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Minutes of the Floyd County Conservation Board January 8, 2019

The meeting was called to order by President Dirk Uetz at 5:07 pm at the Tosanak Recreation Area, Directors Lodge. Present were Board Members Cala McGregor, Joel Cannon, Dirk Uetz, Beverly Fisher, and Ann Schneckloth. Also present were Supervisor Roy Schwickerath, Naturalist Heidi Reams, Resident Ranger Tyler Walters, Natural Resource Manager Tyron Steere, and Director Adam Sears. Beverly made a motion to accept the Consent Agenda, Cala seconded, and it was accepted. Joel made a motion to accept the Meeting Agenda, Beverly seconded, and it was accepted.

Roy gave the Supervisors Report. The Budget requests are coming in to the Supervisors, and there are some pretty large ones. Their job will be to see how the revenues and expenditures match up.

Ann gave the Fossil Prairie Foundation report. They have not had a meeting, so there was nothing to report. Adam said they are planning a meeting for January 14th. Everyone was reminded that March 2, 2019, will be the Annual banquet at the Youth Enrichment Center at the Floyd County Fairgrounds.

Joel Cannon gave the Cabin Committee Report. There have been many private donations given this month, totaling \$1,000. They reapplied for the First Citizens Bank Grant, and were awarded \$5,000. Plumbers and sewer contractors have reevaluated the numbers and they are still on track to break ground in the spring.

Adam gave the Directors Report. Nate Mead has been hired as a temporary employee helping out with a few large projects and doing odds and ends. Two seasonal staff members are needed for summer, at a rate of \$11 an hour. Any bad picnic tables are being gathered up, and they will be worked on during bad weather days. Ten will be replaced. Eighteen tables will go to Ackley Creek Campground. The Fish Habitat Grant has been awarded for work at Gates Bridge Access. \$47,313 is needed to cover the cost of the project, which will be reshaping the shoreline, and taking trees out, and adding 1,000 feet of rock along the shore. The tree root balls will be used to improve fishing areas. Before the project begins there may need to be a mussel count and a bat survey.

We will have to supply 10% of the costs. The old Charles City floating docks will be repaired with a plastic compound and will be used at the Fossil Prairie Park at the west end of the quarry for fishing. Two will be used for educational purposes. While the weather was good, they have been cutting brush and collecting firewood to heat the shop. The upgrades at the Fossil & Prairie Center include a painting of a prairie scene on one of the curved walls by Robin Macomber. There is also going to be an amphitheater on the northwest corner of the yard of the Fossil & Prairie Center. Otto's Oasis did a mock up with 3 levels of seating with permeable pavers at the top. It is situated so that the existing deck can be used to make a handicap access. Heidi has been contacting Charles City and Rockford high schools to do hunter education. James Grob will do a CC Press article about the hunter education being offered in the fall at the Smart Lunch program. It will be offered 2 to 3 times a week over a 3 week period and they will receive a hunter safety education certificate. The Charles City Ikes will do a hunter safety in March and Floyd County conservation will have their hunters education day August 22 and 24. The FPC will have new cannister LED lighting put around the building. The E-commerce method of reservations at the campgrounds in Floyd county is ready to go. The staff is going to do a test run first and make sure mycounty-parks.com is going to work. If there are phone customers the staff will make a profile for them and do the password. Heidi has taken pictures of Board Members for the Conservation Board Spotlight.

New Business: Adam handed out charts showing the operator's rate for Floyd County. \$211 is the regular rate, but Adam has set the rate for \$200 last year. Ann made a motion to charge operators \$200 for 2019, Joel seconded and it passed. The Conservation Budget Review was given to the supervisors last Wednesday. Adam made a request for a new 3/4 ton pickup at \$29,000. It may be a July 1 delivery. Adam also requested to add \$15,000 to purchase an older dump truck from Sec Roads. Adam made a request to the Supervisors for \$50,719 for the salary for a new technician as an optional choice. Roy said that we may also get more revenues from Tosanak Recreation Area this year and other sources due to the E commerce. The Supervisors have not decided salaries yet.

Old Business: The Wentlands Woods Forestry Plan has to be presented to the public. A time and date were discussed for a public meeting. The first choice was a Saturday morning, January 26, 2019, if Greg Heidebrink can be there at the Floyd Community Center. The second choice was Tuesday, January 29, at the Floyd Community Center. Roy said that a 24 hour advance notice is needed.

There will be an ice fishing event at Rudd Lake on February 2, 2019. The Rudd Volunteer Fire Department has a facility nearby that will be available for lunch and prizes following the morning fishing. Posters were handed out to find good advertising locations.

The next meeting will be February 5th at the Fossil Prairie Center at 5:00 pm. Meeting adjourned.

Dirk Uetz, President _____ Ann Schneckloth, Secretary _____