

Iowa County Conservation Board
Minutes of Meeting
January 13, 2021

Danaher called the regular meeting of the Iowa County Conservation Board to order at 6:49 P.M. at the Lake Iowa Nature Center.

Members of the Iowa County Conservation Board present were: Chris Montross, Rose Danaher, and Justin Parsons. ICC Staff present were Chris Anderson, Cecilia Dirks, and Shelley Berger. Shane Phillips was unable to attend, so Danaher led the meeting.

Open Forum

(A) Public Comment: None

(B) Board Comment: Montross wanted an update on new board member. Anderson had suggested Molly Bishop. She has a business in Williamsburg that encourages outdoor play. He thought she would be a good fit, Parsons agreed.

Becky Birch had also been suggested. No decisions have been made.

Parsons moved to approve the minutes from the December 14, 2020 regular meeting. Seconded by Montross, the motion carried unanimously.

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

Task Tracking Discussion:

Dirks gave a report on what the seasonal crew has been working on. They have gotten every big project done on the list so all extra work they have been doing is a bonus.

Danaher requested a few sentences to summarize the month from everyone so the board can know what has been going on at the parks.

Business:

(A) **Friends of ICCB** They have been opening donation letters from the letter drive.

(B) **ICCB Properties**

1) Cabin usage is up for winter season and booking for summer is well under way.

a. Winter campground usage is also up with turbine workers staying

2) Gateway camping update: requests have been sent to plumbers, electricians, and earthmovers

a. Becker Earthmoving has been the first to respond and he is working up a proposal for full hookups. He built full hookups for Amana

b. Danaher requested Anderson write up something to get public comment about Gateway campground. It is important to include local voices.

3) English River WMA? Lake Iowa Project update: They sent us a plan for several retention ponds below the nature center, but it will destroy part of the limestone trail that goes down to the pond.

Anderson wanted approval to request a plan that does not destroy the trail or build into the plan replacing the limestone trail.

Danaher explained why brome is a popular choice in seed mixes on structures, but said we could request a different seed mix because we have the ability and knowledge to maintain natives.

Danaher liked the idea of adding new habitats to the park. She mentioned that the trail needs some areas of shade.

Board agreed that ICC is interested only if they do not destroy the trail or they pay to replace.

(C) Events- Mary is using both Facebook and Youtube to create virtual learning opportunities. She has been learning from what is getting the most views and adapting her videos.

Dirks has been trying some popup snowshoe programs. Anderson requested better advertising for events. If the public has an interest in borrowing snowshoes, they can email her and she will figure out a rental policy. No interest yet.

The board thanked Berger for her work on the ICCB book. They are all looking forward to reading it.

The next regular meeting will be February 9th 2021 at 6:30 pm.

With no further discussion, Montross moved that the meeting be adjourned at 7:23 PM and Parsons seconded. The motion carried unanimously.