

**Iowa County Conservation Board
Minutes of Meeting**

April 9, 2018

Chris Montross called the regular meeting of the Iowa County Conservation Board to order at 6:03 P.M. at the Lake Iowa Nature Center.

Members of the Iowa County Conservation Board present were: Chris Montross, John Gahring, Rose Danaher and Marcia Wehner. ICC Staff present were Chris Anderson, Phil DeJarnatt, Mary Bulger and Shelley Berger. Candy Crane from Friends of ICCB Foundation was also present. Justin Parsons was unable to attend.

Open Forum

(A) Public Comment: None

(B) Board Comment: Montross reported that he had a great time at the Friends Banquet and there was a great turnout.

Danaher moved to approve the minutes from the March 12, 2018 regular meeting. Seconded by Wehner, the motion carried unanimously.

Danaher moved to approve the bills, seconded by Wehner, the motion carried unanimously

Staff Reports: Bulger reported that she had finally used up her comp time. Due to much time off she had fewer programs, etc. She shared that she has met with the artist who will paint murals in the Nature Center and the company who will be working with her on interpretive displays. She listed upcoming programs and summer camps.

Business:

(A) **Friends of ICCB** Crane reported that they are still waiting for final expenses to be turned in before a grand total for the banquet can be announced. She also shared that RS Welding donated 3 metal butterfly sculptures for the butterfly garden by the Nature Center.

(B) **ICCB Properties**

a. **Simmons Timber Reserve** Anderson reported that he has met with an equestrian group from Marengo who are willing to install and upkeep horseback riding trails planned for Simmons Timber Reserve. Gahring reported that Senate File 499 passed both the Senate and the House which would allow land owner Rick Gates to install a cattle guard on his property adjoining Simmons Timber Reserve. Anderson shared that he had submitted a formal request to Iowa County Engineer to upgrade LL Avenue (at Simmons Timber Reserve) from a "B" level road to a gravel "A" level road. The request was made to facilitate access for maintenance and visitors in all weather.

b. **Gateway Park** Compass Memorial Hospital had been contacted by artist Ray "Bubba" Sorenson II, who is painting a Freedom Rock for each county in Iowa, to place the rock on hospital grounds. The hospital requested that it be placed at Gateway Park instead. The rock will be painted in June or July. Anderson was contacted by Doug Kinzenbaw and then spoke to Les Collingwood about cleaning up the river access at the North Pit at Gateway. Collingwood has a petition signed by people in favor of the project. Anderson will contact Brad Baker, DNR, to see if the state will take care of the project. Anderson will also be contacting REAP about finalizing authority to provide camp sites at Gateway. The City of Marengo will be

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approached about the project. A lift station will most likely need to be installed to hook into the Marengo sewer system.

- c. **Big Bend** Anderson will meet with consultant Ken Barker about installing mountain bike single track trails at Big Bend. Area mountain bike associations are interested in helping with the project.
- d. **Lake Iowa Park** Staff has started repairs to the playscape. Rotted wood has been removed to make way for new wood seating. The retaining wall will be removed. Staff has started removing paneling, etc. inside the Round House which will be remodeled. Timm Electric will be rewiring the building.

(C) **New Ranger Naturalist Position** Anderson passed out the job description for the new full time position at ICCB. Duties include those of both ranger (2/3 of their time) and naturalist (1/3 of their time). The job will be posted this week and interviews will take place in May and June. The new hire will begin work in July at \$14-\$15/hour.

The next regular meeting is scheduled for Monday May 14, 2018 at 6:00 P.M. at the Lake Iowa Nature Center.

With no further discussion, Gahring moved that the meeting be adjourned at 7:16 PM and Wehner seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully,

Chris Anderson, Executive Director
Iowa County Conservation Board