

Benton County Conservation Board Meeting

Monday, April 11, 2022 at 5:00 PM

Benton County Nature Center 5718 20th Ave Dr, Vinton

Members present: Dan Hill, Mike LaGrange, Denni Randall, Randy Scheel, Becky Van Wey

Staff present: Shelby Williams, Cecilia Dirks, Layla Hagen, Zach Parmater

Call to order: 5:04 pm by Randall

Guests or public participation: Bruce Visser, Atkins Mayor, requested an update on Atkins Roundhouse.

Consent Agenda (previous minutes, expenditures, revenues): Motion by Scheel seconded by Van Wey. All aye, motion passed.

Hoefle- Dulin Bids: Scheel opened the bids and read them aloud: Rabe Excavating - \$28,410.00, Schminke Excavating- \$35,420.00, and McBurney Construction- \$50,000.00. After consideration Van Wey made a motion to accept the bid from Rabe, LaGrange seconded, all aye, motion passed.

Fish Habitat Grant: The DNR needed management commitment approved by the Board to maintain the Hoefle-Dulin shoreline due to Fish Habitat funding being used for the project. Hill made a motion to sign the paperwork and LaGrange seconded. All aye, motion passed.

Old business

- a. **Hannen Shop:** Tracy Seeman, Williams, Dirks, Parmater, and Camryn Grubic will be sitting down to go over project details and next steps.
- b. **BCCB Properties:** Wildcat: There is a markup to find out what we would like done in the campground. Williams planning for building a shower house at Wildcat in Fall 2022 with ARPA funding. Williams handed out a spreadsheet that lists potential projects that could use ARPA funding by priority.

Property Breakout: Williams requested Board look into attending a board of supervisors meeting to start conversation on property management.

- c. **EE Update:** Williams had acquired a purchase order on a van and will be making a budget amendment to transfer funds reserved for the van into next year's budget. The naturalists acquired a grant to allow aquaponics to be joining the nature center displays.
- d. **Old Creamery Nature Trail Trailhead:** Shive Hattery submitted a proposal that does not match the project the board is trying to accomplish. The board would like Williams to pursue estimates for the section of trail that will cross the farm ground and include a parking lot.



Foundation: The Foundation met and discussed how the ice fishing tournament went. They also discussed future programs including Ecoextravaganza, the Hoefle-Dulin Bake Sale, and the Bark in the Park. Hagen gave an update on what the Bark in the Park will entail. The Foundation also discussed providing scholarships for individuals who would like to attend more expensive out of county trips.

Ranger Housing: Williams requested in the coming fiscal year to increase the East Unit ranger salary to match the other rangers and then deduct the housing cost to help keep IPERS benefits the same across all rangers. Van Wey made a motion for Williams to proceed and Scheel seconded. All aye, motion passed.

Director updates: Boulders will be placed at Benton City, Minnie Estema, and Rodgers to help with traffic control. The incident where an individual tore up Wyman was discussed. Hill recommended boosting social media ads to get them to more people. Williams brought up a report which stated BCCB not responding to the wetland Airport Project regarding Blandings Turtles. Williams found proof that the previous director had responded to the original request for information. The Board agreed that a corrective statement should be issued in the report.

Set next regular meeting: May 9th, 2022 at 5:00 pm, Benton County Nature Center

Officer Oath: Peace Officers Williams, Parmater, Hagen, Grubic, and Ed Hach were sworn in for service by Randall. Family and friends were present and the paperwork was filled out by county auditor, Nancy Jorgensen.

Adjourn: Scheel motioned to adjourn and LaGrange seconded at 6:43

Minutes Submitted by:

Cecilia Dirks

4/14/22

Approved

Date