

MEETING OF THE CONSERVATION BOARD OF WINNESHIEK COUNTY, IOWA

Tuesday, January 11, 2024, 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 1:06 p.m.

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

MC. Motion by Wagner, 2nd by Hall to approve January claims. MC.

III. Public Comment. None

IV. Department and Committee Reports.

Staff and Director reports were submitted. It was noted the importance of Larry Reis providing technical advice to the staff and public. The director provided updates on the Minnesota trail, needs at Walden Pond's log house, and the need for a new sugar shack.

V. Action Items

1. Election of Officers

Motion by Hall to reelect the current officers Ohde as Chair and Hall as Vice Chair, 2nd by Wagner
MC

2. Discuss/Approve the Replacement of the Lake Meyer Shop Overhead Door. Motion by Cornelius, 2nd by Wagner to replace the door. MC

VI. Discussion Items.

- 2024-2025 Budget.** It was agreed to request funding for the Trail Technician. Suggestions for presenting the submitted budget included: list why this position is needed – user safety, maintenance, slowed construction, lost funds from unwritten grants, and an honest story on how all of this has impacted WCCB. Focus on Economic Development – land we manage for the public, rural constituents, lack of time, money, and staff. Create a histogram or graph to illustrate what the numbers represent and focus on the towns where activities occurred.
- REAP 5-year Plan and WCCB Strategic Planning.** The REAP committee adopted the outlined in their previous meeting.
- Easement Request and Sale of Real Property.** The director informed the board of two inquiries of access through Lake Meyer and another on the sale of property. Grant and donation agreements would need to be reviewed and followed before any decisions.
- 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, February 13, 2023, at 1:00 in Courthouse Annex.

Motion by Cornelius, 2nd by Cornelius to adjourn. MC. The meeting adjourned at 4:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Conservation Board Director, Barbara Schroeder