

WINNEBAGO COUNTY CONSERVATION BOARD

Regular Meeting, February 09, 2009–8:00 P.M.
At the Thorpe Park Office, 34496 110th Ave., Forest City, Iowa

Minutes

Board Members Present

Mike Korth
Rick Hofbauer
Dave Thorland

Board Members Absent

Roger Hermanson
John Carlson

Staff Present

Robert Schwartz
Lisa Ralls
Rick Lillie

Guests

Willie Wubben, BOS
Matt Washburn, Conservation Officer, IDNR

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

The February 09, 2009 agenda and the January 12, 2009 meeting minutes were approved with a motion from Hofbauer, seconded by Korth. Unanimous. Motion carried.

Work and budgets reports were reviewed.

Quotes to supply the Winnebago County Conservation Board with herbicides to be used in the control of roadside noxious weeds and brush in 2009 were reviewed. After discussion, the quote of Van Diest Supply Company, Webster City, Iowa in the amount of \$15,728.89 was approved with a motion from Hofbauer, seconded by Korth. Unanimous. Motion carried.

The Board approved a Waldorf College/Winnebago County Conservation Board student work study agreement for the 2009 – 2010 school academic year with a motion from Hofbauer, seconded by Korth. Unanimous. Motion carried.

Schwartz updated the Board on the progress of the Thorpe Park cabin renovation project. The Board also discussed ways to increase the public's awareness about the future availability of the cabin.

Matt Washburn, Conservation Officer with the Iowa Department of Natural Resources was present to update the Board on fish and game regulations for 2009. Washburn indicated that refuge changes at the Elk Creek Wildlife Management Area were being considered. He informed the Board that Bluegill and Crappie will now each have a 25

per day catch limit and that new regulations have been established for the harvesting of ginseng which is a very sought after plant. He also stated that local deer populations are stable to somewhat lower than previous in years according to recent aerial surveys conducted by the IDNR.

Schwartz presented the Board with preliminary plans for construction of a shooting range at the Hogsback Wildlife Area. Schwartz indicated that two overhead shelters with concrete floors would be constructed to provide shooting for long and short range firearms. Wooden shooting benches and informational signage would also be part of the plan. The total cost is estimated at \$2,500. Whitetails Unlimited has agreed to donate \$2,500 and manpower if needed to assist with constructing the range according to Schwartz. Discussion followed about using the Florence Recreation Area for a shooting range. No further action was taken.

Schwartz informed the Board that Emma Bruemmer, Iowa Department of Natural Resources Operation Releaf Coordinator had contacted him regarding hosting another tree sales and distribution in May of 2009. After discussion the Board instructed Schwartz to contact Bruemmer about the possibility of hosting another Operation Releaf program in the county. No further action.

The Board discussed crop lease renewals on several of the WCCB's wildlife areas.

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

Acting Chairman Thorland adjourned the meeting at 9:26 A.M. with a motion from Korth, seconded by Hofbauer. Unanimous. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Chairman

Robert Schwartz
Executive Director

Secretary