

**Iowa County Conservation Board  
Minutes of Meeting**

**May 14, 2018**

Chris Montross called the regular meeting of the Iowa County Conservation Board to order at 5:58 P.M. at the Lake Iowa Nature Center.

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

**Open Forum**

(A) Public Comment: None

(B) Board Comment: Wehner shared a contact for getting ice delivered to the campground. She also shared that someone had complained about trash at a shelter.

Danaher moved to approve the minutes from the April 9, 2018 regular meeting. Seconded by Wehner, the motion carried unanimously.

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

Staff Reports: DeJarnatt reported that a work day had been held at Gateway Park with 15 people present. Bulger reported that work had begun on the murals in the Nature Center. She also shared that she had met with McCullough about displays. They will send a proposal detailing the expense.

**Business:**

1) **Friends of ICCB** Next meeting is Wednesday May 16<sup>th</sup>.

2) **ICCB Properties**

a) **Simmons Timber Reserve** Anderson detailed the Iowa County Board of Supervisors meeting where he had presented a petition to upgrade LL Avenue, the county road to Simmons Timber Reserve, from a level B road to a level A road. The Board of Supervisors had voted to upgrade the road. The Iowa Senate voted to retroactively change Senate Bill 449 to prevent the upgrade. Anderson reported that a letter and phone campaign had begun to encourage Governor Kim Reynolds to veto the bill.

b) **Lake Iowa Park**

i) Poweshiek Water Association will be able to hook into the water line at H Avenue to get water to the Scout Camp. The cost would be approximately \$15,600. Anderson spoke to the area Boy Scouts who are willing to help cover the cost. Board members discussed using \$5,000 from the Park Improvements fund to pay for part of the installation. The Boy Scouts will be contacted to see if they will cover the remainder. Anderson also mentioned running water from the beach to Shelter 1A, 1B, and 2.

ii) Anderson shared that the Marengo Equestrian group is very interested in getting horse trails in Iowa County and are willing to provide the labor to install and care for them. Anderson proposed having a trail that began in the Creepy Camping Haunted Hayride trail and went through the archery trail to Pheasant Ridge and possibly to the spillway. Anderson explained this would provide a longer trail than could exist at Simmons Timber Reserve. He also suggested providing camping at the hayride trail

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for horse riders only. The board was favorable to the idea. Danaher suggested leaving a recording on the answering machine when trails would be closed due to muddy conditions, etc.

iii) Anderson stated that the next 25 campsites would be upgraded to 50 amp soon. Timm Electric will tackle this project when electrical work to the Round House is complete.

- 3) **New Ranger Naturalist Position** 9 applications were received. Staff reviewed them and narrowed the field to 5 which would be interviewed May 22<sup>nd</sup>, 24<sup>th</sup> and 31<sup>st</sup>. Anderson stated he was very pleased with the applicants.
- 4) **Hourly Rates for Nature Center Rentals** Anderson stated that many possible Nature Center rentals were lost due to the high cost of an all-day rental of \$250/day. He proposed charging an hourly rate of \$15 to \$25. This would hopefully encourage more rentals for graduation parties, showers, etc. The board was in favor of this change.
- 5) **English River watershed cost share program** Current cost share programs offered to area farmers has widened its scope to include ICCB properties. Monies could be used to install ponds, wetlands, terraces, etc. Anderson is interested in installing perennial prairie on ICCB properties. English River watershed will pay for all design work and 75% of construction. They would pick the contractor for the installation. They also pay 100% for all land acquisitions. Anderson will look into possibilities with Jody Bailey, watershed coordinator, further.
- 6) **Fall IACCB Annual Conference** Anderson asked if any board members would be interested in attending the fall conference held September 19<sup>th</sup>-21<sup>st</sup> in Polk County and highlighted some of the seminars. Parsons, Danaher, and Montross stated they would be interested and were emailed the registration info.

The next regular meeting is scheduled for Tuesday June 12, 2018 at 6:00 P.M. at the Lake Iowa Nature Center.

With no further discussion, Wehner moved that the meeting be adjourned at 7:20 PM and Parsons seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully,

Chris Anderson, Executive Director  
Iowa County Conservation Board