

# Franklin County Conservation Board

## Monthly Meeting Minutes of February 12, 2018

**Board Members present:** Tony Stadlander, Scott Doescher, Sandy Eckhardt

**Board Members absent:** Bruce Harris, Jon Petersen

**Staff Members present:** Ned Parker, Alex Meyer

**Guests present:** Mike Nolte

**Meeting called to order:** Tony called the meeting to order at 6:35 p.m. @ Franklin County Conservation Department Office

**Public Participation:** None

**Appointments:** None

**Review & Approve Minutes:** Scott moved to approve the *amended* minutes of January 15, 2018, Tony 2<sup>nd</sup> Ally ayes, motion passed

**Old Business:**

- 1) **Land acquisition update:** Due to legal delays, the closing on the O'Donnell Fen has been postponed until March 28, 2018. \$1000 earnest money has been paid

**New Business:**

- 1) **Discuss name for land acquisition:** Ned mentioned we should consider a new name for the O'Donnell Fen & bring suggestions to the next meeting. Also, Pheasants Forever should be given a chance to submit possible names, as they were integral factor in the purchase. (PF's suggestion - Ring-necked Fen!)
- 2) **Consider quote for lodge table replacement:** Discussed replacing 21 of the old, heavy lodge tables with 21 new, lighter tables. Ned was given a quote for 21 Mecos tables for a total of \$1744.79 (total for tables & shipping). Tony moved we purchase new tables @ this price, Scott 2<sup>nd</sup>, all ayes, motion passed.
- 3) **Conservation budget cut:** The Board of Supervisors is requiring the Conservation Department cut their budget for the upcoming year by 3%. The Department will not purchase the UTV this coming year as planned to allow for the 3% cut.
- 4) **Future trail development with Cerro Gordo, Wright County in Wisner Township:** Cerro Gordo County is interested in developing a bike trail through Franklin County in Wisner Township to complete a trail through the three counties. Wright or Cerro Gordo County may be willing to include this portion in their grant application, if we are willing to give them access. It will be called Prairie Land Trail. More discussion in future.
- 5) **Compensatory time:** The Board of Supervisors have been discussing the elimination of comp time. After discussion, Ned suggested that, due to the seasonal nature of the Department & in the best interests of the Department & the County, they could reduce the current capped comp time hours from 120 hours to 80 hours. Scott moved to propose to the Board of Supervisors the Conservation Department will cap the amount of comp time @ 80 hours per employee & that each employee must use all but 20 hours of their accumulated time by March 1<sup>st</sup> of each year. Tony 2<sup>nd</sup>, all ayes, motion passed.
- 6) **Election of Officers:** Will elect officers when more Board Members are present.
- 7) **Conservation Director Evaluation:** All evaluations need to be submitted to Jon & then we will discuss at April meeting.
- 8) **Any other new business:**
  - **DOT wetland agreement:** The DOT has drawn up the wetland mitigation agreement with Franklin County in order to proceed with bidding. The agreement was discussed. The board will review an updated draft of the agreement at the March meeting.
    - The Nature Conservancy has approved us for the development of wetlands @ the West Fork Wildlife Area (just under 5 acres in mitigation now). They will provide \$10,000 in exchange for our labor.
    - Will discuss "year end" next month.

**Approve bills:** Sandy moved to pay bills, Tony 2<sup>nd</sup>, all ayes, motion passed.

**Adjourn:** Scott moved to adjourn, Sandy 2<sup>nd</sup>, all ayes, motion passed. Meeting adjourned at 7:58 p.m.

*Next meeting date: March 12, 2018 @ the Franklin County Conservation Department Office*

Respectfully submitted by Sandy Eckhardt, Board Member