

Harrison County Conservation Board
Monthly Meeting Minutes
Monday, May 8, 2023
Willow Lake Headquarters

The Harrison County Conservation Board (HCCB) held its regular May meeting on Monday, May 8, 2023, at the Willow Lake Headquarters. President Ben McIntosh called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm. Those members present were Nate Epperson, and Kris Pauley. Also present were Sarah Epperson, Naturalist Connie Betts, Supervisor Tony Smith, and Director Scott Nelson. Kimberly Nunez joined the meeting at 7:30 pm and Danelle Myer called in at 8:00 pm.

A motion to approve the Consent Agenda, Bills, and Minutes was made by Pauley, seconded by Epperson. Motion carried.

There were no Public Comments.

Nelson gave the following Updates:

- Byron Vennink had his 25-year work anniversary!
- 69 acres of CRP at the Old Town Conservation Area were re-enrolled for 10 years at a rate of \$265/acre. Also, 10 acres of new enrollment were added to the contract at a rate of \$300/acre.
- 2 interns have started for the summer season and the remaining two will be starting around Memorial Day weekend.
- The trees from the IDNR Tree Grant program were planted with the help of Woodbine School groups.
- The Loess Hills Cooperative Burn Week went very well.
- The IDNR Fisheries were at Willow Lake to shock and stock the new silt structure pond.
- The annual membership to Iowa's County Conservation System was paid for the next fiscal year.

Willow Lake Nature Center:

- a. Those present toured the project site.
- b. A motion to accept Pay Application #20 in the amount of \$184,488.00 was made by Pauley, seconded by Epperson. Motion carried.
- c. There was not a McCullough Creative Invoice.
- d. Updates:
 - a. The parking lot and sidewalks have been poured. The back stairs and main entrance will be poured in the coming week.
 - b. Staff is working with internet providers and ICE Technologies for all the Wi-Fi components.
 - c. Mecco-Henne Construction has indicated that the interior of the building should be completed by mid-May.
 - d. McCullough Creative is scheduled to begin installation of the wall graphics after Memorial Day. Exhibits will follow.
 - e. Reimbursements have been requested to the Iowa West Foundation and to the CAT Grant program. Thanks to Laura Hansen for the assistance.

The Board reviewed the updated Willow Lake Nature Center Usage Policy. Betts answered questions and indicated that this is a document that can and will be reviewed on a rolling basis. A motion to approve the Willow Lake Nature Center Usage Policy and Procedures was made by Epperson, seconded by Nunez. Motion carried.

Nelson presented Resolution 2023-4 for a grant request to the Gilchrist Foundation to assist with the exhibits and displays for the WLNC in the amount of \$5,000. A motion to accept the Resolution was made by Pauley, seconded by Epperson. Motion carried.

The Board reviewed the Commercial Concession Contract for the Mogart Bait Vending Shed to be placed at the Willow Lake Recreation Area. After discussion and questions, a motion to approve entering into a contract with Mogart Bait was made by Pauley, seconded by Epperson, to include signage that this effort is a collaboration with the HCCB. Motion carried.

Nelson updated the Board on the Fall Conference, hosted by the HCCB and Pottawattamie CCB. Both parties have been working with the state-wide group, along with varying sponsors. Help will be needed by all staff and Board members, with more information coming in the months ahead. Nelson will be in contact with everyone to determine who is staying overnight in Council Bluffs, along with shirt sizes for being a host participant.

Department Reports were reviewed.

In Future/Other Business: the next meeting will be June 5th with location to be determined.

With no further business, a motion was made by Pauley to adjourn at 8:50 pm.

Ben McIntosh, President

Nate Epperson, Vice-President

Danelle Myer, Secretary