

Minutes for the Lee County Conservation Board

Meeting May 12, 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 Holland Fullhart-Snyder Sylvester Mullan

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

Supervisor Present: Don Hunold

2. Approval of previous minutes as written

MOTION to approve minutes as written

Whitaker/Holland

Ayes: Whitaker, Mullan, Sylvester, Holland

3. Guests or Special Interests groups -none

4. Approval of Bills

MOTION to approve bills

Holland/Whitaker

Ayes: Whitaker, Mullan, Sylvester, Holland

5. Approval of Financials/Revenue

MOTION to approve financials and revenues

Whitaker/Holland

Ayes: Whitaker, Mullan, Sylvester, Holland

6. Foundation Update: Pheasants Forever donated \$1000 towards the new building. Alliant grant for \$45,000 was turned down. Next meeting of the foundation is June 18th 2015.

7. Parks Report: Chatfield lake level is down at least 6 Foot. Contacted Lake Darling for advice, and will talk to them about the water quality. There used to be all kinds of pipe in the dam, we should contact surrounding land owners to see if they have a leak happening on their land. Oldfield spoke with a Fishery biologist, and lake restoration could cost over \$100,000.00 They will be sampling the lake for heavy metals, there are different standards for each situation. 141 camping nights, 10 cabin rentals, seeded areas, felled trees, Dogs in Wilson Lake Park, some were strays but some were let lose by their owners to run. Any dogs that were returned to their owners, were cited for letting them run at large. There has been lots of dumping at our sites, spring is here! A lot of equipment repairs, and cleaning of trails. Sewer hookups at Wilson Lake have improved our revenue. The electric is still not hooked up at the new shower house at Wilson Lake. We are looking at purchasing the electric boxes and installing them ourselves and then have Access Energy come in with the service.

8. Education Report: Month of April 580 School kids, with 61 programs. Lots of field trips, Gardening Program was a full class, and everyone enjoyed it. Working on expanding types of summer programs including campground programs. Our first fishing tourney is this weekend at Heron Bend. Worked on newsletter, continuing to write grants for the building. Assistant Naturalist had his one year anniversary.

9. Wildlife Report: Worked on fire breaks, proscribed burns, seed orders, rented equipment, gave out 70 bags of soy beans in two weeks time. Plated food plots for landowners, monitoring N Heron Bend control structure. Pheasant Forever provides the seed that we give to landowners. If we

work their land for them they are billed. All of this planting is for habitat for the wildlife. We have increased our sunflower plot for a mentored youth dove hunt. We hope to make this an annual event, sponsored in part by Quail Forever. Rick wrote a grant for Whitetails, and the news looks good for us. We have been tentatively approved for \$8000.00 to \$10,000.00 to be used specific to the building.

10. Results from fundraising dinner/upcoming fundraising ideas: Our chicken dinner we grossed \$4490.00. We paid Tom Benner \$1932.00 for his half of the ticket sales. We netted over \$2500.00 on this event. We all felt this event went really well, and may consider making it an annual event. The Board thanks all of the staff for their hard work to make this happen. September 26 will be our next big fundraiser, it will be our banquet. We will have a meeting in the next few weeks regarding this function. Brandi Hull from the County Offices has volunteered to help organize a fun run in late August. She is connected to the community that does these events, and feels it will be a win for us. We will have it at Pollmiller, probably a 5K. The health department, and the FMCH would be possible donors for this event.

11. Discussion on Wetland Mitigation possibility: With pipeline coming through they will have to replace what they destroy. Site they liked the best is on private land, with Redwing area as a backup site. Rick is working on this issue with Wetlands Unlimited. They want this to be done as quickly as possible. They want us to purchase 10 acres, for the mitigation. It will have to be a 25yr do nothing on the land kind of project. They will monitor it for 7 yrs doing soil samples etc. We will be reimbursed. Rick will continue to pursue this with the Wetlands Unlimited and The Corp and the DNR. There is a possibility of eminent domain.

12. Review/Approve step increase for Assistant Naturalist

Clay has had his one year evaluation and is doing well for us. Buckley suggests we move Clay from a step V class 2 at \$16.74 to a Class V step 3 at \$17.20

MOTION to approve step increase from Class V step 2 to Class V step 3

Whitaker/Mullan

Ayes: Holland, Mullan, Whitaker, Sylvester

13. Update on building progress: Walls have gone up and most of the roof structure. Precast should have reached trusses, we lowered the East and West walls, and intended to leave the North and South walls the same height. There was a miscommunication somewhere, and all walls got lowered 1 foot. They are putting support braces in, so this issue will be easily corrected. It also will not cost any extra money for this fix. There is a couple of chips in the concrete, but the precast factory will come down and repair this. The roof should be on by the end of the week. Bar joists are up, the decking should be here by Thursday. Plumbing and Electric to follow soon after. The concrete should be poured on 6/8. We are still seeking a sewer system. All in all, the project is going well. Hansen is down at least 3x a week to check on progress. We all feel it will be a very attractive and inviting building when it's completed.

14. Comments/Questions from the board

Mullan asked about Sandra's health since she recently had surgery. She and her husband are off to their annual vacation in Canada and she is doing really well.

15. Next meeting is set for Tuesday June 10th at 6:00 pm at Heron Bend.

20. Adjournment

MOTION to adjourn at 7:10 pm

Whitaker/Holland

Ayes; Mullan, Sylvester, Holland, Whitaker

Sandra Fullhart-Snyder

LCCB President

William Mullan

LCCB Secretary