

Ida County Conservation Board (ICCB): Meeting Minutes

299 Jasper Ave., Ida Grove, IA, 51445

Monday, July 10th, 2023

6:00pm, Conservation Center, Moorehead Park

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

Others Present: Zach Hall, Director

The July 10th, ICCB business meeting was called to order at 6:04pm by Synnda Jepsen.

Primary Agenda Topics:

- **ICCB agenda:** A motion to pass the agenda was made by Sue and seconded by Synnda, all were in favor.
- **Minutes:** A motion to approve the June 12th and 19th minutes was made by Don, seconded by Sue, all were in favor.
- **Monthly Bills:** Billing discussion included a mower lease with C&B, dump trailer purchase, Aquatic Invasive Species application, and refrigeration units in the parks. 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 standings. FY24 July General Basic expenditures are 1% ahead of the monthly budget predictions. The 2023 online revenue is down compared to 2022 by \$3,437.
- **Public Input:** ICCB discussed the CCRA beach, facility charges, and park amenities.

Secondary agenda topics:

ICCB update: Staff have been busy with projects, park operations, and summer camps.

Dept. Revenue Request: The Ida County Board of Supervisors (BoS) partially approved the Conservation Board's request to save department revenue for park improvements. All cabin revenue ICCB receives will now be deposited into a Conservation Purposes savings account for use at the ICCB's discretion. The resolution to guide the management of cabin revenue was signed at the July 11th BoS meeting.

CCRA Campground: Holiday camping filled the park to 100% occupancy. A few park users were confronted regarding breaking park regulations. Camping revenue was reported to be down for the season compared to previous years. A new information board was mounted at the top shower house.

Dept. Policies: Willow cabin now permits dogs inside with a \$25 one-time pet fee, regardless of the duration of stay. ICCB agreed that swimming is only permitted at the beach and it's at the public's own risk to maintain their safety in the absence of a lifeguard.

Grants: ICCB's Wildlife Habitat Stamp (WHS) Grant application will be reviewed by the grant committee no later than July 19th. The ICCB WHS application was for ~\$347,000 to help fund the acquisition of Smith's Wildlife Habitat Area. Total committed fundraising to date from all financial sources is \$431,200 or 55.3% of the purchase price. No decision has been made by the WHS grant committee as of July 10th.

ICCB and partners: The Ida County Conservation Foundation is hosting Trail of the Dragon in Moorehead Park the first weekend in August. The Ida County Pheasants Forever recently supported Smith's WHA projects, such as prescribe fire through Battle Creek Volunteer Fire Department.

FY22-26 Capital Improvements Plan: ICCB voted to pursue a Fish Habitat Grant in 2023 at Crawford Creek Recreation Area for shoreline armoring in front of the cabins, along a high-use public area. The project's objective will be to improve accessibility and to reduce erosion of the lake's shore. ICCB is still discussing other FY24 projects.

Open Discussion: Moorehead Park Forest Management Plans and Crawford Creek prairie restoration.

After discussion, the ICCB meeting adjourned at 7:55pm. The next ICCB public meeting is **Monday, August 14th, 2023**, at 6:00pm at the Lodge at Crawford Creek's Recreation Area. ICCB meetings and documents can be found at: <https://www.mycountyparks.com/County/Ida/Content/Meetings.aspx>.