

MEETING OF THE CONSERVATION BOARD OF WINNESHIEK COUNTY, IOWA

Tuesday, December 12, 2023, 1:00 p.m. at the Winneshiek County Courthouse Annex Bldg., Decorah, IA

Members Present: Bill Ohde, Steve Cornelius, Tina Hall, and Tim Wagner.

Staff Members Present: Barb Schroeder.

Guests: None

I. Call to Order. Ohde called the meeting to order at 1:04 p.m.

II. Approval of Minutes and Claims. Motion by Hall, 2nd by Cornelius to approve November minutes. MC. Motion by Hall, 2nd by Wagner to approve December claims. MC.

III. Public Comment. None

IV. Department and Committee Reports.

Staff and Director reports were submitted. The director informed the Board about the trail connection to Minnesota and using maps showed the properties that create the Dry Run Greenbelt. Board member, Tim Wagner presented on the Iowa Trail Summit and recommended board members attend next year.

V. Action Items

1. **Approve and Sign the DNR Water Recreation Access Cooperative Agreement.**
Motion by Cornelius, 2nd by Hall MC
2. **Approve Hiring Edman Engineering to Update the Preliminary Trail Plan for Dry Run Trail.**
Motion by Wagner, 2nd by Hall to hire Erdman Engineering to update the preliminary trail plan for a cost between \$5,000 and \$7,500. MC

VI. Discussion Items.

1. **2024-2025 Budget.** The Board recommended purchasing a truck in this year's budget and adding the Trail Technician back into the 2024-2025 budget. The Board will discuss this further at the January meeting. The budget is due on January 11th and the Director will present the annual report and budget on January 15th.
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2. **REAP 5-year Plan and WCCB Strategic Planning.** The REAP committee met with a variety of organizations represented. The Board reviewed the Iowa map with REAP grants and allocations, our county being the 4th highest for grant awards. Wagner showed the board the website: www.iowaworks.com and the amount of funding that has come to Iowa with the Biden Administration's programs
3. **Trail Updates**
 - The trail to Minnesota through Winneshiek County will be very expensive. MN DNR provided maps showing the route to Iowa which does not follow Hwy 139.

VII. Items for Future Agendas. Agenda items include budget and Larry Reis.

VIII. Adjournment - Schedule Next Meeting.

The next meeting will be on Tuesday, January 9, 2023, at 1:00 in Courthouse Annex.

Motion by Cornelius, 2nd by Hall to adjourn. MC. The meeting adjourned at 4:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Conservation Board Director, Barbara Schroeder