

Ida County Conservation Board (ICCB): Meeting Minutes

299 Jasper Ave., Ida Grove, IA, 51445

Thursday, November 9th, 2023

6:00pm, Conservation Center, Moorhead Park

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

Others Present: Zach Hall, Director

The November 9th ICCB business meeting was called to order at 6:02pm by Synda 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 October 18th minutes was made by Sue, seconded by Dennis, all were in favor.
- **Monthly Bills:** ICCB discussed expenses for training, water heaters, and 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 November expenditures are on track with annual plans at 56.5% of ICCB's General Basic remaining. Camping and cabin rental revenue values were reported lower than last year.
- **Public Input:** Maple River Ducks Unlimited fundraising donation request was approved. Historical Society programming was discussed.

Secondary agenda topics:

ICCB and Partners: ICCB discussed future projects in partnership with ICCF. ICCF voted to support a naturalist intern in 2024 and ICCB's Fish Habitat Stamp grant fall 2023. ICCB welcomed the support.

ICCB update: ICCB staff are transitioning to fall and winter projects: grant applications and plumbing upgrades. Hedberg completed S-130/S-190/L-180 wildland fire training in Ponca State Park.

CCRA Campground: Crawford Creek campgrounds water supply is shutdown for the winter.

Halloween Hike and Campoween: Revenue reports for the Halloween events were discussed, with an estimated 400 people participating in the Halloween Hike Event. 2024 events are being scheduled.

Park Repairs: ICCB approved of a quote by Hemmer's Plumbing and Heating to fix a bathroom pipe leak at the Depot in MH park.

REAP Assembly: Holstein, Ida Grove, Ida SWCD, Ida CCB had representation at the REAP meeting in Correctionville. The Ida County group decided to develop a local committee to address the State's Resource Enhancement and Protection program. The committee has not been fully developed.

IA DNR Grant Contract: Funding from the state grant was forwarded to Iowa Natural Heritage Foundation to finish the bulk payments for the Rich Smith Wildlife Habitat Area.

Fish Habitat Grant: ICCB passed a resolution to apply to the DNR's fish habitat grant program to address shoreline erosion at Crawford Creek Recreation Area in front of the cabins.

FY25 Planning: ICCB staff will solicit quotes for FY25 projects. ICCB voted to pursue heating and cooling at the Crawford Creek Recreation Area lodge, to request Ida County Board of Supervisors for potential financial assistance with WiFi at the park through ARPA, and to consider developing a Habitat Management line item out of the REAP account in the next budget cycle.

Open Discussion: Financial planning projects, department funding, and using goats to manage honey suckle and buckthorn invasive plants.

After discussion, the ICCB meeting adjourned at 8:43pm. The next ICCB public meeting is **Monday, December 11th, 2023**, 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>.