

PROCEEDINGS: IDA COUNTY CONSERVATION • JAN. 9 MINUTES

**Ida County Conservation Board:
Meeting Minutes
299 Jasper Ave.
Ida Grove, IA, 51445
Monday, Jan. 9, 2023 • 6 p.m.
Conservation Center
Moorehead Park**

Board Members Present:
Synda Jepsen, chair; Randy Vogt, vice-chair, Dennis Leonard, Sue Knop, and Don Poggensee.

Others Present: Zach Hall - ICCB Director.

The Jan. 9, 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 Dec. 12 minutes was made by Don, seconded by Dennis, and all were in favor.

- Monthly Bills: Insurance rate increases, electricity costs, well-pump replacement, chlorine test packets, and Amazon Prime memberships were discussed. A motion to approve the bills was made by Sue, seconded by Don, and all were in favor.

- Budget: Hall reported the YTD expenditures, revenue, UBI bank balance, and monthly budget predictions. Expenditures for the month are 2% ahead of the budget predictions. Increases mentioned in the billing topics account for the off-set budget predictions.

- Public Input: Mid-American Energy proposed to re-build the electrical lines into Moorehead Park. The justification for the re-

build was there's an inadequate supply of energy to the shop/well pump house and access to the electrical lines were difficult going across the Maple River. ICCB voted and approved Mid-American Energy's proposal.

Secondary agenda topics:

ICCB update, Volunteer of the Year, Employee wellness program, ICCB & ICCF, Grants, FY2023 budget amendments, and FY2024 budget planning, and open discussion.

ICCB's update: ICCB staff has been busy developing education resources, studying for certifications, reviewing grants and CIP projects, and maintaining the parks.

Volunteer of the Year: Aiden Schoonover won the vote for the Volunteer of the Year! Congratulations Aiden and thank you for your help with education programs! ICCB would like to thank all our amazing volunteers that help improve their public use areas and programs. We look forward to 2023!

Employee Wellness Program: The ICCB voted to approve 4 hours of PTO for their part-time naturalist pending the successful participation in Ida County's wellness program in 2023.

ICCB and ICCF: Discussion occurred on the joint project at CCRA. No vote took place.

Grants: United Bank of Iowa donated \$25,000 to support the Rich Smith Wildlife Habitat Area project.

ICCB was approved of a grant extension for the Ida County Community Betterment Grant.

FY2023 Budget: ICCB voted to approve FY2023 budget amendments. Significant changes were approved for increases in fuels, electricity, insurance, and permanent staffing; and a decrease in part-time help and special projects. All the changes were within the approved bottom line of FY2023 for the "001" tax budget. The REAP and Conservation Purposes accounts, managed by ICCB per Iowa code, were amended to increase expenditures to cover necessary facility updates, support the tax expenditure budget, and to provide finances to support the Rich Smith Wildlife Habitat Area. These methods will decrease ICCB's savings account balances.

FY2024 budget items: ICCB reviewed their long-term Capital Improvement Plan. Projects that are lined up for FY24 will depend on the Ida County Board of Supervisors budget approval. ICCB voted to request a 12.9% bottom line for account "001" of tax expenditures. ICCB has been on the same tax valuation rate for nearly 25 years, without direct adjustments to account for annual inflation.

Open Discussion: ICCB discussed small-scale facility upgrades using their savings accounts and discussed signage in the parks.

After discussion, the ICCB meeting adjourned at 8:37 p.m. The next ICCB public meeting is Monday, Feb. 13, 2023, at 6 p.m. at Moorehead Park's Conservation Center.