

Chickasaw County Conservation Board

TWIN PONDS NATURE CENTER

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The Chickasaw County Conservation Board held its regular monthly meeting on January 6, 2025, at the Twin Ponds Nature Center. Members present: Jim Allison, Lori Carey, JoAnne Myrsiades, Mike Pickar, (Shane Fountain via ZOOM) and Director Chad Humpal. Employees present: Matt Crayne. Guests: None.

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

Agenda: Carey asked for approval of the January 6, 2025, agenda.

Motion: Pickar/Myrsiades

To approve the January 6, 2025, agenda. (Carried unanimously)

Minutes: Carey asked for approval of the minutes of the December 2, 2024, Board meeting.

Motion: Allison/Myrsiades

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

Claims: Claims for \$18,502.44 to be paid and claims in the amount of \$1,332.45 that were invoiced on December 10, 2024, were presented for review.

Motion: Myrsiades/Allison

To approve claims for the amount of \$18,502.44 and \$1,332.45. (Carried unanimously)

Fiscal Year 2025 Budget Proposal

Looked at FY25 budget.

Election of Officers for 2025:

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

Motion: Allison/Fountain

To appoint JoAnne Myrsiades as Chair, Lori Carey as Vice-Chair and Mike Pickar as Secretary of the Chickasaw County Conservation Board for Calendar Year 2025. (Carried unanimously)

Myrsiades continued meeting as the new chair.

TPNC Pavilion/shelter – open electrical bids

Open bids for electrical installation and approve purchase.

Quotes:

Stanton Electric: \$5,867.50

Hennings Electric: No Bid submitted

New Hampton Electric: No Bid submitted

Motion: Pickar/Carey

To accept the quote of **Stanton Electric** for **\$5,867.50** to install electrical at Twin Ponds Nature Center Pavilion. (Carried unanimously)

Lawrence Hruska Arrowhead Trust

As required in the bylaws of the Lawrence Hruska Arrowhead Trust, any new Board member will be appointed to serve as a trustee.

Motion: Carey/Allison

To remove Ray Armbricht from the Lawrence Hruska Arrowhead Trust and appoint Shane Fountain to replace him. (Carried unanimously)

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, 2025 at a cost of \$2,500.00 for 250 hours.

Motion: Pickar/Carey

To approve the proposed lease agreement for a Farmall 75A from New Hampton Red Power subject to availability. (Carried 4 – 0, Allison Abstain)

Fiscal Year 2026 Budget work session

Discussion and approval of FY26 budget.

Motion: Pickar/Allison

To adopt the budget for the fiscal year 2025-2026 in the amount of \$527,870.00. (Carried unanimously)

TPNC Displays

Tank display is DONE! 3 Grants have been sent out so far for the learning center displays.

DISCUSS CONTINUING PROJECTS AND DEPARTMENT UPDATES

Discuss Future agenda Items

No Comments

Crayne Report

Animals and feeders; Newsletter; picked up trash and down limb ETP; Program planning; worked on homes program; NE Iowa Naturalist meeting; finished animal display; Nub's for worms; Homes programs; shoveled snow; cleaned TPNC; Home school field trip; Staff Meeting; moved root display.

Ciavarelli Report

Worked on HW stairs; put in grills Saude and Munson; removed trees Saude and Munson; picked up supplies; picked up signs for On Tracks; finished animal display; replaced couplers on skid; cut down dead trees at Chickasaw; cut up logs at landfill; staff meeting; hooked up plow and moved snow; cleaned office; took ¾ ton to Vern's; closed gates to HW and Saude.

Van Driel Report

Fixed grills and cut up trees Saude and Munson; steps at HW; cut trees Chickasaw; removed 3 trees for ETP; mowed brush TPNC; picked up signs for On Tracks; finished animal display; replaced couplers on skid; staff meeting; hooked up plow; Fish Habitat meeting; picked up ¾ ton to Vern's; closed gates to HW and Saude; washed equipment.

Meetings this month

Chad – Board of Supervisors Budget meeting – January 7, 2025
- Wildlife Habitat Stamp Grant tours – January 15, 2025, various counties

Chad & Matt - Upper Wapsi watershed meeting – January 7, 2025
– Winterfest – January 28 - 30, 2025

All - District 2 meeting – January 9, 2025 in Fayette County

Adjournment: Myrsiades asked for a motion to adjourn.

Motion: Allison/Carey

To adjourn the meeting at 7:56 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.