

## Worth County Conservation Board

### Minutes

March 1, 2012

President Vansteenburgh called the meeting to order at 7:00 P.M. Other Board members present were Randy Sime, and Justin Faber, Matt Smith, and Troy Christensen. Others present were Dean Mueller, Dan Block, Jim Hanson, and Dave Falk.

Sime motioned to approve the agenda, Seconded by Faber, motion carried.

Faber moved to accept the January meeting minutes, Seconded by Sime, motion carried.

Mueller gave the Directors report

1. The director's retreat was a success. We attended REAP day at the capitol and met with Bartz. (Rayhons was in committee meetings). There was good discussion of several topics: funding IWILL, new director training, the proposed commercial property tax roll back, the 22 cent level for REAP funding, protecting the lake restoration program. Wednesday night several members of the House and Senate leadership had supper with us and answered questions of some issues that were important to us. They were very impressed with our group even though there were only 40+ in attendance. Tom did a short presentation on our asset inventory and the revenue survey. Several legislators were taking notes and facial expressions showed that they had no idea how big our system is or the economic and social impact we have.
2. The fish and game trust fund will be broke by 2014 or 2015 without a license increase. The legislators did not express any interest in increasing the license fees. Most of them did not have anything good to say about the DNR.
3. There is a bill that will require the DNR and state universities to do a study on releasing wild or F1 pheasants to rebuild the population. They also want another study done on the effects of the pheasant hunting season on the population. This legislation has past the natural resource committee in both chambers.
4. There is also a bill that would require the DNR to sell land and place the revenue into the REAP fund. The DNR was asked to give an inventory of all land that is "farmable" or being cropped now to the legislature. Rep. Cownie said he would give the DNR two weeks to produce the inventory. Rep. Lensing plans to offer an amendment to give the DNR until December 2012.
5. There is a bill to raise the sales tax to fund IWLL, but there does not seem to be much support for it at this time. The IWLL coalition is looking at 2013 to push a sales tax bill. There was discussion on how many people thought that the sales tax increase would be automatic when the constitutional amendment was passed. The legislators recommended that we should partner with as many groups as possible or this effort would fail.
6. At the IACCB board meeting we were given an update on Keep Iowa Beautiful. The report litter number really works and the report is forwarded to the Iowa Highway Patrol, who will follow up. In problem areas the KIB will actually work with local law enforcement and put out cameras.
7. The Jackson county BOS did not appoint a qualified female (who applied) to the Jackson CCB. They were turned in to the Attorney General's office. Jackson county BOS was told to inform the conservation board that one of their members must resign and the qualified female will be appointed to fill that vacancy. There was a quick survey done and half of the director's in the room have a board with 5 males on it.
8. Jim and I will be attending the Spring Board meeting on March 10. We will also be at the ISAC spring school March 15 & 16.
9. I will be attending the spring CCPOA workshop in Blackhawk Co. on March 6 and the DCI asked me to participate in an active shooter program here in Northwood on March 22 & 23.
10. I will not be able to use all of my comp time by the end of March and will need to carry some forward. I have 13 days to use and will try and use as much of it as possible. Brett and Jim should have used theirs up by the end of the month.

Sime moved to accept the Director's report, seconded by Christensen, motion carried.

## Naturalist Report

1-Feb	NK 1	Tracks (2)
2-Feb	NK 7	Hunter Safety (2)
3-Feb	CS 3	Ground water model
6-Feb	Adults	Como Conservatory
7-Feb	CS 3	Pollute a River
8-Feb	NK 7	Hunter Safety (2)
9-Feb	NK 4	Yellowstone (2)
10-Feb	NK 7	Hunter Safety (2)
13-Feb	NK Ecol	Eagle Center
14-Feb	NK 2	Soil to food (2)
15-Feb	NK 1	Soil to food (2)
16-Feb	CS Ecol	Wildlife Management
16-Feb	CS 2	Soil to food (2)
17-Feb	CS Ecol	Wildlife Management
17-Feb	NK 1	Owls (2)
21-Feb	NK 6	Hormel Nature Center Field Trip
22-Feb	NK 6	Hormel Nature Center Field Trip
23-Feb	NK KG	Bears (2)
27-Feb	Manly Assisted Living	Canada Geese (Nichol)
27-Feb	NK 4	Dissection (2)
28-Feb	ST AN 7	Deer Heart
28-Feb	ST an 6	Comet (2)
28-Feb	After School	Nature Hike (Nichol)
29-Feb	St An 7	Deer Heart

Ornithology 15 Programs

51 Programs

Finished hunter safety class with Northwood.

Nichole doing a few of the programs when we double book, or on a sick day of mine. She has started her afterschool nature hikes, had 21 different kids sign up for the available spaces.

She evaluated many of the programs and we have added notes or details to some files to facilitate their presentation.

Adult trip to the como conservatory went well. Planned Crane trip, have 6 participants at present.

Smith moved to approve the Naturalist Report, seconded by Faber, motion carried.

During the Kuennen's Quarry discussion Dave Falk discussed some of his thoughts on our issue of losing water.

Vansteenburgh also noted that one of the state Hydrologists would be interested in coming up and installing a monitor in the monitoring well at Falkstone to read the water levels on a more regular basis, he would also like to see the site as the water table has been very dynamic. At the present time it was decided by both parties to take the remainder of the rock on the county's property then by mid to late summer Falkstone would build a berm around their sump hole to try to raise the water level and create hydrologic back pressure in their pit to try to raise the water level in Kuennen's Quarry. If that doesn't work both parties agreed that other options would be explored at that point.

There was discussion on the possibility of a natural gas pipeline having to put in an easement for crossing our Sydney Swensrud Area taking a pipeline from the northwest corner of the county over to Mitchell County coming down the state line then cutting over to 500<sup>th</sup> St.

On the topic of banner ads now available for us to use on the mycountyparks.com web site it was decided that we would look into further costs and possible parties interested in advertising space.

As for a building update, we are still waiting to hear from the engineers on more details about electric and heating and mechanical options so we have costs for the Supervisors. We should hear from them in the next few weeks.

As for our current land acquisition project at Willow Creek the board was reminded that all the funding is in place and we should be able to close on the properties in the next month or two. The board was also informed that the NRCS will be using federal contractors to do the seeding and mowing on the site. The board was also informed on the likely hood that the NRCS would have a larger dike and water control structure designed and installed creating a larger wetland area.

It was decide that we would be sending a letter inquiring about the bill Greens Keepers Lawn Service submitted last month with the dates of their mowing in the parks throughout the dry fall. The letter will also strike the request for pay for a mowing done on Oct 25<sup>th</sup> as the contract had already expired at that point.

Sime moved to pay the following bills except Greens Keepers Lawn Care pending questions

Greens Keeprs Lawn Care		\$ 6,360.00
Visa		\$ 1,111.91
Alliant Energy		\$ 607.35
Truax company		\$ 450.59
Worth County Engineer		\$ 424.65
ISAC		\$ 260.00
North Country Eq. LLC		\$ 165.06
Brett Backhaus		\$ 120.00
Olson Trading Post		\$ 94.88
Safelite Auto Glass		\$ 76.93
Heartland Power Coop		\$ 74.11
Northwood Anchor		\$ 48.00
Dean A Mueller		\$ 38.29
Ver Helst Snyder Drug		\$ 35.51
Fallgatters Market		\$ 35.04
Manly Junction Signal		\$ 34.40
IACCB		\$ 30.00
Carquest Auto Parts		\$ 21.44
Albert Lea Seed House		\$ 20.30
Thompson Upholstery		\$ 20.00
City of Northwood		\$ 17.00
Eilertson Repair		\$ 12.00
Hygenic Laboratory - Accts Receivable		\$ 11.00
	Total	\$ 10,068.46

Seconded by Smith, motion carried.

Meeting adjourned at 8:29 P.M.

Submitted by:

Approved by:

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Jim Hanson

Deputy Director

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Jeff Vansteenburg

President