

Polk County Conservation Board  
5:30 p.m. – **Jester Park Nature Center**  
**12130 NW 128<sup>th</sup> St, Granger, IA 50109**  
**Classrooms B&C**

PROCEEDINGS OF THE POLK COUNTY CONSERVATION BOARD

The Polk County Conservation Board met in person for regular session Wednesday, May 11, 2022. The meeting was called to order at 5:39 p.m.

#22-0501 **Roll Call**

Members Present: **Crane, Lewis (arrived 5:47), Mollenhauer, Altringer,**  
Members Absent: **Cataldo**

#22-0502 **Public Comments**

#22-0503 **WE WILL NOW OPEN A Public Hearing approving** plans, specifications, form of contract, engineer's estimate, and designating lowest responsible bidder for the construction of Trails End Mitigation Bank Wetland Restoration project to RW Excavating, LLC in a contract amount of \$7,175,181.06 plus a 5% contingency.  
**IF ANYONE WOULD LIKE TO COMMENT, PLEASE STATE YOUR NAME & ADDRESS FOR THE BOARD CLERK.** *No Public Comments*

**IF NO FURTHER COMMENTS, THE PUBLIC HEARING IS NOW CLOSED.**

#22-0504 **New Employee Introduction**

a. Matt Archibald – HR Specialist

#22-0505 **Financial Reports**

#22-0506 **MOVED BY Mollenhauer** to approve the April 13, 2022 meeting minutes.

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

Members Absent: **Cataldo**

Members Abstain:

CONSENT AGENDA

#22-0507 **Approving** bill list.

#22-0507a **Recommending** to the Polk County Board of Supervisors to approve a Perpetual Overhead Electrical Easement to MidAmerican Energy Company for construction and construction-related activities for the Easton Boulevard reconstruction project - E. 33<sup>rd</sup> Street to Fourmile Creek on land known as the Fourmile Creek Greenway.

#22-0508 **Approving** additional funds for the construction of the East 35th Street Wetland and the Lower Fourmile Creek Road Removals – Phase I project in

the amount of \$25,000.

- #22-0509     **Approving** the 5% base salary increase effective the start of the pay period of 7/1/22 for all Polk County Conservation full-time staff as recommended by the Polk County Board of Supervisors Resolution that was adopted on March 8, 2022.

**LET THE RECORD SHOW** it was moved by Lewis to approve the consent agenda.  
Vote Yea: **Mollenhauer, Lewis, Crane, Altringer**  
Members Absent: **Cataldo**

### **ACTION ITEMS**

- #22-0510     **Public Hearing approving** plans, specifications, form of contract, engineer's estimate, and designating lowest responsible bidder for the construction of Trails End Mitigation Bank Wetland Restoration project to RW Excavating, LLC in a contract amount of \$7,175,181.06 plus a 5% contingency.

**LET THE RECORD SHOW** it was moved by Mollenhauer to approve Action Item 22-0510.  
Vote Yea: **Mollenhauer, Lewis, Crane, Altringer**  
Members Absent: **Cataldo**

- #22-0511     **Approving** the agreement between Polk County Conservation and JEO Consulting Group for Engineer's Construction Administration services for the Trails End Mitigation Bank stream restoration and wetland basin grading in an amount not to exceed \$115,000.

**LET THE RECORD SHOW** it was moved by Lewis to approve Action Item 22-0511.  
Vote Yea: **Mollenhauer, Lewis, Crane, Altringer**  
Members Absent: **Cataldo**

- #22-0512     **Approving** the proposal from The Concrete Company to perform remaining concrete work at the Lauridsen Skatepark resulting from special event needs observed since the opening of the park in the amount of \$150,020 with a 5% contingency.

**LET THE RECORD SHOW** it was moved by Lewis to approve Action Item 22-0512.  
Vote Yea: **Mollenhauer, Lewis, Crane, Altringer**  
Members Absent: **Cataldo**

- #22-0513     **Approving** staff to apply for an Iowa Department of Natural Resources Wildlife Habitat Stamp Grant for the Bailey Property acquisition and restoration at Chichaqua Bottoms Greenbelt.

**LET THE RECORD SHOW** it was moved by Mollenhauer 2<sup>nd</sup> by Lewis to approve Action Item 22-0513.  
Vote Yea: **Mollenhauer, Lewis, Crane, Altringer**  
Members Absent: **Cataldo**

## BOARD DISCUSSION

**Director's Remarks** – Absent so no remarks

**Deputy Director's Remarks** - the Destination IA program has been allocated \$100,000,000 for projects in the state of Iowa. PCC submitted a grant application on Monday for \$2,800,000 for the Easter Lake North Shore development project. This will be the largest grant PCC has ever asked for. PCC is hopeful to hear something by the end of this month. Grant applicants can ask for up to 40% of the project's costs (\$2,800,000 is almost at the 40% mark for ELNS project cost). If awarded, the grant will put the ELNS Campaign Leadership & Advisory Teams in a position where they will be almost done with fundraising!

The Trestle to Trestle Bridge project is on track and going well. The public will be excited once it opens! It is anticipated to be open this fall but hopefully can be finished by the end of July.

Another project in the works – Lithic & Historic Artifact Exhibit – the Environmental Education team is working with Split Rock Studios and the design for the exhibit is almost done. Fabrication will be starting this summer and progress into the fall. Specs show amazing interactivity and educational value!

Tomorrow night is open house for the new Galleries at Jester Park exhibition “Perspectives” – National Park posters and fused glass will be featured.

Bond Funding – PCC has been working internally to get projects in place to start spending bond dollars. Funding can start July 1, 2022 per downtown's recommendation. Teams have been working hard setting timelines and working on project details. PCC has two years to spend the \$21,000,000.

Lots of good press has been happening with Lauridsen Skatepark – last Saturday was the one year anniversary event. A high school group created and installed a mural at the skatepark last week.

## **Board & Chair Remarks**

**Ryan Crane** – no remarks

**Pam Mollenhauer** – question on MidAmerican consent agenda item – item opened for brief discussion but no action needed since it was a consent item.

**Greg Lewis** – had a conversation with Rich Leopold today informing him about the Fairmont neighborhood meeting (in conjunction with the Gray's Woods meeting) that Greg attended last night. Greg was approached by a man and woman who were concerned about the wild orchids growing at the Copper Creek Mountain Bike Park site. They attended the Gray's Woods meeting and also the Fairmont neighborhood meeting to express concern about this issue. An additional issue was that PCC is building a BMX bike jump too close to a resident's property. Greg would like to receive more educational information to respond back to these concerned residents and is encouraging PCC staff to engage more with the other groups who are supportive of this project to spread the word about its progress and plans.

**Adam Fendrick** – was able to illustrate where the construction boundaries are for the Copper Creek Mountain Bike Trail in response to Greg's concerns. Rich has been attending the neighborhood meetings and councilwoman Linda Westergaard is also aware of this project. PCC has received confirmation from USACE that rare orchid species do not inhabit this space. PCC is working on scheduling the neighborhood meetings and we hired IMBA to design the park and they will be part of explaining the design specs to residents. The concern regarding the BMX jump surrounds the dirt excavation and temporary large dirt pile which was placed in the only area at the site which is outside a flood plain. This dirt pile is being interpreted incorrectly as a permanent part of the Copper Creek Mountain Bike Park. Adam confirmed that we can escalate working with IMBA to create communications soon to be distributed to residents in the area.

**Doug Sheeley** - confirmed that there could be Showy Orchids at the site, but it's a more common, less rare species.

**Kami Rankin** - will collaborate with Jessica Lown, Community Outreach Supervisor, to create an informational campaign to keep residents apprised of project progress.

**Jill Altringer** – wanted to commend PCC staff and the PCC Board for their involvement with the Governor's Soil & Water Conservation proclamation – it was well attended (about 50 people attended) and publicized well.

CLOSED SESSION

**NO CLOSED SESSION.**

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

Meeting adjourned at 6:39 p.m. by Mollenhauer and Altringer.