

Iowa County Conservation Board

Agenda

Regular Meeting

Thursday January 12, 2022

6:30 P.M.

Lake Iowa Nature Center, Lake Iowa Park

Attend meeting virtually at the link below

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/84175527971>

Attendance: Board Members; Chris Montross, Becky Birch, Rose Danaher, Shane Phillips, Justin Parsons ~ Staff; Chris Anderson, Gage Hazen-Fabor

1. Call to Order: 6:38

2. Pledge of Allegiance

3. Open Forum

(A) Public Comment : Parsons addresses Ackerman's concern that we should consider contacting ducks unlimited to revise Fuller addition's wetland low levels. Anderson stands behind the idea that Fuller is dry due to drought conditions we have had for the last several years. Phillips addresses that we have made tremendous improvements by increasing lakeside fishing access to satisfy Akerman's complaints on lack bank fishing access spots around the lake.

(B) Board Comment : Danaher addresses sand hill crane/prairie chicken/sharp tailed grouse observation bus tour opportunity with Benton and Buchanan county conservation if anyone is interested. Parsons mentions a podcast that goes over our diminishing state of natural resources if anyone is interested.

4. Approval of Minutes: Montross motions to approve minutes, Danaher seconds, minutes approved

5. Approval of Bills: Birch approves bills, Parsons seconds, bills approved

6. Staff Updates: Birch asks about the Alaskan sawmill and plans we have with it. Hazen-Fabor mentions we have started to make some boards that we can use in later projects with Iowa County Conservation.

7. Business

(A) Friends of ICCB

- a. Iowa County Conservation requests that the Friends of ICCB take on projects like the remodeling of the handicap fishing pier and the south boat ramp at Gateway Park. They will be meeting on January 17. Anderson states that Mary Buldger will work on a message to send to friends about said projects.

(B) ICCB Properties

- a. Gateway

i. Estimated costs for running campground at Gateway

Anderson breaks down costs for what running a campground at gateway would look like. Anderson figures on average that we would make around 11,200 in revenue per camping season. Parsons mentions that it would be beneficial to get an idea of how many campsites there are in marengo to then have a better idea of how busy those stay to predict the usage of a campground at gateway. He also adds that it is important for the board of supervisors to have a good understanding of the startup costs of a campground at gateway, along with all the annual costs of operations and Maintenance to maintain it.

b. Lake Iowa Park:

i. Focus on opening up Lake Trail ongoing with winter seasonal

Anderson updates the board on lake trail, Maintenance has continued with pruning trees, invasive removal, and felling of hazard trees. Anderson also mentions beaver activity on the north end of the lake trail and potential removal of the beaver.

ii. Invasive removal paused due to weather and JCB needs new tracks.

Tracks are ordered.

Anderson updates the board that we need new tracks on our skid steer at Lake Iowa Park as the tracks on it now are well over their life expectancy. He adds that this is likely the reason the skid steer keeps slipping tracks, preventing usage of the skid steer.

c. I-80 Wildlife Area

i. Working with County Engineer and DOT to see about adding access for the public and improve maintenance.

Anderson mentions that he is working with the DOT access and utility service to add an access road and a parking area to the I-80 wildlife area. Danaher adds that we have tried to tackle that bridge years ago with no luck, but it is worth another try. She also mentions that pheasant forever would be willing to help purchase a lane for access if needed.

8. Scheduling of Next Meeting- Thursday February 9, 2022

9. Adjournment: Meeting adjourned at 7:20 by Shane Phillips