

Ida County Conservation Board: Meeting Minutes

299 Jasper Ave., Ida Grove, IA, 51445

Monday, June 12th, 2023

6:00pm, Conservation Center, Moorehead Park

Board Members Present: Synnda Jepsen, chair; Sue Knop, and Don Poggensee.

Others Present: Zach Hall, Director

The June 12th, ICCB business meeting was called to order at 6:02pm by Synnda Jepsen.

Primary Agenda Topics:

- **ICCB agenda:** A motion to pass the agenda was made by Don and seconded by Sue, all were in favor.
- **Minutes:** A motion to approve the May 8th minutes was made by Sue, seconded by Synnda, all were in favor.
- **Monthly Bills:** Maintenance supplies, chemicals, programs, and insurance. A motion to approve the bills was made by Don, seconded by Sue, and all were in favor.
- **Budget:** Hall reported the YTD expenditures, revenue, UBI bank balance, and monthly standings. The budget is on track with the remainder of the year.
- **Public Input:** ICCB discussed the Douglas School Grounds north of Holstein and agreed to continuously manage the property in perpetuity to protect the historical and conservation traits of the property. The discussion included valuing preservation of Ida County's history and natural heritage as a priority over financial benefits. The ICCB's management decision will be passed onto the Douglas Township trustees. Other discussions included beaver damage and future trapping opportunities.

Secondary agenda topics: FY24 Meetings, FY24 Items, ICCB update, Group Paddle Event, Dept. Revenue Request, Dept. Policies, CCRA Campground, Rx Fire, Grants, ICCB and partners, and open discussion.

FY24 Meetings: Meeting dates and times for Fiscal Year 2024 were voted on and approved. The document listing the dates and times for ICCB meetings can be found on the following website:

<https://www.mycountyparks.com/County/Ida/Content/Meetings.aspx>.

FY24 Items: ICCB voted to approve of an annual mower lease program with C&B and to purchase a dump trailer from Hitches, Trailers, and More.

ICCB update: Staff have been busy with grants, projects, operations, and educational programs.

Group Paddle Event: Conservation Agencies attempting to make the Little Sioux River a State Designated Water Trail are scheduling a group paddle event that ICCB Staff and Board will consider participating in.

Dept. Revenue Request: ICCB discussed the mechanisms of keeping campground and cabin revenue for park improvements. Don made the motion for the ICCB director to make a request to the Board of Supervisors to allow the conservation department to deposit camping and cabin revenue into the Conservation Purposes for future projects and for the department's property tax support to adjust to the fiscal year 2024 budget levels. Sue seconded the motion, and all were in favor. The request will be completed as the new fiscal year approaches.

Dept. Policies: ICCB reviewed facility contracts. ICCB approved permitting dogs in cabins, but the policy will only include Willow cabin to explore the pros and cons of the management decision over time. There will be a onetime \$25 fee added to Willow cabin when a guest has a dog staying inside the cabin. ICCB voted to charge \$70/day for the Crawford Creek Lodge, an increase of \$5/day.

CCRA Campground: ICCB agreed to develop 5 reservable campsites at Crawford Creek Recreation Area. ICCB staff will process this request during the current camping season.

Rx Fire: Fairview Cemetery, Douglas School Grounds, Moorehead Park cemetery, and MH park entrance were burned in prescription for supporting native plant compositions.

Grants: Hall submitted the Wildlife Habitat Stamp grant application, a request for \$347,000, for purchasing Smith's Wildlife Habitat Area. POET Approved of Hall's Community Grant application for \$1,000 to be directed at the land acquisition project.

ICCB and partners: The Conservation Foundation is doing the staycation raffle this year. Ticket sales will be completed by ICCF members. ICCF voted to support ICCB's playscape development by buying \$500 worth of native prairie plugs.

Open Discussion: ICCS fall conference attendance and time off requests for staff were granted.

After discussion, the ICCB meeting adjourned at 8:00pm. The next ICCB public meeting is **Monday, July 10th, 2023**, at 6:00pm at Moorehead Park's Conservation Center.