

# Franklin County Conservation Board

## Monthly Meeting Minutes of August 6, 2018

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

**Board Members absent:** None

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

**Guests present:** Approximately 20 members of the public were present

**Meeting called to order:** Jon called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. @ the Franklin County Law Enforcement Center

**Public Participation:** (see "Appointments")

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

**Review & Approve Minutes:** Bruce moved to approve the minutes of the July 2018 meeting, Scott 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3 ayes, 1 abstention, motion passed.

**Public Hearing:** Jon proposed opening the Public Hearing to receive comments regarding archery hunting only area at the Forever Fen Wildlife Area. Scott moved to open the Public Hearing, Sandy 2<sup>nd</sup>, all ayes, motion passed. Jon opened the Public Hearing at 7:04 p.m. Much discussion involved designating "north 20 acres" of wildlife area as bow-hunting only due to proximity to residences. Jordon Hanson, DNR Officer, spelled out laws concerning shooting firearms near occupied buildings, etc. Many members of Pheasants Forever were in attendance. PF & other clubs contributed many \$'s to help acquire property & are disappointed that gun hunting won't be allowed in ALL of fen. Bow-hunting only appears to be a compromise agreeable to all parties. Public Hearing closed at 7:57 p.m.

**Old Business:** None

### **New Business:**

- 1) **Consider/adopt Resolution 2018-1 - Establish the North 20 acres of Forever Fen as archery-only hunting area:** Bruce moved to adopt Resolution 2018-1, Sandy 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3 ayes, 1 abstention, motion passed.
- 2) **Mallory bridge replacement:** Custom Mfg. Inc. has quoted \$30,000 to construct wooden bridge to replace the old at Mallory Park. Ned will get estimate from Buresh Building Systems to modify a metal bridge to meet specs. Will discuss at future meeting.
- 3) **UTV replacement:** Red 2010 Polaris Ranger needs to be replaced - too many \$'s spent on too many repairs. Discussed several different options - Ned had prices for different brands. Also discussed trade-in & payment options. Ned will see if dealers will allow Staff to test drive models - Board will allow Staff to make decision on which UTV best fits their needs.
- 4) **Maynes Grove Lodge Rental Fee:** Ned presented current revenue/expenses for Maynes Grove Lodge Rental. Currently, expenses are higher than revenue. Discussed increasing rental rates to \$200 (up from \$100) for Regular rental, \$70 (up from \$35) for Non-profit rental & a \$25 cleaning fee for Conservation events. Bruce moved to increase the rental rates beginning with new reservations, Tony 2<sup>nd</sup>, 4 ayes, 1 nay, motion passed.
- 5) **Any other new business:**
  - **Public comment:** Gerry Heilskov was present to discuss concerns related to the new park boundary at the Forever Fen. Signs will post signs at each corner of boundary to designate property lines.
  - **Discussed Open House Ceremony for Forever Fen:** ALL donors should be invited to ceremony. Ned has ordered signs, but they won't be here in time - he will get a temporary banner instead. Will be dedicated to Norval Korth & Alan Meyer. Set September 8<sup>th</sup> @ 10:00 a.m. at Forever Fen for dedication.
  - Tony has been taking complaints about mowing & weed-whipping not satisfactory at some parks. Also, some campers are complaining that they can't park campers in certain spots at Robinson's Park because of tight spots, trees. Staff will check on this.
  - New picnic tables have been delivered to Handorf Park. New swingsets are on order - will be delivered soon. Not enough money collected to purchase benches, so larger swingsets were ordered.
  - Ray Baltes would like to see Conservation Department become involved in Shooting Range signage project. All agreed the Range Board needs to continue to manage the Range.

**Approve bills:** Bruce moved to pay bills EXCEPT for Iowa Workforce Development claim, Scott 2<sup>nd</sup>, all ayes, motion passed.

**Adjourn:** Bruce moved to adjourn, Sandy 2<sup>nd</sup>, all ayes, motion passed. Meeting adjourned at 9:07 p.m.

**Next meeting date:** *September 10, 2018 @ 7:00 p.m. @ the Franklin County Conservation Department Office*

Respectfully submitted by Sandy Eckhardt, Board Member