

March 8, 2023
Polk County Administration Bldg., Room 120
111 Court Ave., Des Moines, IA
5:30 PM – PCC Board Meeting

PROCEEDINGS OF THE POLK COUNTY CONSERVATION BOARD

The Polk County Conservation Board met in person for regular session Wednesday, March 8, 2023. The meeting was called to order at 5:30 p.m.

- #23-0301 **Roll Call**
Members Present: **Lewis, Crane, Altringer, Mollenhauer**
Members Absent: **Cataldo**
- #23-0302 **Public Comments**
- #23-0303 **Public Hearing on the award of contract for the Athene North Shore Recreation Area**
- #23-0304 **Financial Reports – Appropriations vs Expenses Handout – Natalie McFarlane**
- #23-0305 **MOVED BY Crane to approve the February 8, 2023 meeting minutes.**
SECONDED BY Mollenhauer
Vote Yea: **Lewis, Crane, Altringer, Mollenhauer**
Members Absent: **Cataldo**

CONSENT AGENDA

- #23-0306 **Approving** bill list.
- #23-0307 **Approving** Equestrian Center facility rental fees resulting from the installation of the overhead heaters in the indoor arena.
- #23-0308 **Recommending** to the Board of Supervisors the approval of permanent and temporary construction easements to the City of Pleasant Hill, Iowa for the construction of a storm pipe on land known as Little Four Mile Creek.
- #23-0309 **Approving** matching funds not-to-exceed \$33,300 (in-kind and/or cash) for the Statewide Wildlife Grant-Competitive (SWG-C), for a total project cost not to exceed \$133,300 for restoration of oak woodland and turf conversion at Fort Des Moines Park.
- #23-0310 **Requesting** approval to proceed with the application process for the Iowa Land and Water Conservation Fund grant and sign the resolution in support of obtaining funding for the Ziel Property in Alleman.

- #23-0311 **Awarding** the bid for electric, water, septic system, and construction of the foundation to facilitate the installation of the new bathroom/shower house at the tent camping area at Jester Park in an amount not to exceed \$89,658.25.
- #23-0312 **Approving** contract with the Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship (IDALS) for the Water Quality Initiative Grant for the Lauridsen Skatepark Parking Lot project and committing \$103,500 in matching funds.
- #23-0313 **Approving** the 2022 Polk County Conservation Annual Report.

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

SECONDED BY Lewis

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

Members Absent: **Cataldo**

ACTION ITEMS

- #23-0314 **Approving** the participation of Polk County Conservation in the Army Compatible Use Buffer Program and signing the Cooperative Agreement with the Army National Guard Bureau.

LET THE RECORD SHOW it was moved by Mollenhauer to approve Action Item 23-0314.

SECONDED BY Crane

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

Members Absent: **Cataldo**

- #23-0315 **Approving** the purchase of 62 acres of land, known as the Harding property, from Phyllis Jones as a part of the Army Compatible Use Buffer program.

LET THE RECORD SHOW it was moved by Mollenhauer to approve Action Item 23-0315.

SECONDED BY Crane

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

Members Absent: **Cataldo**

- #23-0316 **Approving** Award of Contract for plans, specifications, form of contract documents and engineer's estimate designating the lowest responsible bidder for the Site Grading/Utilities Bid, Concrete Bid, and General Contractor Bid for the construction of the Athene North Shore Recreation Area at Easter Lake Park.

LET THE RECORD SHOW it was moved by Lewis to approve Action Item 23-0316.

SECONDED BY Crane

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

Members Absent: **Cataldo**

- #23-0317 **Awarding** the funding for removal, replacement, and updates to the water and electrical service of Shelters #2 and #6 at Jester Park in an amount not to exceed \$160,097.63.

LET THE RECORD SHOW it was moved by Mollenhauer to approve Action Item 23-0317.

SECONDED BY Crane

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

BOARD DISCUSSION

Director Remarks –

Last night (3-7-23) – a public meeting regarding the Skatepark Parking Lot and Dog Park changes was held at Bolton and Menk, Inc. – both Pam Mollenhauer and Greg Lewis attended – PCC staff much appreciates their support and attendance! Commendations also to Jessica Lown and Adam Fendrick for calmly and professionally fielding all of the comments, questions, and concerns presented during the meeting. PCC is still working through details with the City of Des Moines such as where the water fountain will be placed, how the parking area affects pedestrian flow to the river front trail entrances, the varieties of tree species and native grasses, etc. Concerns mentioned during the meeting included adding more parking lots downtown and overall development of the riverfront area.

ELNS Program & Outreach Coordinator chosen – Heidi Anderson, Rich Leopold, Kami Rankin, and Hannah Inman conducted interviews for the ELNS Program & Outreach Coordinator, which will be employed by the Great Outdoors Foundation. The final two candidates did excellent presentations in their second interviews. The finalist selected is an Occupational Therapist with a Bachelor's degree in Natural Resources. PCC anticipates a start date the first part of April and the position will be focusing on creating programming and partnerships in the next three years.

As part of the Easter Lake North Shore Development Project, Shive Hattery created a Universal Design Checklist which will be incorporated into future PCC projects and available for sharing with others. PCC has applied for two national recognition programs to promote this project and the Universal Design focus that is so unique. At this week's ISAC conference, Director Leopold distributed the Universal Design checklists on flash drives to 25 county conservation boards. They were very appreciative and excited to have access to these tools for their own projects!

Board & Chair Remarks –

Altringer - Field Trip dates have been finalized and Rich will email those to board members on Friday.

Crane – shout out to Jessica Lown on the Annual Report! Shout out regarding incorporating a permeable parking lot into the Skatepark Parking Lot project!

Mollenhauer – you have the dog park people, the skatepark people, and the ones who don't like flat parking lots – this meeting gave everyone an opportunity to voice their opinions and concerns. It is good to have these forums to listen to all the questions from the public and address them.

Lewis – attended the Polk County Conservation Advisory Committee meeting and found it interesting. The citizens were engaged and brought a variety of ideas and issues to the table. It was very apparent that the attendees really enjoy the parks and trails within Polk County!

CLOSED SESSION

#23-0318 **MOVED BY Lewis** 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.
SECONDED BY Crane.

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

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

Action on closed session:

MOVED BY Lewis to return to open session. **SECONDED BY Mollenhauer**.
Vote Yea: **Mollenhauer, Altringer, Lewis, Crane, (Unanimous Aye)**
Members Absent: **Cataldo**

**THERE BEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS TO COME BEFORE THE BOARD AND WITH NO OBJECTIONS,
THIS MEETING IS ADJOURNED.** Meeting adjourned at **7:19 PM** .