guests or Special Interests groups -Hunold questioned who was responsible for Montrose River Road, and if Conservation or DNR would have anything to do with repairs, etc. Buckley stated that Montrose as a city is responsible for the maintenance and upkeep on the River Road. They would have access to scenic byways monies if it still existed. Hunold said he would take the information back to the board of Supervisors.

4. Approval of Bills

MOTION to approve bills

Sylvester/Mullan

Ayes: Whitaker, Mullan, Sylvester, Fullhart-Snyder

5. Approval of Financials/Revenue

MOTION to approve financials and revenues

Whitaker/Sylvester

Ayes: Whitaker, Mullan, Sylvester, Fullhart-Snyder

6. Foundation Update: Our next foundation meeting is scheduled for June 18 @ 4 pm. Will discuss the success of our fundraiser at Charleston Board of Trade, and discuss the upcoming banquet in September. Newsletter donations are trickling in, along with day camp money. We will be receiving a donation from Pheasants Forever, and Quail Forever for our Outdoor Adventure Camp in August.

7. Parks Report: Supervisors are working with RUSS for Moore IA (Powdertown) Tom met with Rosa from the Health Dept to check into what we have to do at Chatfield as far as the water quality. DNR used to test, but no longer wishes to, so it needs to be determined who will do the testing. There has been questions regarding the eating of fish caught at Chatfield. If handled properly and cooked through, there is minimal risk.

There were 340 Camping nights in the month, and 14 cabin rentals for the month. A renter on May 30th had both cabins. The money was secured to cover cost of cabin rental, but the damage that was caused, we cannot recoup the charges due to their credit card being declined. Citations have been issued, and Clint is working with the County Attorney on this matter. Whitaker suggested that we consider not accepting debit cards. Clark-Hudson will be putting a hold on each person's card from now on for the deposit.

At Chatfield Park on Memorial weekend, a dog was electrocuted accidentally. All camping at Chatfield has been suspended until the electrical repairs can be made to the sites. We plan to do 15 sites with new electrical service, the rest of the campsites will remain, but they will not have electrical service to them.

Information Booths have been updated, opened Beach. Clint met with Access Energy in regards to the Wilson Lake shower house project.

8. Education Report: May and Clay very busy with field trips, mostly field days for the local schools. Did a day at the Fairgrounds with 3rd graders. Tree planting at Charleston with a Daisy Scout troop. Campground programs well attended. 53 kids at the fishing tourney, attended an awards ceremony for the N Lee Foundation. Animal care, summer programs, library programs.

9. Wildlife Report: Dealing with Landowners and their seeding and planting needs, CRP plantings, sprayed several food plots, planted prairie grass, Mitigation for the Dakota Pipeline will not be happening in our areas.

10. Update on Chatfield Campground Electrical: Ordered boxes, only doing 15 of the sites, Doug is allowing John to help with the installation to help lower our costs. The ones we don't do, will not have power to them. Bill estimate for this is \$28,806.00 and we will take any budget overages out Trust fund. Won't affect overall county budget, just may need an amendment later on down the road. We are working to get repairs done ASAP so we can capture some revenue from camping. Hydrants need repaired or replaced down the road as well.

Motion: to move forward with Chatfield repairs

Sylvester/Whitaker

Ayes: Whitaker, Mullan, Sylvester, Fullhart-Snyder

11. Duck Blind drawing date/discussion : June 27th at 9 am is the date for the drawing Tom wants to meet with Whitaker from the board ,and Kircher from the Foundation regarding review /changes of rules for hunting on our areas.

12. Update on site development/SEIRP plan: We had three public forums for people to voice their opinion regarding our Heron Bend area. A total of 5 people attended these meetings. Staff and board filled out surveys, but SEIRP dismissed the surveys filled out by the staff. So 12 surveys can be used in this study. One solid suggestion we received from these meetings, Brandenberger from Keokuk Tourism suggested we acquire raptors at our facility.

13. Update on building progress: Building is moving along, Electrical contractor has been laying conduit. Roofing is scheduled for the upcoming week, and the floor is set to be poured on the 15th of June. All of the contractors have been on site at least once. Sewer cost from the City of Fort Madison was estimated to be \$180,000.00. So we are looking at a septic system for the new building. We will need to get specks and a perk test right away. Water cost is estimated to be around \$20,000.00 which we could essentially split the cost with the city. We need to start fundraising for the banquet asap. Fun Run Aug 29th at Pollmiller.

14. Comments/Questions from the board

Last weekend was free camping correct? Sylvester saw lots of reserved signs and was wondering why. Clint explained that the reservations signs were for Thursday which was not included in the free weekend. We made \$1500.00 on a free camping weekend.

Sandra issued a personal apology for her absence in April. The board accepted it graciously, and welcomed her back and wished her good health in the future. Buckley reported we plan to purchase a ATV/mule; we might be able to fit it into this year's budget. Group of girl scouts are painting our signs for Croton, and have been picking up the park. Resident at Charleston is painting our signs and shelter there, Clint got them the paint. Denning playground is very popular and busy.

15. Next meeting is set for Tuesday July 14th at 6:00 pm at Heron Bend.

20. Adjournment

MOTION to adjourn at 6:57 pm

Sylvester/Whitaker

Ayes; Mullan, Sylvester, Fullhart-Snyder, Whitaker

Sandra Fullhart-Snyder

LCCB President

William Mullan

LCCB Secretary