Polk County Conservation Board

5:30 p.m. - Polk County Administration Bldg., Room 120
111 Court Ave., Des Moines, IA

PROCEEDINGS OF THE POLK COUNTY CONSERVATION BOARD

The Polk County Conservation Board met in person for regular session Wednesday, April 13, 2022. The meeting was called to order at 5:30 p.m.

#22-0401 **Roll Call**
Members Present: **Crane, Lewis, Mollenhauer, Altringer (ZOOM), Cataldo**
Members Absent:

#22-0402 **Public Comments**

#22-0403 **Trail's End Mitigation Bank Presentation/Update – Adam Fendrick**

#22-0404 **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.

a. **Action 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 **Lewis** to approve Action Item 22-0404a.
Vote Yea: **Mollenhauer, Cataldo, Lewis, Crane, Altringer**
Members Absent:

#22-0405 **New Employee Introduction**

a. Doug Todey – Natural Resources Technician

#22-406 **Financial Reports**

#22-407 **MOVED BY Lewis** to approve the March 9, 2022 meeting minutes.
Vote Yea: **Crane, Mollenhauer, Lewis, Altringer**
Members Absent:
Members Abstain: **Cataldo**

CONSENT AGENDA

#22-0408 **Approving** bill list.

#22-0409 **Approving** agreement with Polk County Conservation and Coalition 375 to host an international skateboarding competition (The Dew Tour) at the Lauridsen Skatepark.

#22-0410 **Approving** Renda Electric to upgrade the electrical service at the Easter Lake shop to a 400-amp service in the amount of $28,500 with a 10% contingency ($2,850), not to exceed $31,350.

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

ACTION ITEMS

#22-0411 **Approving** the Memorandum of Understanding between Polk County Conservation Board and the Great Outdoors Foundation to provide mutual support to raise private funds in support of the mission of Polk County Conservation through a Quasi-Endowment Fund.

LET THE RECORD SHOW it was moved by **Cataldo** to approve Action Item 22-0411.
Vote Yea: **Mollenhauer, Cataldo, Lewis, Crane, Altringer**
Members Absent:

#22-0412 **Approving** contract with Country Landscapes, Inc. to make repairs to the Jester Park Nature Playscape in a contract amount of $109,868.88 plus a 20% contingency.

LET THE RECORD SHOW it was moved by **Mollenhauer** to approve Action Item 22-0412.
Vote Yea: **Mollenhauer, Cataldo, Lewis, Crane, Altringer**
Members Absent:

#22-0413 **Approving** the selection of the recommended consulting firms for the four discipline areas identified to provide bond project professional consulting services to Polk County Conservation for the next 10 years.

LET THE RECORD SHOW it was moved by **Cataldo** to approve Action Item 22-0413.
Vote Yea: **Mollenhauer, Cataldo, Lewis, Crane, Altringer**
Members Absent:

#22-0414 **Approving** the purchase of a 9.4-acre property within Chichaqua Bottoms Greenbelt from the Iowa Natural Heritage Foundation for $502,653.40.

LET THE RECORD SHOW it was moved by **Mollenhauer** to approve Action Item 22-0414.
Vote Yea: **Mollenhauer, Cataldo, Lewis, Crane, Altringer**
Members Absent:

BOARD DISCUSSION

Director's Remarks
Rich – the 2022 Decision Package that was presented by PCC leadership to the Polk County Board of Supervisors officially passed – PCC got everything except the Ape Trust fence. PCC was awarded 3 FTE (1 Leisure Services Division Manager, 1 Leisure Services Maintenance Coordinator, 1 Water Quality Coordinator), 1 Permanent PT 29 hrs/wk Parks Laborer at Lauridsen Skatepark, Internship funding (working with HR to form robust program to utilize Fall 2022), a 5% Operations funding increase across the board, Trestle to Trestle Bridge funding to close the gap created by lack of FEMA funding – construction on the bridge is going really well as it is on time and on budget (awarded $250,000), awarded $500,000 for capital upgrades to Lauridsen Skatepark, $40,000 was added to the annual Fleet Budget, and $850,000 was awarded to the Easter Lake North Shore Improvement Project.

Greg – Will there be seating installed at Lauridsen Skatepark?
Rich – Sidewalks and retaining walls will be built that will serve as sitting walls/areas for viewing.
Kami – Dew Tour wants to be able to bring in seating and arrange as necessary so no permanent seating will be installed.

Rich – The Easter Lake North Shore Improvement project has currently raised $5,000,000 and is looking to apply for Destination Iowa money and other grants.
$21,000,000 from Bond will be accessible in May – need to spend in 2 years.

Ryan – Is there a possibility of adding 60 min on to a future PCC Board meeting to discuss how $21,000,000 will be spent?

Rich – Allocation of Bond funding was laid out in the Board Member retreat in Jan 2022 but we could do a 1 pager to break down expenses.

Jim – A spreadsheet with line items would be helpful.

Rich – I can work with Natalie so we have a running accounting of where money is being spent and project timeline progress as things move forward.

Jim – Mirror monthly 2012 PCWLL spending spreadsheet that is sent every month with Board Packet.

Rich – We will figure out how to do reporting and send it to you. You all saw the ICON story that they missed their second bid package? This is not us – we do contribute but this is a bigger challenge that the whole ICON board is dealing with. High profile members on Board should be able to facilitate something for third bid.
Once in a while I don't fully hit on everything the staff is doing so here's an update on how PCC staff is working hard to secure additional funding: Deputy Director Kami Rankin brought in a $1,000,000 sponsorship from Athene for the Easter Lake North Shore Improvement Project – Athene will be given the naming rights to the Easter Lake North Shore entrance. Adam Fendrick brought in a $250,000 TAP grant for the High Trestle Trail for the connection to Polk City (we have to share this funding with Polk City), Missy Smith was awarded an Iowa Audubon grant of $500 for bird dots that will be applied to windows at the Nature Center to prevent

future bird collision deaths, Cassie Cook was awarded an IA DNR grant in the amount of $2,188 for amphibians & reptiles, Allison Wisgerhof was awarded a $2500 2022 Trees For Kids program grant, and Brad Janssen was awarded a $4500 grant for a fishing event at Easter Lake this summer.
ARPA Funding - Polk County has $90,000,000 – there will be a pot of money for water quality – PCC is having a hard time getting traction for utilizing these funds – PCC could really use some of this funding to leverage more dollars for water quality – please remember to raise this issue with the BOS members if you have the chance. This funding could help with projects in which PCC partners with other organizations to accomplish – such as Brenton Slough. We won't be spending $8,000,000 to buy Brenton Slough so an infusion of funding from ARPA would be very beneficial. We can produce tangible results that can provide momentum for other projects!

Jill – It is outstanding that staff is pursuing these grant opportunities! Thank you so much for sharing this information!
Pam – Ditto!
Ryan – The fact that staff is accomplishing all of this work and grants is amazing!

Board & Chair Remarks
Greg - Amanda and Cassie are coming to Isaac Walton League in May to tell us about Brown's Woods!

CLOSED SESSION

#22-0415 Moved by **Mollenhauer** 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.
Vote Yea: **Cataldo, Crane, Mollenhauer, Altringer, Lewis**
Members Absent:

Closed Session: Katie Stoklasa, Rich Leopold, Kami Rankin, Ryan Crane, Cassie Cook, Doug Sheeley, Greg Lewis, Jill Altringer, Natalie McFarlane, Pam Mollenhauer, Kate Clark, Adam Fendrick, Jessica Lown, Jim Cataldo

Action on closed session:
Moved by Mollen to return to open session.
Vote Yea: **Crane, Lewis, Cataldo, Mollenhauer, Altringer**
Members Absent:

Adjournment - Meeting adjourned at 7:24 p.m.