

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, February 9, 2022. The meeting was called to order at 5:30 p.m.

- #22-0201 Roll Call
Members Present: **Crane, Lewis, Mollenhauer, Altringer, Cataldo**
Members Absent:
- #22-0202 Public Comments
- #22-0203 Great Outdoors Foundation Presentation
- #22-0204 New Employee Introduction
a. Jessica Lown – Community Outreach Supervisor
- #22-0205 Financial Reports
- #22-0206 **MOVED BY Cataldo, Altringer (2nd)** to approve the January 12, 2022 meeting minutes.

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

CONSENT AGENDA

- #22-0207 **Approving** bill list.
- #22-0208 **Approving** amendment to agreement for the shared use and fees for golf badges at City of Des Moines Municipal Golf Courses, Jester Park Golf Course, and Terrace Hills Golf Course between City of Des Moines, Polk County Conservation Board, City of Altoona, C Corporation, and CS Corporation for the 2022 golf season.
- #22-0209 **Approving** update to the Polk County Conservation Public Art Policy and continuation of annual funding for the program at \$20,000 per year from 2022-2032.
- #22-0210 **Approving** an application for the Central Iowa Regional Transportation Planning Alliance (CIRPTA) Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP) grant and intent to provide 20% matching funding for 2026 TAP funding for the repair and reconstruction of the Skunk River Bridge on the Chichaqua Valley Trail.

- #22-0211 **Approving** amendment to JEO's agreement to include Construction Testing & Inspection Services for the Fourmile Road Removals in an amount not to exceed \$30,200.
- #22-0212 **Authorizing** the Polk County Conservation Director, Richard Leopold, to sign the legal instrument for the Sycamore Access Trailhead application on behalf of Polk County Conservation.
- #22-0213 **Approving** "Lupine", the Polk County Conservation Public Art Committee's choice for the 2022 Rotating Sculpture Program at Jester Park.
- #22-0214 **Approving** the creation of a Parks Internship position within the Parks Division, following the Polk County Board of Supervisors resolution at their upcoming 2/15/22 meeting.
- #22-0215 **Approving** revised job classification/description for the Stable Laborer(s) and Stable Laborer Lead(s) and establishing the miscellaneous pay rate at \$15.00 and \$17.00 per hour respectively and eliminating the Assistant Riding Instructor position(s) following the Polk County Board of Supervisors resolution at their upcoming 2/15/22 meeting.

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

ACTION ITEMS

- #22-0216 **Approving** the Professional Services Agreement with Shive-Hattery to complete feasibility studies and master planning for Sleepy Hollow Sports Park in the amount of \$97,300.

LET THE RECORD SHOW it was moved by **Lewis** to approve Action Item 22-0216.
Vote Yea: **Mollenhauer, Cataldo, Lewis, Crane, Altringer**
Members Absent:

- #22-0217 **Approving** the purchase of a CAT 299D3XE Land Mgt. skid steer and CAT HM418 forestry mower head in the amount of \$163,842 with a 5% contingency for the natural resources division.

LET THE RECORD SHOW it was moved by **Altringer** to approve Action Item 22-0217.
Vote Yea: **Lewis, Mollenhauer, Altringer, Cataldo, Crane**
Members Absent:

- #22-0218 **Awarding** lowest contractor bid for Hazard Tree Removals in Polk County Conservation parks to RW Excavating in a contract amount of \$85,500, plus a 10% contingency.

LET THE RECORD SHOW it was moved by **Altringer** to approve Action Item 22-0218.

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

Members Absent:

#22-0219 **Approving** a no-cost land transfer of two parcels near Chichaqua Bottoms Greenbelt from the Iowa Department of Transportation to Polk County Conservation Board.

LET THE RECORD SHOW it was moved by **Mollenhauer** to approve Action Item 22-0219.

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

Members Absent:

BOARD DISCUSSION

Director's Remarks

Continuing to work on RFQ Process for 2022 – Shive Hattery Sleepy Hollow Agreement on this month's agenda is last one from RFQ process/2012 Bond. Then we move on to 2022 Bond "Bid for Bidders in March/April" – a short list of pre-qualified companies approved to provide services for 2022 Bond work.

At last month's meeting a 5% match was approved for an Iowa Finance Authority Water Infrastructure Fund Grant which PCC was awarded. \$32,000 needs to be spent for this grant.

Easter Lake North Shore costs have increased from \$4.2 Million to \$6.8 Million due to supply and labor shortages driven by COVID. \$2.7 Million has already been raised and there are multiple grant opportunities, state funding, and targeted prospects that are being pursued. The question was asked as to why these cost increases weren't anticipated at the beginning of the project. Due to COVID, creating more detailed schematic plans and fundraising were stalled for a year. Once operations started up again and more detailed design schematics were created, the more detailed price list from Hansen Construction combined with the COVID supply chain issues and the addition of Universal Design elements resulted in an increased price tag for the project. Value engineering the project is important and additional 2022 Bond \$ could be allocated if needed. The goal is to get the bid package out by July 2022, and break ground in Oct/Nov 2022. The Board requested that a breakdown of everything expended at ELNS be sent to them (to date) digitally for their reference.

PCC submitted a robust decision packaged to the Polk County Board of Supervisors. Elements asked for include:

- FT Operations Manager at Sleepy Hollow
- FT Construction Maintenance Technician at Sleepy Hollow
- FT Water Quality Coordinator
- \$25,000 for Paid Interns
- Permanent Part Time employee for Lauridsen Skatepark
- 5% increase across the board for operational expenses
- \$290,000 to finish the Trestle to Trestle Bridge

- \$40,000 increase to Fleet Budget
- \$500,000 to finish Lauridsen Skatepark

A FT Naturalist position and the funding for the Ape Initiative fence were denied.

Total Increase: \$2,251,415 to PCC once the public hearing is conducted 3-1-22 and the budget is certified 3-22-22.

Board & Chair Remarks

Cataldo mentioned that several years ago, \$400,000 was earmarked by John Mauro to go towards the ELNS project. If \$1,000,000 was allocated with this Decision Package, does that include the \$400,000 or is that in addition to the \$400,000?

Rich – the \$400,000 has been replaced by the \$1,000,000

Altringer – is PCC following the tax bill?

Rich – yes – the Senate version contains iWill, which is still in play. We think the Governor's Office is supportive, but no one is clear where the House stands.

Altringer – our focus is on iWill and I'm not sure how other tax legislation impacts things...

Rich – while there will be offsets once taxes are more solidified, there was enough flexibility written into iWill to accommodate for those. I have been in contact with legislators to keep their focus on passing legislation that will trigger iWill.

It was mentioned that ICCS sends out a monthly e-newsletter tracking legislation that affects County Conservation and that all Board members are encouraged to get on the distro list.

Lewis – mentioned that Rich Leopold did a great job presenting to the BOS and wondered if PCC will still be deeded the land from the Ape Trust. It is in disrepair and contains piles of asphalt shingles and tires that keep growing. There is currently a nesting pair of bald eagles also on the land in question and it is close to other land that PCC manages.

Rich – there will be future conversations about the land because the lack of funding for the fence changes the plans for managing the land. Rich will be reaching out to the director at the Ape Trust to continue the conversation regarding this area.

Lewis – mentioned that the remaining family members of the initial benefactor of the Ape Trust are not as heavily invested in its continuity.

CLOSED SESSION

#22-0220 Moved by **Cataldo** 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: **Crane, Mollenhauer, Cataldo, Altringer, Lewis**

Members Absent:

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

Action on closed session:

Moved by Altringer to return to open session.

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

Members Absent:

Adjournment - Meeting adjourned at **7:06** p.m.