



CLAYTON COUNTY CONSERVATION

Promote the health and general welfare of the people; to model and encourage preservation, conservation, education and recreation through responsible use and appreciation of our natural resources and cultural heritage.

Jan 9, 2024

BOARD MEETING

6pm Osborne Conservation Center

Due to weather this meeting was held via Zoom. Chairman, Daryl Landsgard called the meeting to order at 6:00pm. Members present included Larry Stone, Dave Asche, Gary Kregel and Natasha Hegmann. Guest present was MJ Smith. Director Jenna Pollock and office staff Molly Scherf were also present.

A motion to approve the agenda with amendments was made by Stone and seconded by Kregel. Unanimous vote.

A motion to approve the minutes of the previous meeting was made by Hegmann and seconded by Stone. Unanimous vote.

A motion to approve the claims, monthly utilities and authorize Director Pollock to sign them was made by Kregel and seconded by Stone, Unanimous vote.

Financial Report & Endowment Statement was reviewed.

Old Business

1. Elect Officers 2024 – Postponed to next in-person meeting.
2. Review Bylaws—The board reviewed and no changes or corrections needed.
3. Consider Approval of Annual Report Draft – The board reviewed and approved.
4. Review 2023 Virtual Guestbook – Pollock showed the board some of the data from park guests filling out our short guestbook. The board suggested adding a question to it asking for suggestions.
5. Review 2023 Turkey River Recreational Corridor Annual Report – The board reviewed the report. They had no questions or comments.

New Business

1. Discuss Energy Coordinator Position:
 - a. MJ Smith from Community Foundation of Greater Dubuque Partnership joined the discussion to try and answer some of the questions that the board members had about this position. MJ began by providing the board with how much Community Foundation has helped with endowments and grants for CCCB and Motor Mill Foundation over the years and well as other endowments throughout the county.

She is working with the Clayton County Energy District and a donor to Community Foundation who together would like to create this position for technical assistance and education for energy projects for non-taxable groups such as churches, schools, libraries, hospitals, county buildings, etc. MJ feels after a poll was done that these entities are ready for these services and believes conservation is the right place to host the position.

Community Foundation has worked with Endow Iowa who has 20 years' experience dealing with tax credits. They will be willing to assist this person with any issues that may arise. Coaching assistance will be a part of the role beyond the education component. This portion could also possibly be done by a staff member from Decorah (I didn't catch the name) or the Energy District.

Kregel expressed support for the educational initiative but was against Conservation Staff assisting with tax credit filing paperwork. The board asked Pollock to research further how proprietary information gathered from energy assessments would be shared, if at all. Kregel suggested that the Energy District be responsible for assisting with filling out the paperwork. Kregel expressed concerns that the voluntary process to participate in an energy assessment would become a mandatory requirement for the participant of services to comply, and that the county would be the middleman for providing the program in the first place.

Hegmann asked how the percentage of work would be divided. Pollock thought it would be around 75% education and 25% administration, record keeping, tracking, networking. She also expressed how they would also be very helpful in taking on some of the weekend duties of current staff.

MJ explained that she is in conversations with two other conservation boards and would need to have an answer soon to get this rolling on our end or she will move on.

2. Consider Approval of FY25 Budget Following Budget Work Session –

Pollock showed the board how the General Fund for FY25 is \$811,685 which is an 8.5% overall increase. This includes the potential new position with the reduction of seasonal help as well as 5% increase for full-time staff. She believes the Board of Supervisors is looking for everyone to keep budgets closer to a 3% increase. Pollock spoke with each Supervisor and they had positive conversations and were all supportive of this new position.

No other changes were made in the Reserve, REAP, or Revenue accounts.

Kregel made a motion to approve the FY25 budget with the stipulation that he doesn't support the Energy District Coordinator position, seconded by Stone. Unanimous vote.

Upcoming Programs/Events available at www.claytoncountyconservation.org

Meeting Adjourned – Kregel made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:45PM, Stone seconded. Unanimous vote.

Next meeting scheduled: February 13, 2024 Osborne 6pm (Elections)