



MUSCATINE COUNTY CONSERVATION BOARD

3300 Cedar Street P.O. Box 109 Muscatine, IA 52761 (563) 264-5922 email: conservation@muscatinecountyia.gov

September 16, 2024
Regular Meeting

OFFICIAL MINUTES OF THE MUSCATINE COUNTY CONSERVATION BOARD

The Muscatine County Conservation Board held its monthly meeting on Monday, September 16, 2024 at the Environmental Learning Center. Chairperson Sherry Seright called the meeting to order at 6:00 P.M.

Members present: Sherry Seright, Mike Schulte, Karen Hartman.

Members absent: Julie Jindrich, Mark Petersen.

Also Present: Katie Hammond, Scott Sauer, Lori Dietrich, Kim Schneider, Adam Raisbeck and Ryne Brimeyer.

Meeting Minutes

Mike Schulte made a motion to approve the August 19, 2024 meeting minutes as presented.

Karen Hartman seconded. Voting aye: Mike Schulte, Karen Hartman and Sherry Seright.

Voting nay: none.

Public Participation

None.

Special Events Permits

None.

The Director gave updates on projects. At Deep Lake Park, the sand removal process is near being done. September 11, the director and staff met with engineers from Bolton & Menk about the campground project. 7-8 engineers, each assigned to different aspects were in the discussion. Weekly meetings have been set up for progress monitoring. The Phase 1 Environmental & Asbestos testing at the potential maintenance building property have been completed and we are waiting on the results. Mike Nolan is ready to start designing once he gets the okay. Plans for the maintenance building are still being discussed. May want to use the smaller building instead, and need to decide about the restroom, office space, heated & cooled bay for workspace and roofing and siding for the larger building. At Saulsbury the Halloween drive-thru will be October 19, with just a few spots left. At Discovery Park, the dates have been changed to July 11th-13th for the 20-year celebration next year. Several events are being planned for the weekend. A fish fry will be held Friday, July 11, 2025. The Geothermal work should be done in October. The electrical work for the lights on the outside of the building and parking lot is being done today. Staff is working on power washing and staining the outside of the Environmental Learning Center. A Carver Trust grant may be available to get a new system for the aquariums, new tank for Timmy the red-eared slider and possibly new snake enclosures that are bigger and double stacked. The grant request will need to be submitted for them at their October meeting.

Adam Raisbeck presented a proposal to the Board to hold a Sprint Class Triathlon at Deep Lakes Park next year on a tentative date of August 2, 2025. An overall outline of the event and what is being planned was given and discussed by the board. There was a request to have someone from the MCCB on the event Board. Karen Hartman made a motion to approve having the Sprint Class Triathlon at Deep Lakes Park on August 2, 2025. Mike Schulte seconded. Voting aye: Sherry Seright, Mike Schulte and Karen Hartman. Voting nay: none.

The Director brought up the need to have a second part-time cabin custodian as the current custodian is unable to keep up with the reservations during the week. Mike Schulte made a motion to hire a second part-time cabin custodian, Karen Hartman seconded. Voting aye: Sherry Seright, Mike Schulte and Karen Hartman. Voting nay: none.

The Director gave the Environmental Education report. 176 kids and 271 adults for a total of 447 people were served with 13 programs last month. Monarch Tagging will be September 17th, Wild Edibles at Cedar Bluffs will be September 22nd. Fall and Winter Nature camps will start September 28th thru April 12th, 2025.

The Director gave the Operations Report. Staff is washing and staining the entry ways at the Environmental Learning Center. Replaced bad deck boards on the back deck. Mowed off clover field. Mowed campground area. Installed shelter sign for shelter #3. Repaired bad overhead lights in the Reptile & Amphibians display area.

Other Items from the Director

In conjunction with the 20th Anniversary celebration there will be an art & photo contest open to amateurs, with prizes and possibly using the winning photo for our website. The Director will be attending the ICCS Conference at Calmar in Winneshiek County on Tuesday thru Thursday this week. On October 1st the REAP Grant review will be in Des Moines and October 2nd, an E-Commerce meeting will be in Webster City. The Director, Lori Dietrich and Kirstin Neeld will be attending.

Items from the Board

Mike Schulte asked if we were getting a trout release this year at Discovery Pond. Katie Hammond stated that on October 26th at 12:00P.M. the Iowa DNR will release 1,000 trout. Mike also asked if the water at Deep Lakes Park was tested. Park Officer, Ryne Brimeyer stated that the water at Deep Lakes is tested on a regular basis and has always been good.

Claims

Mike Schulte made a motion to approve all claims in the amount of \$15,407.87. Karen Hartman seconded. Voting aye: Mike Schulte, Sherry Seright and Karen Hartman. Voting nay: none.

Adjournment

Chairperson Sherry Seright adjourned the meeting at 7:40 P.M.

Katie Hammond, Director
Muscatine County Conservation Board