

Franklin County Conservation Board

Monthly Meeting Minutes of April 9, 2018

Board Members present: Tony Stadlander, Scott Doescher, Jon Petersen, Bruce Harris, Sandy Eckhardt

Board Members absent: None

Staff Members present: Ned Parker, Brody Bertram, Alex Meyer

Guests present: Kyle Pralle, Keegan Murphy, James Sprung, Robert Harms, Mike Nolte

Meeting called to order: Jon called the meeting to order at 6:32 p.m. @ the Franklin County Law Enforcement Center

Public Participation: None

Review & Approve Agenda: Tony moved to approve the agenda as posted, Bruce 2nd, all ayes, motion passed.

Review & Approve Minutes: Tony moved to approve the minutes of the March 2018 meeting, Scott 2nd, 4 ayes, 1 abstention, motion passed.

Appointments: 6:30 - Several members of the local Pheasants Forever Chapter were present to discuss future cooperation with the Conservation Department. They were pleased they were allowed to name the new land acquisition - "Forever Fen". They are looking for continued cooperation with the Conservation staff & board. We all expressed our sincere appreciation for their support & contributions to the Department, specifically & especially for their considerable contributions towards the new fen. We reassured them we are planning on continuing our good relationship with them.

Old Business:

- 1) **Land acquisition update:** The O'Donnell fen property purchase is complete. It has been named "Forever Fen", referencing Pheasants Forever's contribution to the purchase. Signs will be posted soon.

New Business:

- 1) **Upcoming events/fundraising opportunity - Brody Bertram:** Brody presented several events in association with Discover Maynes Grove Week - Sharing Sheds Night, an opportunity for Scouts to earn a badge by gaining info about trees, appliances & electronics recycling event & a Bluebird House fund-raising campaign. Bruce moved to allow the staff to move ahead with the Bluebird House Fund-Raiser - Sandy 2nd, all ayes, motion passed. All staff are very enthusiastic about the variety & scope of the events. Good job, guys!!
- 2) **Consider request from North Hansell Shooting Complex Board to change name to "The Range":** The Board of the shooting complex asked if we would approve their name change to "The Range". As they have their own Board & budget & are self-sufficient, they should be allowed to make the name change if they wish.
- 3) **Review Communication Policy:** Ned will revise wording of policy but it will be left in place.
- 4) **Approve wage for seasonal employees:** Discussed seasonal employees wages. 3 seasonal employees have already been hired. Seasonal wages will start at \$10/hr for a full 40 hour week. Bruce moved to accept the seasonal wage at \$10/hr, Scott 2nd, all ayes, motion passed.
- 5) **Conservation Tech vacancy:** Discussion on whether vacancy should be filled. Nolte advised against it, warning there is the possibility of a lay-off, as the County has fallen on hard times. Board feels job is necessary & approved posting - Ned will post the job this week.
- 6) **Any other new business:**
 - Update on Board of Supervisors decision on comp time - as the Conservation Department has their own Board & it has proposed & approved a reasonable change to the department's compensatory time issue, the Supervisors cannot deny the staff the comp time they have accumulated or what they may accumulate in the future, keeping in mind the approved change.

Approve bills: Scott moved to pay bills, Sandy 2nd, all ayes, motion passed.

Adjourn: Bruce moved to adjourn, Tony 2nd, all ayes, motion passed. Meeting adjourned at 8:32 p.m.

*Next meeting date: **May 14, 2018** @ the Franklin County Conservation Department Office*