

Chickasaw County Conservation Board

TWIN PONDS NATURE CENTER

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The Chickasaw County Conservation Board held its regular monthly meeting on January 2, 2024, at the Twin Ponds Nature Center. Members present: Ray Armbrecht, Jim Allison, Lori Carey, JoAnne Myrsiades, Mike Pickar and Director Chad Humpal. Employees present: Matt Crayne, Justin VanDriel. Guests: None

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

Agenda: Armbrecht asked for approval of the January 2, 2024 agenda.

Motion: Myrsiades/Carey

To approve the January 2, 2024 agenda. (Carried unanimously)

Minutes: Armbrecht asked for approval of the minutes of the December 4, 2023, Board meeting.

Motion: Allison/Pickar

To approve the minutes of the December 4, 2023, Board meeting as presented. (Carried unanimously)

Claims: Claims for \$2,720.55 to be paid and claims in the amount of \$766.75 that were invoiced on December 11, 2023 were presented for review.

Motion: Pickar/Carey

To approve claims for the amount of \$2,720.55 and \$766.75. (Carried unanimously)

Election of Officers for 2024:

Current Officers: Chair – Armbrecht
Vice Chair – Carey
Secretary - Myrsiades

Motion: Carey/Pickar

To appoint Armbrecht as Chair, Carey as Vice-Chair and Myrsiades as Secretary of the Chickasaw County Conservation Board for Calendar Year 2024. (Carried unanimously)

Fiscal Year 2024 Budget & Fiscal Year 2025 Budget Proposal

Looked at FY24 remaining budget and discussions on FY25 budget.

TPNC Pavilion/shelter

Humpal presented drawing and design for a new shelter in front of TPNC. Total project cost will be around \$76,000. Consensus from board for Humpal to proceed with grants and other options to fund project.

Koenigsfeld property

Update on property

Red Power Lease Agreement

Red Power has presented a lease proposal for a Farmall 75A tractor. They need a signature on the proposal and they will prepare the lease agreement. The lease will run from March 1 to November 30, 2024 at a cost of \$2,500.00 for 250 hours.

Motion: Myrsiades/Allison

To approve the proposed lease agreement for a Farmall 75A from New Hampton Red Power subject to availability. (Carried unanimously)

Annual Report for Fiscal Year 2023

The fiscal year 2023 Annual Report has been completed.

Motion: Pickar/Carey

To approve the Fiscal Year 2023 Annual report and submit a copy to the Board of Supervisors. (Carried unanimously)

DISCUSS CONTINUING PROJECTS AND DEPARTMENT UPDATES

TPNC Displays – New façade/face

Staff is working on getting new tanks. Staff will start project the first part of January.

AED Device at TPNC

Grant was applied for and we are waiting to see if we are awarded the grant

Discuss Future agenda Items

No comments on anything to be added to future agendas.

Crayne Report

Cleaned Fish tanks; fletched arrows; ordered new terrariums; swept and cleaned TPNC; prepped for live windows program; Hunter Ed guns; filled feeders and fed animals; Grant workshop; newsletter; REAP CEP meeting; homes program; Cedar Vale program; Whispering Willows program; burned Nelson.

Ciavarelli Report

Cleaned fence line on Ackerson; flagged 2 tree plantings for spring; built wood station AL; Pumped septic systems AL and SR; Put in fence post Ackerson; put up signage for new dock; cut trees AL; cut volunteer trees at Saude fence; Burned SR, AL, TPNC, Nelson, LWWA; started servicing equipment list.

VanDriel Report

Cleaned fence line on Ackerson; flagged 2 tree plantings for spring; built wood station AL; Pumped septic systems AL and SR; Put in fence post Ackerson; put up signage for new dock; mowed brush Bypass; Fish Habitat meeting; Burned SR, AL, TPNC, Nelson, LWWA; started servicing equipment list.

Meetings this month

Chad, Matt, Justin - Winterfest workshop January 23-25, 2024 in Coralville

Adjournment: Armbrecht asked for a motion to adjourn.

Motion: Carey/Pickar

To adjourn the meeting at 7:06 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.