



MUSCATINE COUNTY CONSERVATION BOARD

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November 18, 2024
Regular Meeting

OFFICIAL MINUTES OF THE MUSCATINE COUNTY CONSERVATION BOARD

The Muscatine County Conservation Board held its monthly meeting on Monday, November 18, 2024 at the Environmental Learning Center. Acting Chairperson Mike Schulte called the meeting to order at 6:01 P.M.

Members present: Mike Schulte, Mark Petersen, Karen Hartman and Julie Jindrich.

Members absent: Sherry Seright.

Also present: Katie Hammond, Scott Sauer, Lori Dietrich, and Emily Naylor.

Meeting Minutes

Mike Schulte stated that there were two errors in the minutes of the October 21, 2024 minutes. Errors have been corrected on the October 21, 2024 minutes. Karen Hartman made a motion to accept the corrected minutes from the October 21, 2024 meeting. Julie Jindrich seconded. Voting aye: Karen Hartman, Julie Jindrich, Mark Petersen and Mike Schulte. Voting nay: none.

Karen Hartman made a motion to open a public hearing for the Deep Lakes Campground project, including proposed contract documents, plans, specifications, form of contract and estimated cost. Julie Jindrich seconded. Mike Schulte took a roll call vote. Voting aye: Karen Hartman, Julie Jindrich, Mark Petersen and Mike Schulte. Voting nay: none. Katie Hammond informed the group that the estimated cost for the project is now 1.1 million and we are about \$300,000.00 short.

Public Participation

None.

Special Events Applications

Application for Special Event-Twitty Wedding. Saturday, October 25, 2025 at Discovery Park Large Shelter #1. The shelter rental fee has been paid. Approximately 50 people. Karen Hartman made a motion to approve the Twitty Wedding application. Julie Jindrich seconded. Voting aye: Karen Hartman, Julie Jindrich, Mark Petersen and Mike Schulte. Voting nay: none.

The Director gave updates on current projects. At Deep Lakes Park, the sand borrowing project is winding down. Bids are due at 12:00PM, December 11, 2024 at the Administration Building for the Campground project. Emily Naylor of Bolton & Menk will be there to receive bids that will be reviewed at the December 18, 2024 Board meeting. The Muscatine Triathlon planning is moving forward. Working with Musco on getting electricity to the parking lot area for the Triathlon. The closing on the property at 2570 Pettibone Ave is this Thursday, November 21, 2024, 2:00PM at First Choice Realty. Will be getting more information regarding improvements on the building to use as a maintenance building that can be discussed at the December Board meeting. At Saulsbury, the campground is closed and the water has been turned off. The Marilyn J. Irey Estate bequest has \$27,153.00 remaining. Staff is looking at different pieces of equipment that would be useful maintaining the Saulsbury area. At Discovery Park, the restrooms have been closed and the water is off. A port-a potty at the playground area has been rented for the winter months. The leaking pipe in the basement has been fixed. We are still waiting on the geothermal system to be repaired, up and running correctly.

Mark Petersen made a motion to close the public hearing, Karen Hartman seconded. Voting aye: Mike Schulte, Karen Hartman, Mark Petersen and Julie Jindrich. Voting nay: none. Mark Petersen made a motion to approve Resolution 2024-01 for the Deep Lakes Park Campground project and set Wednesday, December 11, 2024, 12:00PM, as the date and time bids are due at the Administration building. Bids will be opened at 12:05PM. Karen Hartman seconded. Mike Schulte took a roll call vote, voting aye: Karen Hartman, Mark Peterson, Mike Schulte and Julie Jindrich. Voting nay: none. Mark Petersen made a motion to close the public hearing, Karen Hartman seconded. Voting aye: Mike Schulte, Karen Hartman, Mark Petersen and Julie Jindrich. Voting nay: none.

The Board discussed the only bid received for replacing the aquatic life support system and animal enclosures at the Environmental Learning Center. Three other possible bidders for the project either did not respond to an email regarding the project or declined to send a bid. Aquatic Environments Inc. sent a bid for \$71,119.00 and is requesting half or \$35,559.50 up front. Karen Hartman made a motion to accept the only bid received from Aquatic Environments Inc. for \$71,119.00 and paying \$35,559.50 before starting the project. Mark Petersen seconded. Voting aye: Mike Schulte, Karen Hartman, Julie Jindrich and Mark Petersen. Voting nay: none.

The Board discussed the two well bids received for the Deep Lakes Park Campground project. Mark Petersen made a motion to approve the low bid of \$29,900 from Latta Well & Pump for the campground well. Karen Hartman seconded. Voting aye: Mike Schulte, Karen Hartman, Julie Jindrich and Mark Petersen. Voting nay: none.

The Board discussed the mowing quote from Robert Peck for mowing at Nye Cemetery and Jack Shuger Park. Mark Petersen made a motion to approve the quote of \$60.00 per mow at Nye Cemetery and \$100 per mow at Jack Shuger Park. Karen Hartman seconded. Voting aye: Mike Schulte, Karen Hartman, Julie Jindrich and Mark Petersen. Voting nay: none.

The Board discussed the FY26 proposed budget. The budget includes giving returning seasonal/part-time summer help a cost-of-living increase, as well as our permanent part-time employee, which would be split between REAP and general salary account. Hire an environmental education intern for 16 weeks during the summer that would also be split between REAP and general salary account. A request for a laptops or tablets from IT for Park Ranger use. Mark Petersen made a motion to approve the proposed FY26 budget. Julie Jindrich seconded. Voting aye: Mike Schulte, Karen Hartman, Julie Jindrich and Mark Petersen. Voting nay: none.

The Director gave the Environmental Education report. 1540 kids, 558 adults for a total of 2098 people were served during 86 programs last month.

The Director gave the Operations report. At Saulsbury, staff cut down storm damaged trees and repaired the harrow wheel bearings. The shower house and restrooms have been winterized. Staff did some training on Wildland firefighting. At Richardson, staff treated the black locust in the prairie.

Other items from the Director

None.

Items from the Board

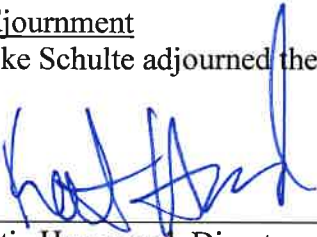
Mark Petersen asked what became of the problem with the trash that was being moved onto the Deep Lakes property. The Director replied that most of it has been taken care of. The Director also gave an answer to the question Mark Petersen had last month about officers using fresh ammunition. The Park officers regularly change out ammunition in their handguns.

Claims

Julie Jindrich made a motion to approve all claims in the amount of \$14,229.71. Karen seconded. Voting aye: Mike Schulte, Karen Hartman, Julie Jindrich and Mark Petersen. Voting nay: none.

Adjournment

Mike Schulte adjourned the meeting at 7:47 P.M.



Katie Hammond, Director
Muscatine County Conservation Board