

PROCEEDINGS: IDA COUNTY CONSERVATION FEB. 13 MINUTES

IDA COUNTY CONSERVATION BOARD: MEETING MINUTES 299 JASPER AVE.

IDA GROVE, IA, 51445

MONDAY, FEB. 13, 2023 • 6 p.m.

CONSERVATION CENTER MOOREHEAD PARK

Board Members Present:

Synda Jepsen, chair; Sue Knop, and Don Poggensee.

Others Present: Zach Hall - ICCB Director.

The Feb. 13, ICCB business meeting was called to order at 6:07 p.m. by Synda Jepsen.

Primary Agenda Topics:

- ICCB agenda: A motion to approve the agenda was made by Don, seconded by Sue, and all were in favor.

- Minutes: A motion to approve the Jan. 9 minutes was made by Sue, seconded by Don, and all were in favor.

- Monthly Bills: IAN and Sanitation claims. A motion to approve the bills was made by Don, seconded by Synda, and all were in favor.

- Budget: Hall reported the YTD expenditures, revenue, UBI bank balance, and monthly budget predictions. Expenditures for the month are on track of the budget predictions.

- Public Input: Local citizens inquired about camping reservations at Crawford Creek. The ICCB decided to pursue reviewing the management process to develop reservable camp sites. A request was anonymously submitted regarding ICCB equipment rental, which was approved by ICCB pending their charges are accepted with contract agreements.

Secondary agenda topics:

ICCB update, Department Policies, PWS Operations, CCRA Boat Ramp, Grants, ICCB & ICCF, FY23 budget, FY24 budget, and open discussion.

ICCB's update: ICCB staff has been attending training events, developing burn plans, maintaining the parks, reviewing Capital Projects, and performing educational programming. Danielle Bennett won the Iowa Association of Naturalists' 2022 Outstanding Interpretive Print Media award for the Educational Rain Garden. Congratulations Danielle for your outstanding work!

Dept. Policies: ICCB voted to remove their refund policy for rental cancellations associated with COVID-19 in light of the recent government policy changes.

ICCB voted for their director to re-write their off-leash dog policy in Moorehead Park. The new off-leash policy will study use of e-collars to count as a leash and to define "Dangerous Animals" to restrict running at large. The new policy will be reviewed in the upcoming months.

PWS Operations: ICCB was issued a insurance refund for \$6,212.50 to cover costs of replacing Moorehead Park's well pump. The Iowa Rural Water Supply and the IA DNR assisted ICCB staff during this process of understanding their water infrastructure.

CCRA Boat ramp: Plans are being made to dredge out the boat ramp at Crawford Creek by county staff. Necessary permits have been approved by the DNR and NRCS. Ida SWCD and Board of Supervisors will be required to approve the project before work may be completed this spring.

ICCB and ICCF: ICCB discussed the handicapped dock at Crawford Creek. ICCB requested that their staff continue to oversee this partnered project to improve the public resource.

Grants: NorthStar Community Credit Union donated \$15,000 to support the Rich Smith Wildlife Habitat Area (WHA) project. ICCB was awarded \$10,000 from the Iowa Chapter of Safari Club International competitive grant program to help support the same WHA project.

FY2023 Budget: The tax budget bottom line increased from \$290,000 to \$296,200 to include the insurance claim revenue. ICCB reviewed and approved of the amended FY23 financial expenditure plan.

FY2024 Budget: The Ida County Board of Supervisors approved of a 12.3% increase to ICCB's tax expenditure budget – a great improvement to our department. The ICCB has been on the same tax valuation rate for nearly 25 years. Considering aging infrastructure, ICCB is preparing to request the Board of Supervisors to modernize the valuation rate and deposit their park revenue into a Conservation Purposes account.

Open Discussion: ICCB discussed staff and sheriffs' enforcing park policies.

After discussion, the ICCB meeting adjourned at 8:18 p.m. The next ICCB public meeting is Monday, March 13, 2023, at 6 p.m. at Moorehead Park's Conservation Center.