

Chickasaw County Conservation Board

TWIN PONDS NATURE CENTER

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The Chickasaw County Conservation Board held its regular monthly meeting on February 5, 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. Guests: None

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

Agenda: Armbrecht asked for approval of the February 5, 2024 agenda.

Motion: Myrsiades/Allison

To approve the February 5, 2024 agenda. (Carried unanimously)

Minutes: Armbrecht asked for approval of the minutes of the January 2, 2024, Board meeting.

Motion: Pickar/Carey

To approve the minutes of the January 2, 2024, Board meeting as presented. (Carried unanimously)

Claims: Claims for \$3,654.26 to be paid and claims in the amount of \$2097.72 that were invoiced on January 17, 2024 were presented for review.

Motion: Allison/Myrsiades

To approve claims for the amount of \$3,654.26 and \$2097.72. (Carried unanimously)

Fiscal Year 2024 Budget & Fiscal Year 2025 Budget Proposal

Looked at FY24 remaining budget and discussions on FY25 budget. Consensus that the Board did not want to approve a budget without a salary increase. They are waiting for more information from the Board of Supervisors.

TPNC Pavilion/shelter

Humpal has submitted grants to New Hampton Hotel/Motel for \$5,000, Homeland energy for \$5,000 and Chickasaw County Community Foundation for \$10,000 to help fund this project. Also talked to several members of Lions Club about helping with the build. Total project cost will be around \$76,000.

Summer Help

Would like to start the process to hire summer help.

Motion: Carey/Pickar

to approve Humpal to hire a summer aid position starting April 1, 2024 to September 27, 2024 at \$15.00 an Hour. (Carried unanimously)

August Meeting

Board has set the August meeting for August 1, 2024

DISCUSS CONTINUING PROJECTS AND DEPARTMENT UPDATES

TPNC Displays – New façade/face

Waiting on the new tanks

AED Device at TPNC

We were approved for a \$2,500 grant from Farm Credit Services to purchase a new AED for the Nature Center.

SCI Grant

Crayne received an SCI grant for \$1,600 to purchase air rifles and targets for programing.

District 2 Meeting/Fall conference planning

We will be hosting a meeting on February 7th 8:30 to 3:00 at TPNC for the 17 county members of District 2.

Fall Conference 2024

2024 Fall Conference is being hosted in District 2.

School of the Wild

Matt is working on setting up a School of the Wild program with the 4th graders in N.H.

AL seasonal Update

5 seasonal sites have been assigned. Have 4 more leads on people interested in one.

Discuss Future agenda Items

Comments on anything to be added to future agendas.

Crayne Report

Posting programs; Filled feeders and fed animals; new animal display; cleaned tanks; dust displays and cleaned Nature Center; Fred Lions Program; District 2 meeting preparation; prep for homes programs; homes programs; School of the Wild meeting; Winterfest.

Ciavarelli Report

Cut trees AL; put plow on truck; plowed snow; serviced and washed all equipment; animal display; Checked Wood Duck boxes; worked on aerator TP; Fish structure for AL.

VanDriel Report

Cut trees AL; put plow on truck; plowed snow; serviced and washed all equipment; animal display; Checked Wood Duck boxes; worked on aerator TP; Fish structure for AL; Winterfest.

Meetings this month

All employees - District 2 meeting - February 7, 2024

Adjournment: Armbrecht asked for a motion to adjourn.

Motion: Carey/ Myrsiades

To adjourn the meeting at 7:19 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.