



# Chickasaw County Conservation Board

## TWIN PONDS NATURE CENTER

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The Chickasaw County Conservation Board held its regular monthly meeting on March 6, 2023 at the Twin Ponds Nature Center. Members present: Ray Armbrecht, Lori Carey, JoAnne Myrsiades, Mike Pickar and Director Chad Humpal. Employees present: Matt Crayne and Justin VanDriel, Caleb Ciavarelli. Guests: Bruce Smith. Board member Jim Allison was absent.

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

**Agenda:** Armbrecht asked for approval of the March 6, 2023 agenda.

**Motion:** Carey/Myrsiades

To approve the March 6, 2023 agenda. (Carried unanimously)

**Minutes:** Armbrecht asked for approval of the minutes of the February 6, 2023, Board meeting.

**Motion:** Pickar/Carey

To approve the minutes of the February 6, 2023, Board meeting as presented. (Carried unanimously)

**Claims:** Claims for \$11,770.96 to be paid and claims in the amount of \$432.15 that were invoiced on February 15, 2023 were presented for review.

**Motion:** Pickar/Myrsiades

To approve claims for the amount of \$11,770.96 and \$432.15. (Carried unanimously)

### **Fiscal Year 2023 Budget & Fiscal Year 2024 Budget Proposal**

Looked at FY23 remaining budget and discussion on FY24 budget.

### **Summer Help Position**

**Motion:** Pickar/Myrsiades

To approve the Seasonal Conservation Aide job posting and proceed with the hiring of a seasonal aide starting April 3rd and ending September 15<sup>th</sup> at the rate of \$15.00/HR. (Carried unanimously)

### **Koenigsfeld Property**

At the Natural Resource Commission meeting held on February 9, 2023, the commission approved the Habitat Stamp Grant recommendation for Chickasaw County Conservation. Update on grant process.

**Motion:** Carey/Myrsiades

To approve the Wildlife Habitat Stamp Cooperative Agreement and approve Board Chair Ray Armbrrecht to sign the Agreement. (Carried unanimously)

**Airport Lake Seasonal Campsites**

Drawing for the seasonal sites are as follows:

Site# 20 - Melissa Conroy

Site# 21 – Brianna Pitz

Site# 22 – Kim Kohagen

Site# 23 – Heather Babcock

Site# 28 – Cory Beckman

Site# 29 – Deb Stahlhut

Site# 30 – Deb Riley

**Campground – firewood sales at Airport and Split Rock**

The FCCC board has asked me to sell firewood in the campgrounds. Humpal talked to the BOS at the February 13, 2023, and they approved FCCC to sell firewood at Airport Lake and Split Rock. Humpal also sent a letter to New Hampton City Council per BOS and asked if they had any objections, as we lease the land from city. The Council approved and had no questions at their February 20<sup>th</sup> meeting.

**Motion:** Carey/Pickar

To approve Friends of Chickasaw County to sell firewood at Airport Lake and Split Rock Campgrounds. (Carried unanimously)

**20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary**

Discussion on 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Twin Ponds Nature Center. The celebration was set for September 10, 2023. Crayne and Humpal will proceed with planning and update next month.

**TPNC Volunteers**

Discussion on using volunteers to opening the Nature Center on set weekends. Crayne is going to create a list of volunteers and try to have the Nature Center open the first Sunday of the month.

**DISCUSS CONTINUING PROJECTS AND DEPARTMENT UPDATES**

**Discuss Future agenda Items**

Comments from Bruce Smith on the use of electric bikes on public wildlife areas. Humpal is going to look into it further and put it on a latter agenda for board discussion.

**Crayne Report**

Cleaned TPNC and office; fletched arrows; picked up supplies from Theisen's; media posts; fed animals and filled feeders; snow shoe program SF; worked on atlatls; shoe shoeing NP3rd; worked on owl calls; office work; owl prowling program; Cedar Vale program; whispering Willows program; Hosted NE Iowa Naturalist meeting; picked up crawlers from Nub's; cleaned gourds and worked on program prep; radio interview.

### **Ciavarelli Report**

TSI work and burned brush pile TPNC; Pesticide exams; Burned brush piles SR; helped Matt with public program; toured areas to put together spring work list; fixed gate at Fred wildlife area; picked up supplies from Bodensteiner and office world; worked on chemical and fertilizer needed for season; fish habitat project; burned brush piles AL; worked on LRTF grant; checked leachate; cut trees SR; L-180 fire training and signed up for field day.

### **VanDriel Report**

Cut trees SR; checked leachate; plowed snow; replaced soap dispensers; TSI work and burned brush pile TPNC; Pesticide's exams; Burned brush piles SR; toured areas to put together spring work list; fixed gate at Fred wildlife area; mowed brush SR; worked on chemical and fertilizer needed for season; fish habitat project; burned brush piles AL; L-180 fire training and signed up for field day.

### **Meetings this month**

Chad - Region 1 Water Works Operator Meeting March 1, 2023 in Manchester  
-Invasive Species Conference March 2-3, 2023 in Altoona  
-ISAC March 8-10, 2023 in Des Moines

Matt – Spring IAN Naturalist meeting March 8-10, 2023 in Sioux County

Justin & Caleb – Fire field day training March 22, 2022 in Waterloo

All -District 2 meeting March 29, 2023 in Bremer County  
-Hunter ED March 18, 2023  
-Upper Wapsi Watershed Meeting March 7, 2023 at TPNC

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

**Motion:** Pickar/Carey

To adjourn the meeting at 7:17 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.*