

Franklin County Conservation Board

Monthly Meeting Minutes of November 9, 2017

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

Board Members absent:

Staff Members present: Ned Parker

Guests present: Gary McVicker, Ray Baltes

Meeting called to order: Jon called the meeting to order at 6:31 p.m. @ Franklin County Conservation Department Office

Public Participation:

Appointments: 6:30 Ray Baltes presented a slideshow he produced using photos he has taken in Franklin County Parks. He requested a special permit to ride his ATV along trails in other parks where access is limited. He would be taking photos, he is not requesting hunting privileges. If we allow him access he will share his photos to use on the website, etc. We will take his request under consideration.

Review & Approve Minutes: Bruce moved to approve the minutes of October 9, 2017, Tony 2nd, all ayes, motion passed.

Old Business: none

New Business:

- 1) **Discuss purchase price for O'Donnell Property:** Ned announced that we were awarded a REAP Grant for \$41,800 to go towards the purchase of the O'Donnell Fen. A new appraisal of the property was done & it went up \$12,200 to \$146,000 (from \$133,800). Bruce moved to take the extra \$12,200 from our existing REAP account to purchase the new property. This will increase the REAP contribution from \$25,000 to \$37,200. Sandy 2nd, all ayes, motion passed. (We have \$88,000 in REAP fund now, this will bring it down to down to \$50,800.) Also mentioned that we will need to add "No Hunting..." signs near the acreage on the north end to avoid hunting near inhabited buildings.
- 2) **Trail Manager Position:** Ned will post this new position next week & will publish it for 2 weeks. Job title may change to "Conservation Technician". This will be a full time job & the new person will start in mid-Dec. (This is already allocated in this years' budget.)
- 3) **Personnel issue:** Continued previous discussion of personnel issue.
- 4) **Any other new business:**
 - Creative Solutions has increased the monthly charge for our website due to the need for more security to prevent hacking.
 - The culvert along the Butler-Franklin County line has been installed - now complete!
 - Staff will be working on the White Trail in Maynes in the near future.
 - Discussed special ATV permit as requested by Ray Baltes - Tony moved to NOT issue a permit, Bruce 2nd, all ayes, motion passed. We are concerned this may open the door for others asking for special permits & we don't want to set an unfavorable precedent.

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

Adjourn: Bruce moved to adjourn, Tony 2nd, all ayes, motion passed. Meeting adjourned at 7:26 p.m.

Next meeting date: December 11, 2017 @ the Franklin County Conservation Department Office

Respectfully submitted,

Sandy Eckhardt

Sandy Eckhardt, Franklin County Conservation Board Secretary