

# MEETING OF THE CONSERVATION BOARD OF WINNESHIEK COUNTY, IOWA

Tuesday, March 12, 2024, 1:00 p.m. at the Winneshiek County Courthouse Annex Bldg., Decorah, IA  
**Members Present:** Bill Ohde, Steve Cornelius, Kristin Torresdal, and Tim Wagner. Tina Hall  
**Staff Members Present:** Barbara Schroeder. **Guests:** None

**I. Call to Order.** Ohde called the meeting to order at 1:03 p.m.

**II. Approval of Minutes and Claims.** Motion by Wagner, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Hall to approve February minutes with correction. MC. Motion by Cornelius, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Torresdal to approve March claims. MC

**III. Public Comment.** None.

## IV. Department and Committee Reports.

Staff and Director reports were submitted. The director provided a 2022 comparison of visitor spending on recreation in each Iowa county with Winneshiek County being 26<sup>th</sup> in the state at \$6.35M. The director is investigating switching the phone carrier for Kendallville Campground from Windstream to Mable Cooperative Telephone. The local carrier would provide better maintenance services and costs. Walden Pond updates: Maple syruping is coming to a close, and water levels continue to be dropped in preparation for the outlet replacement with half the pond area being mud flat.

## V. Action Items

- 1. Reject Bids for Truck Purchase.** Motion by Wagner, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Hall to reject all truck bids submitted in February 2024. MC
- 2. Discuss/Approve Tractor Purchase Bids.** Wagner, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Hall to accept the bid of \$35,000 for a Case IH Farmall C 90C tractor with loader and the \$3,100 extended warranty from Windridge Implement MC.

2024 Tractor Bids	Size	Cost	Trade-in	Bid w/trade-in	
<b>John Deere 5100M</b>	100 HP	\$105,000	\$50,000	\$55,000	Bodensteiner
Warranty - 24/2000					
Extended - 72/2000 Powertrain				\$5,000	
<b>Case IH Farmall C 90C</b>	86 HP	\$80,000	\$45,000	\$35,000	Windridge
Warranty - 24/2000					
Extended - 48/3000 Everything				\$3,100	

- 3. Approve Fish Habitat Grant #24-06F, Sindelar Wildlife Access – Streambank Restoration.** Motion by Cornelius, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Torresdal. MC
- 4. Approve Fish Habitat Grant #24-07F, Walden Pond – Outlet Replacement** Motion by Wagner, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Torresdal. MC
- 5. Review/Accept Contract for Erdman Engineering Neste Valley Campground Design Plans.** The County Engineer’s Office has designed the park entrance road and the final design plan is yet to be completed. The \$50,000 matching funds are in the current budget for 2024-2025. Motion by Wagner, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Hall to award the Neste Valley campground construction design contract to Erdman Engineering MC.

## VI. Discussion Items.

- 1. Trail and Project Updates.** Red Lion Renewables provided a financial summary for installing solar at both Lake Meyer and Kendallville campgrounds. Potential to save \$600/yr and \$100,000 over the next 30 years with \$0 out-of-pocket expense for WCCB. Wagner offered to have this information reviewed by the Winneshiek Energy District.

## **VI. Discussion Items (continued).**

### **1. Trail and Project Updates.**

A haul road is needed to install the first bridge on the Dry Run Trail, later this will become the paved trail. A portion of the haul road engineering may be donated.

Cornelius commented on the nice articles in the Decorah Journal by Zack Jensen and asked if WCCB could have him write some feature articles for us.

### **2. Campground registration process and fees**

Both Lake Meyer and Kendallville campgrounds will provide internet access as a new service this year. A review of surrounding county conservation-owned campground fees showed an increase for 2024.

## **VII. Items for Future Agendas.** Campground fees and solar in the campgrounds

## **VIII. Adjournment - Schedule Next Meeting.**

The next meeting will be on Tuesday, April 9, 2024, at 1:00 in Courthouse Annex.

Motion by Hall, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Wagner to adjourn. MC. The meeting adjourned at 3:52 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Conservation Board Director Barbara Schroeder