

Iowa County Conservation Board
Meeting Minutes
May 12th, 2022
6:30pm
LINC Library, Lake Iowa Park

1. Shane Phillips called the meeting to order at 6:31 pm at the Lake Iowa Nature Center.

Members of the Iowa County Conservation Board present were: Shane Phillips, Becky Birch, with Rose Danaher and Justin Parsons participating remotely. ICC staff present was Chris Anderson. Guests were: Jason Kriegel and John Hinshaw, Marengo City Council members

2. Pledge of Allegiance

3. Open Forum

(A) Public Comment: Jason Kriegel asked if the road to the river could be done noting that Daryl Kriegel could grade it to reduce potholes.

(B) Board Comment: Shane Phillips remarked that he was happy with the honeysuckle removal and he found ramps while hiking on one of the trails.

4. Approval of Minutes

Motion by Parsons to approve minutes, seconded by Birch. All in favor, minutes approved.

5. Approval of Bills

Anderson noted that the Poweshiek Water billing date has changed and won't be available in time for board meetings so he suggested pre-approving it to avoid late penalties. Motion by Birch to pre-approve Poweshiek Water bill going forward, seconded by Parsons. All in favor, motion approved. Motion by Parsons to approve bills, seconded by Birch. All in favor, motion approved.

6. Tasks and Staff Updates

Anderson informed the board that Bulger has been ill and will be out for an undetermined amount of time. He noted that Hazen-Fabor has stepped up to fill in and other staff have split duties to cover until her return. He noted that one shower house is open and the second one will be open soon.

7. Business

(A) Friends of ICCB: There was no meeting in March and copies of the minutes from the April 7 meeting were provided to the board.

(B) ICCB Properties

a. Gateway Park

i. Gateway Discussion with Marengo City Council Representatives: Marengo City Council member, Jason Kriegel, spoke about the need for boat ramp access to the river. Kriegel explained that the boat ramp put in by the DNR does not provide viable access so it's not used and the old cut out access has

silted in. He read a resolution approved by the Marengo City Council on May 11 in support of boat access to the river. In addition, a copy of a letter from the Iowa County EMS in support of improving boat access was submitted. Kriegel noted that trucks can't get to the old cut out to make improvements to it because the strip of land is too narrow and unstable to allow heavy machinery to access it. He proposed a new cut out further west on more stable ground. A geographic map of the area identifying the old cut out and proposed cut out was reviewed. Anderson reported that he has hit dead ends in attempting to determine the appropriate contact person(s) and agency(ies). The Corps of Engineers' responsibility and DNR's responsibility are undetermined at this time. It's a matter of knowing the right person to contact who will help determine the agencies that need to be involved. Danaher suggested approaching the Rivers Team at the DNR. They were involved with discussions about a proposed trail project along the river in the past. Anderson replied that he will contact the River Teams Director, Nate Hoogeveen. Parsons stated that the Conservation Board can't promise that we can get this done without approval from the DNR and other responsible entities. Kriegel stated that a request to help fund this project could be submitted to the Board of Supervisors. Anderson replied that the request would have to be made for the 2023-24 budget year as the budget for 2022-23 has been set and can't be amended.

- ii. Gateway Triathlon Update: Anderson informed the board that Compass Memorial Healthcare will coordinate volunteers for the event. There will be a 500-meter swim that will be overseen by the dive team. Best access to the lake has yet to be determined. The bike route has not been finalized. The 5K run will be the same route the hospital has used in their past 5K events. The event will have a 300-participant capacity. The hospital will hold a breakfast fundraiser and the city plans to hold events that day.

b. Lake Iowa Park

- i. Watershed Project Update: Anderson reported that the watershed project has been completed. There are a few brush piles that remain but they will eventually be burned.
- ii. Outdoor Adventure Update: Anderson informed the board that he plans to speak with the Rendezvous group to ask for volunteers for the Outdoor Adventure event. Danaher noted that there was some discord regarding business logos on T-shirts for the event last year. There was consensus that all businesses that provide monetary, in-kind and/or service support for the event should be recognized. Danaher will follow up on this issue.

8. The next meeting will be Thursday, June 9, 2022.

9. Motion by Birch to adjourn. Meeting adjourned at 7:41 pm.