

October 13, 2011
4:00 p.m.

The Woodbury County Conservation Board met on Thursday, October 13, 2011 at the Dorothy Pecaut Nature Center beginning at 4:00 p.m. Members present: Greg Grupp, Frank Gray, Chris Zellmer-Zant, Don Dixon, and Mark Taylor. Staff members present: Schneider, Peterson, Snyder, Kruid, and Schultz.

President Dixon, called the meeting to order and asked if there were any changes to the agenda. A motion was made by Gray, second by Taylor to approve the agenda. Motion carried. Motion by Gray, second by Taylor to approve the minutes of the September 1, 2011 regular meeting. Motion carried. September expenditures in the amount of \$ 144,552.09 were read. Motion was made by Taylor, second by Gray to approve these expenditures. Motion carried.

Education Director

Snyder reported on various programs and events during the past month including another successful Nature Calls fund raiser event. She noted that there was a record attendance of 515 people. The crowd enjoyed the new venue (Sioux City Convention Center), and there were numerous favorable comments. The event grossed nearly \$41,000. The date is set for next year, September 22, 2012. She thanked the board for all their help with this event.

Snyder informed the board that she and five Jr. League volunteers toured Fontenelle Forest Nature Center in Omaha and also Arbor Day Farm in Nebraska City on September 10th. They received numerous ideas toward the Outdoor Playscape project. They also toured a site at Jester Park/Polk County Conservation Board on Oct. 9th.

Numerous repair projects were completed, including repairing concrete at the front entrance, deck, parking lot and siding replacement on the nature center. The Aquarium pump was found to be faulty and will need to be replaced. It is still under warranty. Staff is working to resolve this problem.

Schneider informed the board that he was only able to get two professional paint bids for the exterior painting. Reich Painting came back with a bid of \$12,392 but that should be less since most caulking has been done and they may not have to prime some soffits. The other bid came from Glover Painting in the amount of \$14,981. Blankenship did not bid due to schedule. Reich is not sure if they can get the job done yet this fall, but if this weather holds, they should get it done.

Snyder reported that two grants were received; one from Western Iowa Tourism Region for advertising in the amount of \$1,000 and a second for a Scholarship for \$200 to attend the State Tourism Conference held at Okoboji on October 19-21st.

Snyder discussed with the board a time to reschedule a joint meeting with the Woodbury County Conservation Foundation that was postponed in June. Discussion topics will include: General mission/relationship between WCCB & WCCF, Current Joint projects (i.e. Nature Center, Nature Calls, Riverside Bluffs, other), Endowment, and future projects and goals.

Field Operations

Peterson reported that much time has been spent on flood cleanup projects. Dormant seeding will take place in early November at Snyder Bend and Brown's Lake. The earthen dikes have been removed. Sand bags have been piled and are ready for processing at both parks. Electrical repairs will be started soon in the Snyder Bend campground. The tree removal will continue on into late fall and early winter.

Schneider noted that he continues to work with the FEMA people on reimbursement of expenses and hope this gets wrapped up in a couple months. The board did receive their first reimbursement check on October 3rd.

Construction on the new Brown's Lake Tornado Safe Room/Comfort Station in the campground is underway. The well has been closed and the demolition of the site is complete. The campground closed for the season on October 3rd and should be opening on time next May 1st. The rest of the park will remain open to the public. The Conservation Corps Iowa crew assisted with a timber stand improvement project on Oak Ridge Unit #2 on September 26-30. Approximately 10 acres were improved by removing all shrubs and trees except oaks, walnuts, Kentucky coffee trees, and basswoods. The remaining 1.5 acres were completed by our staff last week.

Peterson reported that the Bobcat T650 Compact Track Loader, along with attachments, was delivered Monday October 10th. Attachments ordered were a snow bucket, HD pallet forks, and a high flow stump grinder. A Bobcat representative went over maintenance and operation of the machine with staff from each park. The new stump grinder attachment should prove to be very efficient based on the time and ease of operation it required to remove a couple stumps during initial training.

Pesticide training will be completed this month for the year. The 26th Annual CCPOA workshop was held at the Iowa Law Enforcement Academy last week. All staff qualified with their handguns. Topics included mandatory haz-mat training; fish, game, and parks updates; Iowa Gun Law; Midwest Gang Awareness; USDA enforcement issues; and Sovereign Citizens.

Woodbury County Chapter of Pheasants Forever held their annual youth day Sunday October 9th at Little Sioux Park. This year they teamed up with Whitetails Unlimited. Ninety-five youth participated in the event. Activities included: BB gun shoot, .22 rifle shoot, trap shooting, archery and a dog handling demonstration. Numerous prizes and awards were handed out.

Director Items

Schneider distributed the September budget statement and noted the budget remains on track, as we continue to code some items to flood expense. This will skew the budget until the Supervisors resolve how they want to reclaim expenses not covered by FEMA. Schneider distributed the Fund 667 quarterly report and there was discussion on various line items.

Schneider reported that Chris Zant, Jim Henning, Mark Peterson and he attended the IACCB Annual Conference in Independence, IA on September 15-17. Although hosted by a small county, it was one of the best conferences attended. Next year's conference will be hosted by 10 southern counties with the headquarters at Honey Creek Resort.

Schneider informed the board that he has received final reimbursement from Iowa DOT for the WIT Trail grant project, and has submitted a bill to Western Iowa Tech for their cash share in the amount of \$65,073.38.

Schneider reported that the board has been asked by Human Resources and the Auditor's Department to have the Board revisit the department's long standing Overtime Compensation policy (practice, not written policy) of awarding comp time for all hours over 40 in a week. This becomes a concern only on the three summer holidays. If any of our hourly full time field staff works on one of those holidays, they receive double comp time (16 hours). If they don't work or are not scheduled to work, they get their 8 hours holiday pay, and then work their regular 40 hour schedule later that week which will give those staff 48 hours total or 8 hours overtime at time and a half. Staff has handled the work week and overtime this way for many years, but the County policy says overtime is awarded only on actual hours worked. After some discussion on this subject, a motion by Grupp, second by Dixon to adopt the County's wage and hour definition of Overtime.⁴⁻¹² Motion carried. Schneider will request official wording from the Auditor's office for this definition.

Schneider distributed copies of the Annual Report to the Board and noted it has been placed on the board's website. The report was presented to the Board of Supervisor's on October 18th.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned. Board members joined others for the annual Appreciation Picnic for county officials at the Nature Center.

⁴⁻¹² To adopt the County's wage and hour definition of Overtime.

