

Franklin County Conservation Board

Monthly Meeting Minutes of

March 13, 2017

Board Members present: Brian Tegtmeyer, Bruce Harris, Tony Stadtlander, Jon Petersen, Sandy Eckhardt

Board Members absent:

Staff Members present: Ned Parker, Brody Bertram, Logan VanDyke

Guests present: Sheriff Linn Larson, Gary McVicker, Dick Lukensmeyer

Meeting called to order: 6:32 p.m. @ Conservation Department Office

Public Participation: none

Review & Approve February 20, 2017, Minutes:

Brian moved minutes of February 20th meeting be approved, Sandy 2nd, all ayes, motion passed.

Appointments: **6:30** Linn Larson attended our meeting to discuss cooperation between the Sheriff's Department & the Conservation Department. We reminded the new Sheriff of the problems we've had in the past - over-fishing the county lakes, fishing with no license, vehicles driving on trail, etc. He is aware of the problems & suggested the staff "just keep calling", among other possible solutions to the problems. He & his staff are looking forward to working with our staff.

7:00 Dick Lukensmeyer was here on behalf of the Hampton Tree Board - wants to assure us their Board is willing to work with the Conservation Department, especially in planting trees along the RPT.

Old Business:

- 1) Robinson Addition demolition update:** Kurt Thielen determined there is asbestos in a couple of the buildings at the Robinson House property, but he won't be able to remove the asbestos himself (he gave an estimate of \$7500). We will need to hire another contractor to remove the asbestos.

New Business:

- 1) Consider allowing trees to be planted on the North side of bike trail:** We will continue to follow the policy we have in the past regarding tree planting along the trail.
- 2) Discuss possible grant for freedom rock on bike trail in Coulter:** Tony had Myron Lawler (from Coulter) visit with him & show him what the American Legion Riders have planned. There has been an abundance of interest & concern since the "Freedom Rock" appeared in town. Many discussions have taken place & the Coulter Mayor has been informing people that the projects the City is planning are NOT the Conservation Department's projects - the projects are the American Legion Riders. Lots of plans are being made & we want to let the residents of Coulter know we are more than willing to work with them on their projects.

3) **Consider request to use Interstate Lake as water source for dust control:** Contractor working for wind farms want to siphon water out of the Interstate Lake Park lake for dust control this summer while they are constructing the wind farms. Bruce moved we deny request from the contractor, Brian 2nd, all ayes, motion passed.

4) **Approve bills:** Brian moved to pay bills, Bruce 2nd, all ayes, motion passed.

5) **Any other new business:**

Mallory Park bath house door vents: Contractor installed vents in all of the bath house doors at Mallory Park, including the utility room door. We will see if this improves the ventilation.

Update on O'Donnell fen: Logan will be taking Bryce Morris (the regional biologist for Pheasants Forever) out to the fen & maybe he will be able to put in a good word for us as we are working on acquiring the O'Donnell property. Logan also emailed NWTF regional biologist on Monday & will ask the same of him. Tony suggested we check with Delta Waterfowl (a new chapter in Meservey) - they may be willing to help us out, too!

IWILL: This bill will be brought up in the legislature tomorrow. County Conservation Departments would get a percentage of the revenue from this bill if the law makers will fund.

Mallory Park oak trees dying: Brian noticed we have oak trees dying in Mallory Park. Ned says we have between 15 to 20 trees with Bur Oak blight - specific to bur oaks. Can we harvest & sell them?? We all agreed we may as well try to get some money from them while they are still viable. Native fungus attacks oldest biggest trees - does not affect younger. Staff will keep an eye on the oaks.

Adjourn: Bruce moved to adjourn, Brian 2nd, all ayes, motion passed. Meeting adjourned at 7:34 p.m.

***Next meeting date will be
April 10, 2017***

@ the Franklin County Conservation Department Office

Respectfully submitted,

Sandy Eckhardt

Sandy Eckhardt, Franklin County Conservation Board Secretary