

The regular meeting of the Page County Conservation Board was held October 12, 2021 at the Board's office, beginning at 6:30 p.m. The meeting was called to order by Vice Chair, Mark Marriott.

Board members present included Mark Marriott, Tom Johnson, Kathy Jordan and Holly Martin. Absent was Rebecca Meyer.

Staff present included John Schwab, Terry Broyles and Charly Stevens.

Visitors present included Michelle Jordan, Joyce Kruse, Bill Fidler, Judy Blay, Larry Lock, Rick Leeson, Adam Huseman, and Dave Rose.

MOTION: A motion was entered by Jordan, second by Johnson, to approve the agenda for October 12, 2021 as submitted. All in favor and motion carried.

MOTION: A motion was entered by Jordan, second by Martin, to approve the Minutes of September 14, 2021. All in favor and motion carried.

CLAIMS: The large expenditures were explained by staff.

Month-end claims for September:

(Office Supplies) - \$244.00 to CRHC for agility tests for 2 employees
(Ed Training) - \$439.02 to 1st Bankcard for ISAC conference expenses of lodging, meals and parking
(Custodial Supplies) - \$436.40 to Fastenal for 8 new garbage cans and lids
(Repair) - \$675.88 – Johnson Tire - \$98.00 for mower tire and \$577.88 to replace evaporator and vent valve on patrol, \$290.00 to Snyder Auto Body to replaced cracked windshield on tan truck
(Rapp Park Dev.) - \$495.00 to McConkey Rental - 8 hr. rental on skid loader and bucket.
(Utilities) - \$1,353.35 – MidAmerican Energy – collective total on 7 meters

Mid-month claims for October:

(Copier) - \$101.71 to Ricoh – monthly lease payment of copier
(Office Supplies) – \$110.00 – CHRC – lab fees for 2 employees
(Custodial Supplies) - \$148.89 – Easter's – misc. items (wasp spray, bathroom cleaner, light bulbs, vinyl gloves)
(Fuels) - \$1,097.23 – collective amount for fuels from Casey's, Cardtrol, and Agriland
(Small Equip/ Hand tools) - \$252.00 – Easter's 24 hr. rental for skid loader
(Repair) - \$545.09 – Johnson Ture – battery & alternator replaced on patrol truck
(Sanitation) - \$354.00 – Shenandoah Sanitation and \$535.00 to PWWS for servicing of porta pots.
(Water) - \$1,166.60 – SW Regional Water District – collective amount from all parks.
Note: high water usage @ NVP of \$776.60 from 8/27 thru 9/24/21 (a water hydrant may need to be replaced next spring)

CLAIMS: A motion was entered by Martin, second by Jordan, to approve the submitted claims for month-end September and mid-month October. All in favor and motion carried.

Public comment period was then opened. John read a statement submitted by Deb Ratliff, who couldn't be at the meeting. *"I am not able to be at this meeting but wanted to put my two cents in. I rode a week ago this past Monday and Friday, Oct. 8th. I appreciate the work that gets done. The trails looked pretty good and it is so fun to ride there. I probably get a little impatient with some things, but I think we are all trying to move in the same direction. I perhaps expect perfection in everything and I apologize for that. Things are getting better and I am trying to stay positive when I bring up concerns to you, the Board. I have just a little comparison for you. If you wanted to be on a library board, I think you would need to be an avid reader and know the library inside and out. If you want to be on a church board you would need to attend the church regularly and know your church inside and out. The same for being on the conservation board. If you have not ridden the trails or walked the trails at least two times a year, it might be hard to be an effective person on the board. I only say this so that you will know and understand what we are talking about when we bring concerns to you. Take the time to go to Pierce Creek and enjoy that wonderful park. Again, stay positive and let's work to make Pierce Creek and Nodaway as great a park as Rapp."* Sincerely Deb Ratliff.

Judy Blay asked if a tube was going to be replaced at NVP and John Schwab indicated that they hope to rebuild the crossing by building a walkway or bridge to connect to the trail and over the low water crossing. This is the only feasible idea because of the terrain to get equipment in.

Public comment portion was then closed.

Michelle Jordan, a multi-user of Pierce Creek, spoke to the Board to voice concerns on several areas of the park. She stated that she lives relatively close to the park and liked to use the trails to run on as well as ride horses.

Michelle wanted to acknowledge the improvements that had been made to the level of maintenance being conducted on the trails. Trails are in really good shape as of this time. The hard work is greatly appreciated. She noted that she had been running on the trails in the spring and had called into the office on multiple occasions about the trails being neglected, tall weeds were growing up scratching her legs. She stated that there were gooseberry briars and poison ivy both growing up in the trail. Michelle also said that she often picked up sticks and limbs off the trails because a park employee had stated that they couldn't get off the mowers to pick up sticks and that was part of the reason trails weren't being mowed.

She went on to say that she had called in last fall with concerns about the timber trails not being mowed and being allowed to grow up into weeds. She had been on what she thought was a trail and got her horse tangled in a fence line, stating she felt lucky to be on a very quiet horse that day as not only did he get his legs in the barbed wire, but if that he

had struggled he would have most likely impaled himself on the metal post. She thought that section of trails through the timber area were then closed off for about six weeks and she thought the fence would have been fixed or at least removed. However, while running on the trails this spring, she once again got on that section which she thought was a trail and ended up tripping over the wire and falling face first. This could have been avoided if the fence had been dealt with or the trails mowed.

She raised concerns about trees being hit with lawn mowers and tractors, skinning bark off them and potentially killing them. She questioned the ability of the people running the mowers and said something needs to be done. She herself had volunteered many hours at the park and made donations. Seeing so much of what she felt was abuse and waste of volunteer effort, donor contributions, and taxpayer's dollars was a disgrace. She stated the conservation area was supposed to meet the needs of the community and the board should be working to ensure park goers continue to use and enjoy the park, not against it.

Michelle also said she volunteered in various organizations and realized the amount of time and commitment that it took. She said she didn't understand board members not having a passion for the parks and being involved more. She relayed her surprise that board members had stated that they did not want anyone calling them with concerns. She also said that if they were unsure of their knowledge in an area, they should find a reliable source to help with project planning. She stated that while it was nice to see the effort being put into adding hitching rails in the non-electrical area of the equestrian campground, it was poorly planned. Hitching rails were dangerously close together, too close to a water hydrant, had bolts sticking out the posts and there was no place to safely hang a hay net. She said, in her opinion, the hitching rails were dangerous to any horse tied to them and needed to be moved before a horse was seriously injured. She wouldn't be tying her horse there but did not want to be stuck having to camp next to others. She has a generator on her trailer and wanted the ability to spread out if possible stating it was camping, not the Wal Mart parking lot.

She relayed an incident where she had a horse down in the equestrian area with a hoof caught between the trailer fender and the trailer tire. She had been very afraid that her horse would pull a hoof off to get up. She had two little girls with her that were of no help and she wanted to shield them from the incident if it turned out bad, she said she watched a conservation truck pull into the park, take money from the fee box and then pull out without offering help. She stated that all she needed was for someone to make a phone call to the local vet to come and sedate the horse. She was able to get the horse free from the trailer by bending the fender herself and the horse only ended up with cuts and bruises. She said there was no way the driver of the vehicle couldn't tell there was trouble and she was extremely angered by the negligence of the park employee.

She spoke of the leading riders around the park during a fundraiser and the need for signs. She said that while trail system was not extensive, it was lacking signs and could be confusing for anyone new to the park. She then offered to make signs and put them up.

Joyce Kruse inquired about the trail work to be done this fall to widen them, and to work on thistles, mentioned about the dead deer floating in the lake and asked if the dead deer found on the trail was taken care of. John informed those present that a Blue Tongue like disease affecting Deer is making its rounds again. Lake condition was mentioned, John indicated that the lake had been sprayed earlier in the year and DNR will spray next spring. She asked about the beaver tree and about the dead animal that was still in the cage over 20 some days. Joyce asked about what the four holes are for and John indicated for equestrian use in the day use area. Joyce inquired about the signage for liability that are available from the Iowa Horse Council, he will get them ordered.

Rick Leeson, Clarinda Hunter Safety Instructor, asked why the trap houses that have set here for years and was part of the donation from the Am Vets were destroyed (see Minutes of 8/12/2003). He and another instructor had rebuilt and reframed both trap houses to make them usable. Leeson had called an RSO (Recreational Safety Officer) who then had him contact Chris Van Gorp and asked him if shooting for hunter safety could continue, a simple yes or no on utilizing it. Chris mentioned only steel shot and he indicated to Rick that he would send someone from DNR law enforcement bureau to check out the situation. The DNR recommended utilizing the range at Pierce Creek as clay target shooting can be done there. Rick questioned why if the county was gifted property, a stipulation that it would remain a river access and among other uses, including hunter safety range and then destroy it.

John explained that the area where the shots are landing is on private property, we don't even own the river access, we don't have an easement and it's illegal to be shooting over a body of water. He had visited with Julie McAndrews and the trustees McCall's and Fastenau families doesn't want to sell it. McCall's owns sliver of land that is landlocked. Question - can the Clarinda Hunter Safety group talk to the landowners about pursuing a quit claim deed, although an easement would be more convenient. John mentioned we need to post additional boundary signs. No action taken at this time until more research is done, but the Conservation Board said they were ok with Clarinda Hunter Safety instructors talking with the McCall family.

Park updates included the Halloween event at Rapp Park; approximately 200 kids, Shenandoah Fire dept was on hand, campground was full of 32 campers onto 12 sites. Shutdown of parks will begin as temperatures begin to drop, Rapp Park will be shut down first due to the backflow preventer. Electricity is still pending to the bathroom and storm shelter and some concrete work.

The Walleyes have been ordered and are at the fisheries waiting for colder weather. Trout stamp was discussed and waiting to confirm Trout day schedule from Green Plains.

Golf cart restrictions were revisited with only for handicapped use and restricted at the equestrian area. ATV/UTV usage policy on county roads is being considered by the Board of Supervisors.

MOTION: A motion was entered by Jordan, second by Martin to stay with the policy established of no ATV's in the parks. All in favor and motion carried.

There were no board communications and with no further business to come before the Board, the Acting Chair called for an adjournment.

MOTION: A motion was entered by Johnson, second by Jordan, to adjourn. All in favor and motion carried. The meeting then adjourned at 7:40 p.m.

APPROVED: 11/9/2021

Chair Tom R. Johnson
Board Secretary Rebecca J. Ryan