

# *Chickasaw County Conservation Board*

1811 240th Street, Ionia, IA 50645

**Chad Humpal, Director**

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The Chickasaw County Conservation Board held its regular monthly meeting on April 4, 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: Caleb Ciavarelli, Matt Crayne, Justin Van Driel. Guest present: None.

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

**Agenda:** Armbrecht asked for approval of the agenda.

**Motion:** Allison/Myrsiades

To approve the agenda as presented. (Carried unanimously)

**Minutes:** Armbrecht asked for approval of the minutes of the March 1, 2022 Board meetings.

**Motion:** Allison/Myrsiades

To approve the minutes of the March 1, 2022 Board meetings as presented. (Carried unanimously)

**Claims:** Claims for \$31,420.28 to be paid and claims in the amount of \$994.25 that were invoiced on 3-11-2022 were presented for review.

**Motion:** Pickar/Myrsiades

To approve claims for the amount of \$31,420.28 and \$994.25. (Carried unanimously)

## **Budget Proposal Fiscal Year 2023**

The Chickasaw County Budget has been finalized and the Conservation Budget has been set at \$430,000 for fiscal year 2022 - 2023.

**County Betterment Funds** – Humpal and staff presented several ideas to improve Airport Lake Campground.

- Shower House Expansion
- Dock that would have a kayak launch
- Cabins

The board directed Humpal to talk with the Board of Supervisors and see if they would be interested in funding 2 cabins for Airport Lake Park and 1 for Split Rock Park.

Along with the Betterment Funding they discussed a possible can and bottle collection station. Humpal is to look into whether the Friends of Chickasaw County Conservation can collect the proceeds from the collection station.

Sales of firewood in the campgrounds were also discussed. Board directed Humpal to talk to the Supervisors and see they could come to an agreement on how they would handle the potential income of firewood sales. Conservation Board would like to see that money come back into the Conservation Budget or possibly run it through the Friends of Chickasaw County Organization.

### **RAGBRAI**

The RAGBRAI 2022 route has been set to go through Chickasaw County. Humpal talked to the Board of Supervisors and they feel it is in the best interest of the county to not allow vendors in our parks for this event.

### **Motion:** Carey/Myrsiades

To not allow vendors to use Chickasaw County Parks for RAGBRAI 2022. (Carried unanimously)

### **Possible land Acquisitions**

- **Koenigsfeld property** – The Iowa Natural Heritage Foundation closed on the Koenigsfeld property on March 30, 2022. It is roughly 205 acres, 2 miles East of Ionia. The Heritage foundation is working on the final appraisal. After they have the final appraisal, Ross Baxter from the Iowa Natural Heritage Foundation and Humpal will work together to secure funding for the property.

- **Island across from Howards Woods** – Rick Johnson of the Carville Cabin Homeowners Association called and wanted to start a conversation to see if the Conservation Board would be interested in acquiring the island across from Howards Woods. Board was not excited about adding property that was in Floyd County. They want to see if the Carville Association wants to pursue this any further before they are to make any final decisions.

### **Twin Ponds Nature Center Building Repairs**

The Board looked at an area that water leaks into the basement of the Nature Center when there is a significant amount of rainfall. Staff is going to see if they can get someone to run a camera through the electrical conduit to see if they can find any breaks in the electrical conduit.

## **DISCUSS CONTINUING PROJECTS AND DEPARTMENT UPDATES**

### **Heat Pump TPNC**

Heat pump has been installed

### **Bypass Basin Master Plan**

Plan as discussed at March 1, 2022 meeting was submitted to Ritland and Kuiper for final draft

### **Nature Center Bear/Bison Display**

Robin has finished the display and submitted final invoice for \$9385.00. Total billing was \$385.00 more than proposed. This was due to higher costs of materials.

Humpal asked if the staff could proceed with the development of the Nature Center Displays. He thinks that the next step would be to have the ceiling of the main display room painted. The painting would look like it was blue sky with birds and clouds mixed in. Board was okay with this as the next step. Humpal and Staff will get the board better numbers on the project at a later date. No time frame was established on when they would start the next project.

#### Tractor Rental

The tractor was picked up from Red Power on March 22. Rental runs to November 30, 2022. Price was for \$2500.00 for 249 hours

#### Timber Stand Improvement

Ciavarelli and VanDriel have been removing trees and burning.

#### Haus Park Vortex Weir

Nothing to report at this time

#### New Conservation Website

Conservation staff has been given the first look at the website and asked to make any corrections they see at this time.

#### Discuss Roof on Pump House at Split Rock

Update from Armbrecht – The Club that Armbrecht was working with has come up with another project for the season. They didn't think they would work on the roof at this time. Roof will be put on hold at this time

#### Seasonal Conservation Aide Position

The job has been posted open until filled. (4 applications at this time) Humpal is hoping to have someone hired by the end of the week.

#### Discuss Future agenda Items

No future agenda items were discussed

#### Crayne Report

Office; feed animals and feeders; worked on cross country skis; checked Kestrel and Bluebird houses; Cleaned NC; Set up for Hunter Ed workshop; IAN; NASP at Sumner Fred Middle School; Hunter ED in Boyd; Fledged arrows; GPS Program.

#### Ciavarelli Report

Made sign frame for Airport Lake; TSI work at TPNC; Fixed Hydraulic leak on skid; Took load of tires and TVs to FMC Landfill; Put new tires on 2500 Chevy; mowed food plots; took snowplow off truck; washed skid and dropped off to get serviced; Burned ditch at TPNC; burned at LWWA; Pesticide applicators test; s190 – 130 Wildland fire training; Hunter Ed in Boyd; picked up trash Chickasaw.

### **Van Driel Report**

Moved picnic tables to Airport Lake; mowed food plots; took snowplow off truck; Took load of tires and TVs to FMC Landfill; Put new tires on 2500 Chevy; washed skid and dropped off to get serviced; TSI work at TP; Burned ditch at TPNC; burned at LWWA; Pesticide applicators test; s190 – 130 Wildland fire training; Hunter Ed in Boyd; picked up trash Chickasaw.

### **Meetings this month**

Humpal – Upper Wapsi Watershed Meeting at Fontana Park, April 12, 2022

Crayne – ISU Extension program at TPNC, April 23, 2022

**Adjournment:** Armbrecht asked for a motion to adjourn.

**Motion:** Allison/Pickar

To adjourn the meeting at 8:03 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.*