

The regular meeting of the Page County Conservation Board was held April 15, 2019 beginning at 6:30 p.m. The meeting was called to order by Chair, Kathy Jordan.

Board members present included Holly Martin, Kathy Jordan and Tom Johnson.

Board members absent included Kevin Christensen and Katy King.

Staff present included Rich Wallace, Charly Stevens and Terry Broyles.

Present from the public included Joyce Kruse, Judith Blay and Alan Jordan.

MOTION: A motion was entered by Johnson to approve and accept the agenda for April 15, 2019, second by Martin. All in favor and motion carried.

MOTION: A motion was entered by Martin to approve the Minutes of March 12 and the summary of discussion of April 9, 2019, second by Johnson. All in favor and motion carried.

CLAIMS: The month end claims for March were presented for review. Claims for mid-month April were presented for approval and payment. Explanations of expenditures were given by staff.

MOTION: A motion was entered by Johnson to approve all claims as submitted, second by Martin. All in favor and motion carried.

New Business included FEMA related policies and resignation of Board member Kevin Christensen.

The Board reviewed the Procurement Resolution, Conflict of Interest Resolution and the Fraud Resolution as they relate to FEMA damage risk assessment due to flood events. The County Auditor expressed the opinion that all county departments should be under the umbrella of the Board of Supervisors as far as the above mentioned resolutions are concerned to maintain a chain of consistency.

MOTION: A motion was entered by Martin to adopt said resolutions as signed by the Page County Board of Supervisors, second by Johnson. All in favor and motion carried.

The Board was informed that Board Secretary, Kevin Christensen, has resigned due to relocation of employment and that a letter advising the Board of Supervisors of his resignation was sent in February. Charly will follow up with the Board of Supervisors on ad placement for vacancy on board notice.

MOTION: A motion was entered by Martin to accept Mr. Christensen's resignation, second by Johnson. All in favor and motion carried.

Old Business included discussion on cash rent on Rapp crop ground, Alliant Energy tree sales update, playground equipment purchase/deliver, discussion/approval on purchase of a dump trailer and park updates.

Information on cash rental rate survey was distributed to the board. Rates of \$205 versus \$202 (quality of cropland) were discussed versus the current 2/3 – 1/3 lease agreement that is currently in place until March 1, 2020. It was in common agreement that Rich and Tom Johnson might visit with Mr. Hilger in regards to the options available and invite Mr. Hilger to the May 14th board meeting.

Charly updated those present on the tree sales, 75 trees were made available for \$25 each. Distribution date is Tuesday, April 23rd. As of the board meeting there are 9 trees left. Once all sales are done, paperwork will be completed and a request for reimbursement for administrative fee will be sent to the IA DNR.

The playground equipment previously approved for \$20,122 has been ordered and delivery date is set for later this month. Portions of playground equipment will be installed at NVP, PC, PP and Rapp.

Discussion on a purchase of a dump trailer to assist with the loading/unloading of gravel to the parks was then reviewed with some estimates obtained from Wrangles Sales – 12 ft. trailer @ \$6,295 or 14 ft. @ \$6,650. Hull Trailers estimates were 12 ft. @ \$6,695.00 and 14 ft. @ \$6,895.00 with additional options such as tarp kit and a spare tire. Costs from renting a dump trailer from McConkey's for \$250/day was also mentioned. There is approximately \$5,706 available from the motor vehicle purchase line item to go towards the purchase of the trailer with the remainder being paid from REAP funds.

MOTION: A motion was entered by Martin to allow the purchase of the dump trailer from Wrangler Sales for \$6,650 with the remainder of \$944 being paid from REAP funds, second by Johnson. All in favor and motion carried.

Park updates were then given. Rich is making progress on working with the Reserve Deputies for park patrolling. Storm shelter at Rapp is in progress. The Backflow preventer will be installed behind the storm shelter and that project is waiting on the completion of the storm shelter. The cost of that installation is to be split between the City of Shenandoah and the Conservation Board. The handicapped fishing pier at Rapp will need to be re-set by the company and is in a holding position due to high water. Road work at Rapp Park to scarify the roads is on the Secondary Roads schedule so waiting on notification for a work date. Work on the roads at NVP, PC, and PP is still on the list for the Sta-Bilt contractor but may not happen until end of June.

A conversation was held with Brian Holmes, NRCS staff, about renovation work on the pond at Pioneer Park. Breaching overflow, drying it out for two years were discussed as viable options. Access to the park for camping and other activities will not interfere.

News release will be prepared once work is to begin. Brian gave a list of contractors who are familiar with the work that needs to be done.

MOTION: A motion was entered by Martin to let Rich proceed with talking with contractors on options, second by Johnson. All in favor and motion carried.

Short discussion was held about spraying the trails at Pierce Creek. We had Brad Sorenson's bid from last year. Charly will contact him to see if he still interested. Rich indicated that he still has the chemicals on hand.

Signage at Pierce on Ave A/140th was re-discussed, will need to check on signage size requirement for the roadway and permission from landowner. Holly indicated that she will visit with Hillary Rodewald on that intersection, also replacing signs with arrows and no signage at the boat ramp was discussed.

MOTION: A motion was entered by Martin to replace equestrian camping signs by the A Ave driveway, second by Johnson. All in favor and motion carried.

Visitors' portion was then opened to the public. Joyce Kruse inquired about the non-electric sites being opened when needed, are campers allowed to double up on sites and how would annual trail passes be handled? Joyce also indicated about a work day on the obstacle course and wanted 2 grills back at the day use area. She also inquired about the use of a wagon and 4 wheeler on the trail and some signage waiting to be installed.

Non-electric sites will be re-opened when usage is shown. Campers are allowed to double up as long as both campers are in agreement and both parties pay the \$15 campsite fee. This is how it is handled in our other camping areas. Some grills were installed too close to the electric transformer and had been uninstalled at least on two occasions after having been re-installed too close to the transformer. Rich has talked with Mid American Energy and their recommendations are to have the grills no closer than 50 ft. to the transformer. The annual trail pass fees may be paid onsite by marking the appropriate box on the camping envelope, upon being sent to the office to process the revenue receipts then the pass will be mailed out. Permission was given to use a four wheeler and wagon to haul equipment to work on the trail.

Rich Wallace asked to go to closed session. **MOTION:** On a motion by Martin, seconded by Johnson, the Board moved to approve to go into closed session per Chapter 21.5.1.c of the Code Of Iowa, Martin, aye, Johnson, aye, Jordan, aye at 7:30 p.m.

MOTION: On a motion by Martin, second by Johnson, the Board moved to go out of closed session at 8 p.m. Johnson, aye, Martin, aye and Jordan, aye. Work will begin on recommendations as discussed during closed session.

MOTION: A motion was entered by Martin to adjourn, second by Johnson. All in favor and motion carried. The meeting then adjourned at 8:10 p.m.

The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, May 14, 2019 at the Conservation Center.

APPROVED: 5/14/2019

Chair Kathleen Agordan

(Acting) Board Secretary Tom R. Johnson