

Ida County Conservation Board (ICCB): Meeting Minutes

299 Jasper Ave., Ida Grove, IA, 51445

Monday, February 12th, 2024

6:00pm, Conservation Center, Moorehead Park

Board Members Present: Synda Jepsen, chair, Sue Knop, Dennis Leonard, and Don Poggensee.

Others Present: Zach Hall, Director

The February 12th ICCB business meeting was called to order at 6:11pm by Synda Jepsen.

Primary Agenda Topics:

- **ICCB agenda:** A motion to pass the agenda was made by Sue and seconded by Dennis, all were in favor.
- **Minutes:** A motion to approve the January 11th minutes was made by Dennis, seconded by Sue, all were in favor.
- **Monthly Bills:** ICCB discussed expenses for vehicle repairs and safety equipment. A motion to approve the bills was made by Don, seconded by Dennis, and all were in favor.
- **Budget:** Hall reported the YTD expenditures, revenue, UBI account balance, and monthly standings. FY24 January expenditures are on track with monthly budget predictions at 36.4% of ICCB's General Basic remaining.
- **Public Input:** ICCB reviewed a comment on ATV usage for ice fishing.

Secondary agenda topics:

ICCB update: Staff have been working on continued training, park maintenance, and educational programs.

Internet at CCRA: ICCB received an estimate for fiber optic installation to the Crawford Creek lodge. No official decision occurred this month. The estimate is to be discussed with the county board of supervisors on February 27th.

ICCBF grant: ICCB voted to pass a resolution to apply to the Ida County Community Betterment Foundation Grant for a safe mobility path from the lower campground to the lower bathroom/shower house. ADA compliance guidelines were listed to ensure following the protocol for new constructions.

Ida County Credit Card policy: The Ida County board of supervisors voted to pass a new credit card policy for departments. ICCB director reported the department is compliant with the county policy.

Tree stands: ICCB staff recognized multiple private citizen tree stands mounted in the parks after hunting season. ICCB voted to update their policy to include the DNR's regulation of "7 days prior to 7 days after" the closing of the season, increased the confiscation fee, and included that after 30 days a confiscated stand becomes the property of ICCB. This policy will be posted in the parks and published to the public at least 10 days prior to be enforced. Fall 2024 the policy will be in full effect. The amended policy includes the following language, "All tree stands and blinds used for hunting, photographing, and viewing wildlife shall be temporary. All blinds and stands shall include the owner's name and address on the bottom of the stand in such a manner that it can be read from the ground. No person shall drive or otherwise place any nail, spike, pin or any other object into any tree on county property for the purpose of construction a blind or stand. Stands and blinds may be up not more than 7 days before deer hunting season (bow and arrow) and must be removed within 7 days after the close of the season. All stands and blinds **not** meeting these qualifications will be removed by the county conservation board staff. Confiscated stands may be returned to the owner for a fee of ~~\$50.00 per stand~~ \$100 per stand within 30 days of confiscation. After 30 days, the tree stand becomes property of the ICCB."

Facebook Data: In late January, the previous 28 days of Facebook reach totaled 6,566 people. Followers total 1,791 in 2024, up 10.9% year over year.

IA DNR Grants: ICCB's Fish Habitat grant is pending approval by the DNR's Natural Resource Commission as of the date of this meeting. However, ICCB wanted to address the potential grant contract to avoid hosting a special meeting or waiting till the March meeting to enter into a contract agreement. Jepsen, made the motion: if ICCB is awarded the DNR Fish Habitat Grant then ICCB will accept the terms and conditions listed in the DNR Fish Habitat grant contract and it is to be signed by the ICCB Director. Poggensee seconded this motion. Discussion included ICCB requesting the maximum percentage of the project funding

Commented [ZH1]: Amended February Minutes during March 11th ICCB meeting: Update tree stand policy. Don motioned to increase the fee to \$100, Dennis 2nded. Vote occurred, Randy, Dennis, and Don voted in favor. Sue and Synda voted against the policy. The policy passes.

upfront, listed at 80% of the total project, in line with the grant protocol. This request for funding upfront was added to the motion. ICCB voted unanimously to support the grant project. Specifically, the project is for shoreline armoring along Crawford Creek Lake in front of the cabins for water quality and fish habitat.

ICCB and Partners: ICCB recently received an invoice for \$25,000 for interest accrued on the Smith WHA property during the two-year project. Ida County Pheasants Forever agreed to support Smith WHA interest bill with \$10,000 of funding, ICCF supported with \$5,000, Crooked Spurs of NWTf supported with \$5,000, and ICCB paid in \$5,000. The total allocation from all partners covered the interest invoice.

Park Repairs: ICCB is waiting on sign replacement materials for donors of the “Friends of Moorehead Park Tree planting”. The sign was recently vandalized and it will be replaced with a name plaque posted in the Conservation Center.

CCRA Habitat Restoration: Soon, a transition of management plans based on the season will occur.

FY24 CIP: As FY24 is moving to spring, funding will go towards road maintenance in Moorehead Park and Crawford Creek Recreation Area.

FY25 Planning: ICCB discussed their FY25 county department’s budget scenarios. FY25 budget guidance has not been provided from the BoS. Last meeting, ICCB reviewed bottom line increases from 8-11% with no vote taking place based on the county timeline. ICCB will wait to decide on their budget lines until after conversations with county leadership occur.

Open Discussion: Conservation Center internet services and Goats on the Go.

After discussion, the ICCB meeting adjourned at 8:06pm. The next ICCB public meeting is **Monday, March 11th, 2024**, at 6:00pm at the Conservation Center in Moorehead Park. ICCB meeting schedule and documents can be found at: <https://www.mycountyparks.com/County/Ida/Content/Meetings.aspx>.