



AGENDA OUTLINE/MINUTES TEMPLATE

July 10, 2024

**Yellow Banks Park, Prairieview Shelter
6801 SE 32nd Ave, Pleasant Hill, IA 50327**

5:30 PM

PROCEEDINGS OF THE POLK COUNTY CONSERVATION BOARD (ESTABLISHED 1956)

The Polk County Conservation Board met in person for regular session Wednesday, July 10, 2024. The meeting was called to order at 5:44 p.m.

- #24-0701 **Roll Call**
Members Present: **Altringer, Mollenhauer, Crane, Lewis**
Members Absent: **Feltner**
- #24-0702 **Public Comments**
- #24-0703 **Financial Reports** (pg 3)
- #24-0704 **Policy & Procedure Discussion Topic** – PCC Annual Report (Jessica Lown)
- #24-0705 **Action on the Minutes of the Previous Meeting(s)** (pg 6)

MOVED BY Lewis to approve the June 12, 2024 meeting minutes with one amendment: move Lewis "No" vote from 24-0616 to 24-0615.

SECONDED BY Crane

Vote Yea: **Altringer, Mollenhauer, Crane, Lewis**
Members Absent: **Feltner**

CONSENT AGENDA

- #24-0706 **Approving** bill list.
- #24-0707 **Approving** the 2023 Polk County Conservation Annual Report (pg 11).
- #24-0708 **Approving** revisions and additions to the Employee Administrative Manual of the Polk County Conservation Board that was approved at the January 10, 2024 Conservation Board Meeting. All changes in this manual will be effective July 1st, 2024 (pg 28).
- #24-0709 **Awarding** the bid for re-sprout spraying of woody vegetation on 145 acres in various parks to Adaptive Wildlife Management in a contracted amount not to exceed \$33,375 (pg 31).
- #24-0710 **Approving** the exterior staining of the Jester Park Nature Center for a total cost not to exceed \$25,650 to Berry Painting (pg 33).

- #24-0711 **Approving** a 5% pay increase to Elizabeth Peitzman on an interim basis during the Equestrian Center Manager vacancy time period (pg 35).

LET THE RECORD SHOW it was moved by **Crane** to approve the consent agenda.

SECONDED BY **Mollenhauer**

Vote Yea: **Altringer, Mollenhauer, Crane, Lewis**

Members Absent: **Feltner**

ACTION ITEMS

- #24-0712 **Approving** a fee structure for Polk County Conservation's Public EV Charging Stations (pg 36).

LET THE RECORD SHOW it was moved by **Mollenhauer** to approve Action Item 24-0712.

SECONDED BY **Lewis**

Vote Yea: **Altringer, Mollenhauer, Crane, Lewis**

Members Absent: **Feltner**

BOARD DISCUSSION

Director Remarks –

Prairie Meadows grants – two were awarded to PCC:

1. \$14,000 for adaptive equipment (including a \$5,000 all-terrain wheelchair) for Athene North Shore Rec Area at Easter Lake
2. \$19,000 for a wheelchair accessible wagon and an accessibility converter for a sleigh at the Equestrian Center

A mother wrote a nice note to PCC regarding her son's experience with PCC Youth Corps. He participated in the June session:

"I just wanted to thank you for giving Grant the opportunity to participate in this program during the month of June. He really enjoyed it and it really gave him something to look forward to every day. I could tell Grant felt a sense of belonging and worth all month long. I didn't see his anxiety flare up at home at all during the month, and honestly, he was just a completely different kid. There were days Grant would get in the car and couldn't wait to tell me about his day!"

Sleepy Hollow continues to have challenges. When Sleepy Hollow opened things worked really well – there was positive initial feedback and the pricing structure was on point. Problems have cropped up with the Snowflex hill conveyor lift (the conveyor belt broke and a hydraulic part is needed). Jeff Condon and team are diligently working to resolve these issues. Additionally, the State Fair camping season is coming up (7-29-24 through 8-19-24). As part of the long-term operations plan, Snowflex is planned to be closed during State Fair camping, as the grounds become too congested to properly accommodate additional foot and vehicle traffic. It could possibly be made available for use to the State Fair campers, but would not be available to the public during this time. During the fall season Snowflex is planned to have some down time to prep for the winter season. In March/April some downtime is projected for maintenance and prep for summer season. PCC and Sleepy Hollow leadership are tackling

the current challenges day by day with the ultimate goal remaining consistent and steady operations while we move forward with the master plan.

Shive Hattery and RW Excavating are collaborating on the Sleepy Hollow pond not holding water. Different strategies have been employed and the hole at the bottom of the pond has been plugged. Plans are to fill the pond halfway and see if the water stays. If it does, plans are to keep filling it and see if the repaired berm holds.

2023-2024 was planned as the year to spend capital to get operations established, 2024-2025 will start to see more revenue coming in.

SH Feasibility Study has been completed and committee members will review results and next steps forward.

SE Group drafted a Sleepy Hollow business plan which has been submitted to PCC for review. In 2-3 months collaborative efforts between SE Group and PCC will firm up the business plan to outline a clearer direction for Sleepy Hollow.

Easter Lake – water quality monitoring protocols abide by state and federal EPA standards but PCC currently implements more extensive protocols. E-Coli standards have recently exceeded recommended levels for swimming at Easter Lake beach. PCC will continue to advertise via social media and post beach signs to the public that swimming is not recommended.

Amanda Brown and Ginny Malcomson work collaboratively on the water monitoring data collection to tabulate recommended guidance for the public. PCC is figuring out the way to best test to protect public safety. Canada geese and avian feces does not significantly affect human health but can cause upticks in water E-Coli levels after rain events. PCC has explored different options of mitigating the goose problem. Fencing options, beach cleaning daily, and different repellent methods are being considered.

Board Remarks –

Lewis – Sleepy Hollow closure is frustrating and he can sympathize with PCC staff, who continue to work hard on assigned tasks. Kudos to PCC water quality monitoring staff who have developed and oversee such a robust data monitoring and tracking program!

Leopold - Amanda Brown (Conservation Ecologist-Water) and Ginny Malcomson (Water Quality Monitoring Coordinator) keep an eye on algae blooms across the county. So far nothing significant has affected Polk County Conservation bodies of water. Bacteria levels are tested during snap shot water quality monitoring events. Adding additional rip/rap around shoreline will help control goose populations.

Altringer – the Aug 14, 2024 PCC Board meeting will be at Lauridsen Skatepark instead of Four Mile Mountain Bike Park. The new parking area and Hello River art piece will be installed and accessible. Regarding the recent drowning event at Easter Lake – Board Members appreciate communication for both the negative and positive events that happen so thank you for organizing the text communications.

Lewis – great work on the mountain bike park and the Thomas Mitchell pond looks better than last year! Thanks to Amanda Brown and team for overseeing those improvements to the pond!

Mollenhauer – continued thanks for the Staff Reports! It was nice to hear a legislator visited Athene North Shore Rec Area. It was also impressive to hear 16,000 plants were installed at Easter Lake! Nitrate/water quality issues are inevitable - it's what happens this time of the

year.

NO CLOSED SESSION

CLOSED SESSION PROCEEDINGS OF THE POLK COUNTY CONSERVATION BOARD

The Polk County Conservation Board met in closed session Wednesday, May 8, 2024 at _____ p.m.

MOTION: _____

#24-0713 **MOVED BY** _____ **to go into closed session** pursuant to Iowa Code Section 21.5(j) to discuss the purchase or sale of particular real estate only where premature disclosure could be reasonably expected to increase the price the governmental body would have to pay for that property or reduce the price the governmental body would receive for that property. (pg 36)
SECONDED BY _____

VOTE YEA: **Altringer, Mollenhauer, Crane, Lewis, Feltner**
Members Absent:

MEMBERS PRESENT: **Lewis, Mollenhauer, Altringer, Crane, Leopold, Rankin, Cook, Stoklasa, McFarlane, no attendees via Webex**

MOTION: Moved by _____ Seconded by _____ to go back into open session.

VOTE YEA: **(Unanimous) Altringer, Mollenhauer, Crane, Lewis, Feltner**
_____ Members Absent:

The Board returned to open session.

There was no action taken during closed session.

MOTION: Moved by **Mollenhauer** to adjourn. Seconded by **Crane**.

VOTE YEA: **(Unanimous) Altringer, Mollenhauer, Crane, Lewis**
Members Absent: **Feltner**

**THERE BEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS TO COME BEFORE THE BOARD AND
WITH NO OBJECTIONS, THIS MEETING IS ADJOURNED.**

Meeting adjourned at **6:52** p.m.