

**THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE  
WASHINGTON COUNTY CONSERVATION BOARD (WCCB)  
September 8th, 2022**

**Meeting to order:** President Craig Capps called the meeting to order at 4:30 PM at the Washington County Conservation Center at Marr Park.

**Roll call:**

**BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:** Barb Donkersloot, Bill Nickell, Craig Capps, Kim Prier, Stan Stoops

**BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT:**

**STAFF PRESENT:** Executive Director Zach Rozmus

**GUESTS PRESENT:** Bud Stein

**Approval of agenda:** A motion was made to approve the agenda as provided by Bill Nickell and seconded by Barb Donkersloot. Carried unanimously.

**Review previous meeting minutes:** A motion was made by Stan Stoops to approve the August 11<sup>th</sup>, 2022 regular meeting minutes. Motion was seconded by Bill Nickell and carried unanimously.

**DISCUSSIONS AND ACTIONS:**

a. **Kewash Management**

Director Zach Rozmus introduced Bud Stein who owns a property located at the 500blk of West 5<sup>th</sup> St. in Washington, IA near the Kewash Nature Trail. Rozmus advised that Stein had reached out to conservation center to inquire about the potential of fencing in his back yard for privacy and for his son's dogs. The unique part about Stein's property is that the Kewash right of way literally touches the back of his house, Rozmus advised. Rozmus noted that Stein had been extremely cordial and professional during his approach to this specific situation. Rozmus expressed that he understood Stein's wishes and concerns but cautioned the board that the decisions to allow county property to be used by private individuals could have a ripple effect throughout other county owned/managed properties.

Bud Stein addressed the board regarding his request. Stein requested permission to build a fence around the area south of his house. Stein said the fence was to ensure the safety of trail users behind the residence as well as provide additional privacy on the south side of the residence. Stein advised that he was willing to install gates allow the county to access for any type of maintenance needs.

Following Steins proposal board president Craig Capps made a motion to not allow a joint use agreement adjacent to Stein's residence on county owned property, and that no construction of any type was permitted. Motion was seconded by Kim Prier and carried unanimously.

Several board members expressed concerns regarding what precedence would be set and that the board needed to be consistent that the sale of a portion of a Kewash right of way near this location was a one-time event due to exigent circumstances.

b. **Annual Rental Fee Review**

Rozmus presented a document to the board that Naturalist Randi Brase had put together that showcases facility rental rates for similar facilities in southeast Iowa. Following a discussion with his staff Rozmus made the following rental rate changes to the board:

Mary Marr Lodge: \$60 rental fee, \$60 deposit, \$80 rental/deposit with gazebo reservation  
(Current rate: \$50 rental fee, \$50 deposit, \$75 rental/deposit with gazebo)

Shelter 1: \$40 rental fee, \$40 deposit (Current rate: \$40 rental fee, \$50 deposit)

Conservation Center: \$200 rental fee, \$200 deposit, holiday rental remains the same (Current rate: \$175 rental fee, \$175 deposit)

Following a discussion Stan Stoops made a motion to adopt Director Zach Rozmus' rental facility rental fees effective January 1<sup>st</sup>, 2023. Motion was seconded by Bill Nickell and carried unanimously.

c. **Sockum Ridge Management**

Rozmus presented a letter to the board from Iowa DNR District Forester Cassidy Robinson. Robinson and Rozmus have been working to develop planning and management of Sockum Ridge.

Rozmus advised that in an effort to diversify and preserve Sockum's native timber species additional management practices were needed. Rozmus and Robinson agreed that a select harvest should be conducted to open the canopy in certain areas to promote oak regeneration. In addition, if the area surrounding the pond was to be continued to be managed as a savannah type environment, additional canopy would need to be removed. Following that, native grasses and pollinator species could be broadcast into the open areas in an effort to jumpstart the regrowth and the savannah environment.

Following a discussion, Barb Donkersloot made a motion to give Director Zach Rozmus with guidance from the DNR District Forester Cassidy Robinson the authority to continue to implement the management practices laid out in Robinson's recommendation letter. Motion was seconded by Stan Stoops and carried unanimously.

d. **Iowa State Recreational Trails Grant**

Rozmus requested endorsement from the board regarding a grant application for a 1.5-mile paving and enhancement extension to the Kewash Nature Trail. "Phase 3" would begin at the Crooked Creek Bridge and travel west to Juniper Ave.

Stan Stoops made a motion to endorse the State Recreational Trails Grant and for the Board President to sign. Motion was seconded by Bill Nickell. Roll call votes listed below:

NAME	AYE	NAYE	ABSENT	ABSTAIN
President Craig Capps	X			
V. President Barb Donkersloot	X			
Member Stan Stoops	X			
Member Bill Nickell	X			
Member Kim Prier	X			

Resolution passed 5-0.

**Updates:**

a. **Brinton Timber Latrine**

Rozmus showed off pictures and videos of the new latrine being installed at Brinton Timber. Rozmus said he was super happy with the finished product and anticipated future business with the latrine supplier.

b. **Marr Park Shower House**

Rozmus stated that he was continuing to work with Carl A. Nelson regarding the planning process for a new shower house at Marr Park. Rozmus hoped that by the October meeting he would have some sort of documentation in hand from them to review.

c. **Marr Park Eagle Scout Project**

Rozmus happily announced that Ayden Holden would be dropping off the chess integrated picnic tables following that night's meeting. Rozmus again thanked Ayden for his hard work and organizational skills throughout the project.

d. **Hayes Timber**

Staff is continuing to work on honey suckle removal. Rozmus hoped to continue the work during

the coming months as the honey suckle will be much easier to locate once native species begin to shed their leaves.

e. **Bur Oak Addition to the ERWA**

Closing on the Bur Oak Property was set for the end of September. Rozmus hoped to close before October 1<sup>st</sup>, so that staff could ensure the proper signage was in place prior to opening things up to the public.

**Review of monthly reports**

Maintenance Supervisor Fritz Engel’s monthly report was provided and reviewed.

Ranger/Technician Cody Smith’s monthly report was provided and reviewed.

Ranger/Technician Brett Johnson’s monthly report was provided and reviewed.

Naturalist Assistant Randi Brase’s monthly report was provided and reviewed.

Naturalist Megan Jorgensen’s monthly report was provided and reviewed.

Maintenance Technician Jacob Adrian’s monthly report was provided and reviewed.

Executive Director Zach Rozmus’ monthly report was provided and reviewed.

**Bills**

During this time a summary of the bills totaling \$77,469.18 for the month of August, 2022 were presented to the board.

TO WHOM	FOR	AMOUNT
Ace-N-More	Shelter key pads, seed, repellent, boots, cleaning supplies, hand tools, oil, LP tank, ammo, bow cases	\$1,925.42
Armstrong Heating & Air	AC maintenance at Center	\$180.50
B & L Concrete	Shelter 3 concrete	\$19,704.65
Capper	Jeep key phob	\$5.00
Cash-N-Carry Chemicals	Citrine	\$111.00
Cobb Oil	Diesel and ethanol	\$5,788.95
Copy Systems	Monthly print contract	\$64.86
CXT Incorporated	Brinton Timber Latrine	\$26,599.00
Douds Stone LLC	Bathroom at Brinton Timber	\$64.47
Eastern Iowa Light & Power	Monthly electricity	\$835.19
Electrical Engineering Equipment	Shelter 1 electrical maintenance	\$224.22
John Deere Financial	Hand tools, oil & filter, gloves, skid loader maintenance	\$418.22
Kondora Plumbing & Heating	Drinking fountain at Center	\$2,650.00
Leison Pumping	Marr Park septic tank	\$600.00
Millers Metal Supply	Shop maintenance	\$46.65
Ron Hemm	Campground hosts - August	\$300.00
Sinclair Tractor	Mowers	\$11,500.00
Staples	Tape, planner, laminating sheets, hand soap	\$105.11
State Hygienic Lab	Water testing	\$13.50

Swaffer Welding LLC	Crooked Creek Bridge railings	\$2,814.50
The Appliance Barn	Ranger house ice maker maintenance	\$250.08
US Cellular	Monthly cell service	\$318.11
VISA	Program materials, clothing, hand tools, Adobe	\$528.43
Walmart	Program materials, turtle supplies, cleaning supplies	\$78.32
Washington Discount Tire	Trailer tire replacement	\$188.50
Washington Lumber & Home	Lodge bathroom shingles	\$620.87
Washington Rental	Lift	\$225.00
Wemiga Waste	Trash removal - July	\$573.00
Windstream	Monthly internet	\$194.63
Wilkinson Precast Inc.	Septic tank risers and lids	\$541.00
<b>TOTAL BILLS</b>		<b>\$77,469.18</b>

**\*The aforementioned minutes are to be considered a synopsis of each agenda item dialogue and not an entire recollection of all the events that transpired.**

**Meeting Adjourned:** A motion was made by Bill Nickell and seconded by Barb Donkersloot to adjourn the meeting at 6:48 PM. Motion was carried unanimously.

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**SIGNATURE**

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**DATE**