

Iowa County Conservation Board  
Minutes of Meeting

November 12, 2018

Chris Montross called the regular meeting of the Iowa County Conservation Board to order at 6:00 P.M. at the Round House in the Lake Iowa Park campground.

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

**Open Forum**

- (A) **Public Comment:** Shane Phillips reported that his son, Landon, had completed some brush clearing at the lake as part of his Eagle Scout project. He stated that the project would be a multiphase project. Plans for a brick oven at the Scout Camp will move forward as soon as they get enough brick. More brush clearing will be done by Landon at the Scout Camp to clear an area for a large meeting area with a fire pit.
- (B) **Board Comment:** Wehner asked about the equipment parked at Gateway. Anderson explained that construction crews working on the bridge north of Marengo had been using the Gateway parking area and would clear out when construction on the bridge was complete. Wehner also said the landscaping around the Freedom Rock at Gateway looked great. Anderson stated that posts and chain will also be placed around the rock and that fundraising will be done to build a sidewalk to the rock and a pavilion over the rock. Montross asked about the entrance sign to Lake Iowa. Anderson explained that mural artist, Blake Ross, had offered to paint it but upon completion of the murals in the Nature Center had left without doing so. Anderson stated he planned to contact another conservation department about borrowing their sign router and have ICCB staff refinish the sign. Montross also asked if any problems had arisen with landowner Rick Gates at Simmons Timber Reserve. Anderson read a report filed by Deputy Van Bennekom as follows:

*Shirley Messer 623-3124 from Ladora called in about an incident she had with Rick Gates.  
On Sat 11/10/18 around noon Shirley went down to the conservation ground using the county road. Shirley reported that Rick Gates came down and tried to talk to them but Shirley refused to roll her window down. Shirley said Gates drove around her and blocked the road at the cattle gate. She still refused to speak with Gates or roll her window down. Gates eventually moved and Shirley left.*

Anderson stated no charges were filed.

Gahring moved to approve the minutes from the October 8, 2018 regular meeting. Seconded by Parsons, the motion carried unanimously.

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

**Staff Reports:**

Bulger stated that the Friends Foundation had received a dollar amount from McCullough for the Nature Center displays. They will be sending Mary individual prices for each display so that a few can be selected to install. Bulger also stated that she would be approaching groups to sponsor additional displays.

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**Business:**

- 1) **Friends of ICCB** Envelope stuffing for the annual letter fundraising campaign will take place Thursday November 15th. Bulger reported that an open house was being planned at the Nature Center in December or January for the murals, prairie root, and plans for future displays.
- 2) **ICCB Properties**
  - a) **Gateway Park**

High water levels and flooding are a concern in the south pit. Anderson reported he had spoken to Josh Humphrey, Emergency Management coordinator, about the possibility of pumping water to the north pit. Humphrey had told Anderson that extensive pumping had been done in previous years but had made little difference in water levels due to the size of the lake. There are no plans to pump water from the south pit.
  - b) **Gunderson Wildlife Area**
    - i) Anderson reported that the pond was slowly filling following recent rainfalls.
  - c) **Koszta**

Anderson stated that ICCB will enter into a management agreement with the Department of Natural Resources concerning the approximate 14 acres that lie between the river access managed by the DNR and 212th Blvd.
  - c) **Lake Iowa Park**
    - i) Anderson stated he plans to approach area agencies about ALICE training at Lake Iowa.
    - ii) Anderson reported that 2 teachers from Iowa Valley Schools have agreed to help monitor pollinators, songbirds, and raptors for the Pollinator Songbird Initiative.
    - iii) Anderson stated that ICCB would be working with the landowner adjacent to the lake to clear brush for the water line. Anderson said that he planned to have the project completed by November 2019.

Gahring made a motion that Director Anderson will shave his beard if water is not installed at the Scout Camp before Election Day in 2019. Seconded by Wehner, motion carried unanimously.
- 3) **Events**
  - a) **Programs**
    - i) Bulger relayed that the winter program schedule would include Grapevine Wreath Making, Suet Making, and a Winter Break Fun program. She also stated that the Spring schedule would be set soon.
  - b) **Yoga**
    - i) Berger stated that fitness instructor Athena Seye is interested in teaching yoga classes at the Nature Center and in the campground. Berger will be setting up times for classes with Seye.

The next regular meeting is scheduled for Monday December 10, 2018 at 6:00 P.M. at the Lake Iowa Nature Center.

With no further discussion, Gahring moved that the meeting be adjourned at 6:46 PM and Wehner seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully,

Chris Anderson, Executive Director  
Iowa County Conservation Board