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Conservation Board
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Minutes of the Floyd County Conservation Board January 2, 2018

The meeting of the FCCB was called to order at 5:00 pm by President Dirk Uetz at the Fossil Prairie Center in Rockford. Present were Board Members Beverly Fisher, Dirk Uetz, Joel Cannon, Cala McGregor, and Ann Schneckloth. Also present were Office Assistant, Amy Leaman, Resident Ranger, Tyler Walters, Natural Resources Manager, Tyron Steere, Director, Adam Sears, and Supervisor, Doug Kamm. There were no citizens. Beverly made a motion to accept the consent agenda, Joel seconded, and it passed. Ann made a motion to accept the Meeting agenda, Cala seconded, and it passed.

Fossil Prairie Foundation Report: Ann said that there had not been a meeting to report on. Adam said that there is a Fossil Prairie Foundation meeting scheduled for next Monday.

Cabin Committee report: Joel said that there was an agreement on a December slowdown. Joel made a presentation to the Marble Rock Lions Club and they gave \$1,000 to the Cabin fund. After a November inquiry to the Kinney-Lindstrom Foundation, the cabin fund received a \$12,000 grant from them. After adding in the miscellaneous contributions, the fund is up to \$42,000.

Directors report: Adam said that everything is in winter mode now. There will be a cross country ski event on Sunday, January 7 at Tosanak Recreation Area. They have completed 2 more prescribed burns and are happy with the results. The Fish Habitat grant was turned down because of an overlooked point on the application, having a biologist come to look at the Gates Bridge site. Next year the application will be resubmitted. A plan is in the works to help clear the noxious weeds from parks, especially FP Park, Colwell Park, Idlewild, and TRA. Tyler and Tyron seeded the prairie at Little Cedar off Tobacco Road. The pool area at TRA is being prepared for the cement project this summer. The weed and buckthorn problem in the right of way at Winterink Woods is being addressed by Tim Laube and Duane Folz. There will be follow-up work done after that. The Live Animal Room is getting a new floor and painted walls at FPC. A new display will go there with a game fish aquarium and toads and frogs. The West wing will have an oak tree with owls on display. Adam encouraged the Board members to go by Colwell Park to see the opened up areas under the mature oak trees. The E-Commerce online reservation system will possibly open up the second half of the camping season. Adam is working out options with the County Treasurer. Many pictures will need to be on the website with summer backgrounds.

Supervisors report: Doug said they just had an organizational meeting and elected Linda Tjaden as Chairperson. The Budget is going to be tough this year until the final numbers come in. Floyd County has 2 big construction projects to fund, being the road between Charles City and Floyd, and the bridge south of Colwell.

New Business: Last month Cala had talked about a house that would possibly be donated to TRA. It is too nice to bulldoze, so we looked at slides of the house for consideration. It is 28 by 40 feet, with 3 bedrooms, a nice kitchen and small bathroom. Adam has asked Atlas Enterprises for a ballpark figure to move it to TRA. After discussion, Joel made a motion to table the idea until more is known about costs. It passed. Then Adam brought up an idea that has been discussed by Tyler and Tyron. They have tossed around ideas and money numbers to either purchase or rent a Skid Steer Forestry Head on a skid loader. There is about 454 acres in need of cleaning out invasive weeds and dense cover that have gotten out of hand. Cala suggested that they look into leasing. Joel made a motion to table the discussion, Cala seconded, and it passed. Adam then told us about the roof at the FP center. Many shingles are missing, and he estimates it could be \$30,000 to fix it. Adam said it would be part of our Capital Projects fund. Joel moved to put \$40,000 in our Capital Improvement Budget, Cala seconded, and it was approved. The Office Assistant position will be put in the budget in the Administrative portion starting July 1. Also added to the budget was \$1,000 to Maintenance and Grounds and \$1,000 to the General Repair Fund. This years budget came in at \$399,000, under last year's amount of \$413,000. Dirk said that we should look into making a ten year plan for budgeting equipment and vehicles. Adam said that salaries have been adjusted from the 2014 hirings. Revenue is estimated at \$40,200 from rent and camping fees. REAP money has been separated. \$13,578 has been put back into the conservation account from vehicle repair and Midway grant from a budget amendment.

Old Business: It was suggested that the TRA farm operator, Dale Parcher, not be given the contract again. Eric Brunner has said he will farm the 8 acres of tillable part of TRA. The other 15 acres can be planted to prairie. Joel made a motion to ask Eric Brunner to farm the 8 acres for one year, and plant the 15 sandy acres in native grasses. Beverly seconded and it passed.

The next meeting is set for February 6 at 5:00 pm at the Fossil Prairie Center. The meeting adjourned at 6:00 pm.

Dirk Uetz, President

Ann Schneckloth, Secretary