

Chickasaw County Conservation Board

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The Chickasaw County Conservation Board held its regular monthly meeting on February 2, 2022 at the Twin Ponds Nature Center. Members present: Jim Allison, Ray Armbrecht, Lori Carey, JoAnne Myrsiades, Mike Pickar and Director Chad Humpal. Employees present: Matt Crayne. Guests: Scott Carey.

Armbrecht called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

Agenda: Armbrecht asked for approval of the agenda.

Motion: Allison/Carey

To approve the agenda as presented. (Carried unanimously)

Minutes: Armbrecht asked for approval of the minutes of the January 4, 2022 and January 10, 2022 Board meeting.

Motion: Pickar/ Myrsiades

To approve the minutes of the January 4, 2022 and January 10, 2022 Board meeting. (Carried unanimously)

Nature Center Bear/Bison Display

Robin has been working on the display since January 10, 2022. She has had something come up and will not be able to work on it the month of February.

Budget Proposal Fiscal Year 2023

Budget has been turned in at \$430,000. Nothing has changed at this time.

Campground Hosts

Humpal informed the board that both campground hosts from last season will be back for the 2022 camping season. Airport Lake Park will have Tina Rowe, La Porte City and Split Rock Park will have Shelly Tanner, Fredericksburg.

Employee time sheets

Humpal reported that all employees time sheets will read the actual hours worked. Not straight 8 hours a day. This will allow for better tracking of time worked.

Red Power Lease Agreement

The lease agreement has been returned to Red Power. They will present a more formal rental contract as we get closer to spring.

Bypass Basin Master Plan

Humpal gave update on master plan: Summit Carbon is looking to see if they can move the proposed pipeline either around the property or to one of the edges of the property. Wetland Mitigation site: The Iowa DOT is looking into the exact location of the wetland site. Huffcutt restrooms, 4 designs and prices were presented.

Consensus at this time is to wait on the plan and get more information from both Summit Carbon and the Iowa DOT.

Natural Resources and Parks Manager Position

Discussion on the three candidates that were interviewed on January 19th.

Motion: Carey/Myrsiades

To hire Justin Van Driel as the Natural Resources and Parks Manager for \$20.00/hour to start on February 23, 2022 and to raise wage to \$21.63/hour after six month probationary period. (Carried unanimously)

Haus Park Weir

Humpal was asked to look into seeing if there is anything that can be done to raise the level of the weir. It appears that it has settled. Humpal has been in contact with the DNR fisheries. At this time the river is frozen over and it is imposable to see anything. Humpal and the DNR will look at the weir in the spring and see if there is anything that can be done.

Board Meetings this coming year

The March 7 meeting has been moved to March 1

The July 4 meeting has been moved to July 6

The September 5 meeting has been moved to September 7

Timber Stand Improvement

Humpal would like to work with Emma Kerns from the Iowa DNR and Conservation staff to complete a Timber Stand Improvement plan for Twin Ponds Nature Area.

Consensus to move forward with a TSI plan for the Twin Ponds Area.

Continuing Projects

No changes since the January 2022 meeting.

Crayne Report

Removed old displays and prepped Nature Center for Robin, animals/feeders, SWCD meeting, newsletter, Ice fishing programs, REAP congress, set Hunter ED classes, moved snow, various programs, Winterfest meeting.

Ciavarelli Report

Serviced equipment, Removed old displays and prepped Nature Center for Robin, SWCD meeting, Checked Wood Duck Boxes, Plowed Snow, District 2 meeting, Winterfest meeting.

Meetings this month

Humpal – ARPA, February 2, 2022

Humpal & Crayne – Website Zoom meeting, February 3, 2022

All Employees – Upper Wapsi Watershed at TPNC, February 8, 2022
- Soil and Watershed Conservation District, February 9, 2022

Crayne – Northeast Iowa Naturalist meeting, February 22, 2022

Claims: Claims for \$3007.06 to be paid and claims in the amount of \$778.35 that were invoiced on 1-18-2022 were presented for review.

Motion: Carey/ Pickar
To approve claims for the amount of \$3007.06 and \$778.35. (Carried unanimously)

Adjournment: Armbrecht asked for a motion to adjourn.

Motion: Pickar/Carey
To adjourn the meeting at 7:57 p.m. (Carried unanimously)

*Chad Humpal
Director
Chickasaw County Conservation Board*

Mission Statement: The Mission of Chickasaw County Conservation is to enhance, promote, protect, preserve and reclaim Chickasaw County natural resources for the benefit, enjoyment & education of all Chickasaw County residents and visitors.