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Minutes of the Floyd County Conservation Board March 5, 2019

The meeting was called to order at 5:07 by President Dirk Uetz at the Fossil Prairie Center in Rockford, Iowa. Present were Board Members Joel Cannon, Cala McGregor, Dirk Uetz, Beverly Fisher, and Ann Schneckloth. Also present were Director Adam Sears, Resident Ranger Tyler Walters, Wildlife Resource Manager Tyron Steere, and Supervisor Roy Schwickerath. Four Citizens were present. Beverly made a motion to accept the Consent Agenda, Joel seconded and it was accepted. Joel made a motion to change the Meeting Agenda and move the STEM Project to be ahead of the Directors Report. Cala seconded, and the Meeting Agenda was accepted.

Roy gave the Supervisors Report. Next Tuesday the budgets will be decided on by the Supervisors. Roy commented that the Bill that is in committee proposing there could be no more land purchases by the counties in Iowa received a large number of negative emails. The Legislators have noted that.

Ann gave the Fossil Prairie Foundation report. The Board met before the Spring Banquet to finalize things, and then were going to meet again soon to do Thank you letters and see what revenues were made.

Joel gave the Cabin Committee Report. He said there are enough funds to build the cabin now. Another donation from the St John Lutheran Church will help with the finalize the details. Adam will order the cabin next week with 20% down and delivery early May.

The attending Citizens gave their report. Their project is to provide signage and clear the way for a Shell Rock - Winnebago River Trail through the STEM program at the Rockford schools. The presenters were Jacob Stokes and Wylan Schmidt. Also working on the project are Westen Schmidt and their STEM teacher, David Christofferson. The trail will start at the Bridge at the FPC launch area that is on the River by the Kilns. It is a 4 hour float to the boat landing area at Tosanak Recreation Area. They are needing \$21 for mileage signs and \$85 for signage to respect private lands. They passed out some very nice brochures. The land owners along the trail will need to be contacted, and the signage could be done by the Iowa DOT or Prison Industries. Joel made a motion to allow the STEM project to proceed, Beverly seconded, and it passed. They will work on it over the summer and into the school year next fall.

Adam gave the Directors Report. Brush cutting went into February but was soon replaced by snow removal. The picnic tables are still being worked on at the Tosanak Recreation Area shop. The Mural on the curved wall at the FPC is done, and the plants are correct to scale. The ceiling in the stairwell is coming along well and they are putting drywall in the Lab. The lower level exit area is being redone, and the basement walls have been painted. The Gates Bridge Access project is waiting for word from DNR on what surveys need to be done. The fish habitat structures will be put on Rudd Lake on top of the ice, to sink in the spring. Tyler has done a good job trail grooming for cross country skiing. Heidi has had several classes, one of them with 30 people. There was a good showing of people at the Fossil & Prairie Conservation Spring Banquet. There are big constructions ahead for summer. The cabin will be set, The TRA Reinhart Recreation Area, The FPC Amphitheater, and new restrooms at the Kiln Area. Last week the E-commerce program was activated and is up and running, people can start reserving sites to rent. We have a display at the Floyd County Courthouse on the first floor. The map and other parts of the display need to be updated. The FPC will be busy this spring because of a larger number of schools reserving visitation times. We hope to hire 2 Conservation Aides for the summer.

New Business: Bruce Bergland wants to purchase a maple syrup making business and donate it to the Conservation Board. \$6,000 is still needed to purchase it. The old Bike shop at TRA could be used to house it when it is not being used. Joel made a motion to have the maple syrup committee do their own fundraising and get their own volunteers to use the facilities at TRA. Ann seconded, and the motion carried.

Old Business: The public meeting for the Wendtland Woods tree logging project was held March 4. There was no resistance among the attendees. Cala moved to go ahead with Greg Heidebrink's Forestry Plan for Wentlands Woods, Plan1, Beverly seconded and it passed. The land donation discussion that was tabled at last meeting will be tabled again. The County Attorney was still unavailable. There are many issues, including a pipeline, easements, and agreements.

The next meeting will be April 2, 5:15 pm, at the Fossil Prairie Center. Meeting adjourned by Dirk at 6:02 pm.

Dirk Uetz, President

Ann Schneckloth, Secretary