

The Mahaska County Conservation Board (MCCB) held its regular monthly meeting on Monday, April 15, 2024, at the Environmental Learning Center (ELC) at Caldwell Park. Board Chair Steve Dixon called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. Present at the meeting were Board Members Curt Jager, Linda Fox, and Chuck Webb. Board Member Jennifer Peterson was absent. The members of the staff present were Director Chris Clingan and Naturalist Laura DeCook. Present from the public were Russ Van Renterghem, Mahaska County Sheriff, Ben Johnson, Chief Deputy Sheriff, Mahaska County Sheriff's office, Andrew Ritland, Mahaska County Attorney, Adam Shirley, CEO Iowa County Conservation System, Rodney Anderson, Friends of Mahaska County Conservation, Marlis DeBoef and BrookeAnn Sells.

Board Chair Dixon asked if there were any changes to the agenda. Clingan stated there were no changes. Fox made a motion to approve the agenda as presented. Jager seconded this motion. The motion passed unanimously.

The Minutes were discussed.

- I. Webb made a motion to approve the Minutes of the March 19, 2024, regular board meeting as presented. Jager seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.

The Expenditures were reviewed.

- I. Clingan discussed several items on the expenditures listing.
- II. Jager made a motion to approve the expenditures as presented. Webb seconded this motion. The motion carried unanimously.

The Legislative Update was given.

- I. Clingan introduced Adam Shirley and stated that Shirley was present to give an update on the law enforcement situation.
 - A. Clingan talked about an amendment drafted to amend the 350 Code of the State of Iowa.
 - B. Shirley addressed several items under the legislative update.
 - C. Discussion ensued.
 - D. In interest of time, item was tabled. It was suggested that a work session with all entities involved should be set up soon.

The Breckenridge Estate was discussed.

- I. Clingan updated the Board regarding the Estate of Jennifer Jo Breckenridge.
 - A. Clingan stated that the court date for hearing on the Breckenridge estate was continued and has been rescheduled to May 22, 2024, at 1:00 p.m. Clingan and Jager will be attending the hearing. Jager has been asked to testify at the hearing.
 - B. Ritland advised that the Will when it misnamed Mahaska County Conservation as Mahaska Conservation Commission and misnamed others, this caused confusion hence the hearing for clarification. Ritland is confident that MCCB has legal grounds to challenge the objection.
 - C. Ritland added that two percent (2%) of the estate would be awarded to MCCB if all groups are awarded.

The item Cabin for Musician Annie Vander for Summerfest was addressed.

- I. Clingan stated that musician Annie Vander has requested a one-night stay at the cabins to offset the cost of her fee for Summerfest.
 - A. The Board agreed that this cabin stay would not count as one of the five (5) yearly donations given by MCCB.
 - B. Fox made a motion to approve the one-night stay for Vander. Webb seconded the motion, and the motion was approved unanimously.

The Eveland Access Campgrounds Fundraising was discussed.

- I. BrookeAnn Sells first addressed the proposed vendor fair.
 - A. Sells said she has tentatively set the vendor fairs for July 20, August 17, and September 14.
 1. Sells advised that many people have shown interest.

2. Sells told the Board that she has the tax forms ready for vendor's sales tax. MCCB will not have to pay tax because will be a donation from the vendors.
- B. Sells went on to talk about the silent auction.
 1. Sells stated that the silent auctions would run on the same dates as the vendor fairs.
 2. Sells said that MCCB does not have to have an auctioneer's license to hold the silent auctions.
- C. DeCook mentioned to Clingan that she had talked with him about a separate vendor deal for SummerFest. SummerFest is different than the vendor fair.
 1. Ashley, The Muse had vendors ask if they could set up during SummerFest.
 2. Fox asked about what type of vendors would be present. DeCook wasn't sure at this point. It was just something she and Ashley were talking about adding to SummerFest. DeCook informed the Board that the vendors would pay a fee for their spot.
 3. Sells asked if she and DeCook needed to coordinate the cost of a spot so they are the same. DeCook said yes.
 4. Discussion ensued.
- D. Webb made a motion to allow vendors at Summerfest and the vendor fairs. Jager seconded the motion, and the motion passed unanimously.

The Firearms Update was given.

- I. Clingan advised the Board that he has been working on firearms solutions.
 - A. Clingan informed the Board per the policy we have; our firearms need to be uniform with the sheriff's office. The sheriff's office is getting new firearms, they are nine (9) millimeters, and we have forty (40) caliber firearms.
 1. The quote is for three (3) firearms and holsters for the firearms.
 2. The quote is \$2,835.55.
 3. Dixon asked if the optic package was necessary. Clingan answered that MCCB's policy states that the equipment needs to be uniform with the sheriff's office.
 4. Jager asked if this quote was competitive. Clingan answered that they had contacted several vendors, and this was the cheapest.
 5. Jager asked if Clingan would be comfortable without the optics. Clingan answered that he was.
 6. Discussion ensued.
 7. Clingan stated eliminated two (2) lights and the optics would reduce the quote from Kiesler Police Supply to \$1,479.00.
 - B. Clingan stated that he canceled the order for the body cameras and the in-car video equipment since they could not fulfill the GTSB grant.
 - C. Jager made a motion to approve the recommendation to purchase firearms as amended. Webb seconded the motion, and the motion was carried unanimously.

Setting the May Board Meeting was addressed.

- I. The regularly scheduled monthly board meeting is May 20, 2024, and will remain so.

In Other Business:

- I. Clingan discussed a couple items.
 - A. Clingan informed the Board that he has been working with Ritland on the CRP contracts. Mahaska County's insurance company Heartland would like more information regarding this transaction to make sure it is a legal transaction. However, Clingan stated that the FSA office has deemed this as legal.
 1. Clingan advised that other counties have successfully engaged in CRP contracts.
 2. Discussion ensued.
 - B. Clingan talked about woodland management.
 1. Clingan stated there is a program that has "equip money". MCCB could receive money from the FSA office to clear invasive species from an area.

- C. Clingan informed the Board that he has a meeting with the University of Iowa April 29 at 10:00 a.m. They will present plans for future development at MCCB areas.
- II. Rodney Anderson, FMCC, reminded the Board and staff that their annual meeting will be held April 22, 2024.
- III. DeCook discussed a couple items.
 - A. DeCook stated she has added more volunteers.
 - B. DeCook informed the Board that there are many programs scheduled from now and throughout the summer.
 - C. DeCook said that she has changed her schedule to accommodate evening programs.
- IV. Dixon asked if the boat ramp at White Oak had been cleaned. Clingan said yes.
- V. BrookeAnn Sells informed the Board that the Boy Scouts are coming to pressure wash the picnic tables in May.

Webb made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Jager seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 8:05 p.m.

Chairman _____

Secretary _____

Date _____

Date _____