

WINNEBAGO COUNTY CONSERVATION BOARD

Regular Meeting, February 8, 2010 - 8:00 A.M.
At the Thorpe Park Office, 34496 110th Ave., Forest City, Iowa

Minutes

Board Members Present

John Carlson
Mike Korth
Roger Hermanson
Rick Hofbauer

Board Member Absent

Dave Thorland

Staff Present

Robert Schwartz
Rick Lillie

Guest

Willie Wubben, BOS

Chairman Carlson called the meeting to order at 8:00 A.M.

The February 8, 2010 Board meeting agenda was approved with a motion from Hermanson, seconded by Hofbauer. Unanimous. Motion carried.

The January 11, 2010 Board meeting minutes were approved with a motion from Hofbauer, seconded by Hermanson. Unanimous. Motion carried.

Work and budgets reports were reviewed.

A donation of \$20.00 from John and Karen Monson, Forest City, in memory of Bill Ruspino and Don Soderling was approved with a motion from Hofbauer, seconded by Hermanson. Unanimous. Motion carried. The donation is to be applied towards the youth fishing and education programs.

Schwartz informed the Board that the FY2010-2011 proposed Conservation budget approved at the January meeting had not included funds for property insurance which would cover buildings and equipment due to a miscommunication with the auditor's office. After discussion the addition of \$2,700.00 for the Real Property Insurance line item to the Conservation Budget General Supplemental was approved with a motion from Hofbauer, seconded by Hermanson. Unanimous. Motion carried.

Schwartz updated the Board on the status of the Emergency Watershed Protection (EWP) easement for land located in Norway 28 and Newton 25. Schwartz informed the Board that the EWP easement closing for the Schmoll tract in Norway 28 was scheduled for this week. The easement payment will be in the amount of \$34,381.00. The closing of the easement for land in the Block Wildlife Area in Newton 25 should take place within the next two weeks.

After discussion, payment in the amount of \$83,155.75 from the Conservation Trust Fund to the Iowa Natural Heritage Foundation for the purchase of 80 acres more or less in Section 17, Newton township was approved with a motion from Hofbauer, seconded by Hermanson. Unanimous. Motion carried. Funding for the purchase will come from a NAWCA grant and a donation from the Winnebago-Hancock Chapter of Pheasants Forever.

The Board reviewed camping fees for 2010 at Dahle Park. Schwartz reported that since the Board raised the per night camping fee at Dahle Park to \$12.00 reservations were down significantly while camping reservations at Thorpe Park had remained about the same from 2008 and 2009. After discussion, the per night camping fee at Dahle Park was lowered to \$5.00 per night for 2010 with a motion from Hofbauer, seconded by Hermanson. Unanimous. Motion carried.

The Board discussed the idea of creating a conservation foundation that would work to raise funds to promote conservation education, nature center and other capital improvement projects. Schwartz indicated approximately 59 conservation boards in Iowa now have nature centers. Schwartz gave the members examples of what the Articles of Incorporation and Bylaws for a conservation foundation for review. No action was taken. The subject will be discussed again at the March Board meeting.

Payment of monthly bills was approved with a motion from Hermanson, seconded by Korth. Unanimous. Motion carried.

Chairman Carlson adjourned the meeting at 9:00 A.M. with a motion from Hermanson, seconded by Korth. Unanimous. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Chairman

Robert Schwartz
Executive Director

Secretary