

Ida County Conservation Board: Meeting Minutes

299 Jasper Ave., Ida Grove, IA, 51445

Monday, March 13th, 2023

6:00pm, Conservation Center, Moorehead Park

Board Members Present: Synda Jepsen, chair; Randy Vogt, vice-chair, Sue Knop, Dennis Leonard, and Don Poggensee.

Others Present: Zach Hall - ICCB Director

The March 13th, ICCB business meeting was called to order at 6:10pm by Synda Jepsen.

Primary Agenda Topics:

- **ICCB agenda:** A request to amend the agenda was made by Hall to include discussion on the Little Sioux River Water Trail. The request was approved by the ICCB.
- **Minutes:** A motion to approve the Feb. 13th minutes was made by Sue, seconded by Synda, and all were in favor.
- **Monthly Bills:** Equipment, memberships, and technology. A motion to approve the bills was made by Don, seconded by Randy, and all were in favor.
- **Budget:** Hall reported the YTD expenditures, revenue, UBI bank balance, and monthly & quarterly budget predictions. Expenditures for the month are on track of the budget predictions.
- **Public Input:** Crooked Spurs requested a donation of camping/cabins to raffle off during their fundraising event. ICCB voted to approve this unanimously.

Secondary agenda topics: ICCB update, Prescribed Fire, Department Policies, PWS Operations, CCRA Boat Ramp, Grants, WHS Resolution, ICCB & ICCF, FY23 budget, FY24 budget, and open discussion.

ICCB's update: Staff have been busy with training events, park management, and educational programs.

Little Sioux Water Trail: The National Park Service is assisting District Three of Iowa's County Conservation System and the Iowa DNR to designate the Little Sioux River, officially named the Inkpaduta Water Trail, as a State Designated Water Trail. This will help counties with a river access apply to funding from the state to improve water trail elements.

Prescribed Fire: Staff will be lining up prescribed fire plans on ICCB properties to enhance habitat management, shoreline access, and rejuvenate vegetative areas.

Department Policies: ICCB reviewed their facility reservation policies associated with staff use. ICCB decided that ICCB staff are considered public users and will be charged normal pricing.

PWS Operations: Moorehead Park is being evaluated by ICCB for water infrastructure improvements.

CCRA Boat ramp: Ida County Board of Supervisors approved of the boat ramp dredging and shoreline armoring project at Crawford Creek Recreation area. Work is scheduled to be completed this spring. All hard materials used were donated to the ICCB; the county staff and equipment will be utilized.

ICCB and ICCF: ICCB reviewed partnered projects that ICCF is pursuing.

Grants: A re-appraisal of the Smith WHA was completed and paid for by the Ida Co. Pheasants Forever.

WHS Resolution: The ICCB voted and approved of Hall's proposed Wildlife Habitat Stamp Grant Resolution. The ICCB will apply to this state grant and will request \$365,000 directed towards paying off the Rich Smith Wildlife Habitat Area.

FY2023 Budget: FY2023 budget amendments are planned to be implemented in April 2023.

FY2024 Budget: ICCB received a 12.3% increase to ICCB's tax expenditure budget but this is unsure with new valuations potentially coming through. ICCB director Hall, requested the Board of Supervisors to modernize the ICCB valuation rate and deposit their park revenue into a Conservation Purposes account. This request was declined this fiscal year. ICCB plans to make this same request in Fiscal Year 2024, considering having the same tax valuation rate for 25 years.

Open Discussion: ICCB discussed community engagement through public events.

After discussion, the ICCB meeting adjourned at 7:50pm. The next ICCB public meeting is **Wednesday, April 12th, 2023**, at 6:00pm at Moorehead Park's Conservation Center.