

Harrison County Conservation Board
Monthly Meeting Minutes
Monday, June 3, 2024
Welcome Center

The Harrison County Conservation Board (HCCB) held its regular June meeting on Monday, June 3, 2024 at the Historical Village/Iowa Welcome Center. President Nate Epperson called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm. Those members present were Kimberly Nunez, Danelle Myer, and Kris Pauley. Also present were Operations Supervisor Mike Weis, NR Technician Thad Pothast, Sage Pothast, Resource Tech Scott Epperson, Larry Oliver, Supervisor Tony Smith, and Director Scott Nelson.

A motion to approve the Consent Agenda, Minutes, and Bills was made by Myer, seconded by Nunez. Motion carried.

In Public Comments – introductions were made by the audience. Outgoing Resource Tech, Larry Oliver thanked the Board and Staff for the great experience and opportunities over the last 3 years. Everyone thanked Oliver for his dedication and enthusiasm and wished him luck in his retirement. Scott Epperson introduced himself to the room.

Nelson gave the following Updates:

- The month of May brought much needed rains – and plenty of severe weather. The HCCB system suffered little damage. FEMA may be setting up a mobile site at the Willow Lake Nature Center (WLNC) for citizen access.
- All the summer interns have started their employment and are doing great.
- Scott Epperson began his employment on May 20th.
- Larry Oliver is utilizing his time-off benefits through the end of June.
- Camping has been slow, primarily due to inclement weather.
- Trees have been planted at Willow Lake to replace the ash trees that were removed due to the Emerald Ash Borer.
- Bolten/Menk has started the process for the Public Water Supply well for the WLNC.
- Nelson sent the Board's letter in response to the Kline's feedlot proposal on the boundary of the Old Town Conservation Area.
- In upcoming:
 - The Loess Hills Hospitality Association (LHHA) will be utilizing the classroom at the WLNC for training on June 8th.
 - The family of John Espinmiller, long-time HCCB Board Member, will be planting a memorial tree at Willow Lake on June 8th.
 - The Harrison County Community Foundation (HCCF) will be holding their meeting on June 12th at the WLNC.

Emily Naylor with Bolten/Menk joined the meeting via Zoom to review and discuss the HCCB's Strategic Master Plan. Feedback had been provided and Naylor showed the Board the product to date. After further discussion, Ms. Naylor will make the appropriate changes and provide the documents by the end of the week. Nelson will then send it out to the Board.

Nelson presented the Fiscal Year 2024/2025 Salary Recommendations to the Board for consideration. The Board of Supervisors allowed a \$1.00/hour adjustment to the employees' wages and salaries. This equates to \$2,080/year. After review and discussion, a motion to accept the FY24/25 Salary Recommendations was made by Pauley, seconded by Myer. Motion carried.

The Board reviewed bids for replacement of the department's 2013 Ford F-250 truck/snowplow. Three bids were received. Woodhouse Chevy, Missouri Valley, was the only bid that fulfilled the request of: ¾ ton, extended cab, 4x4, flatbed, snowplow, and gooseneck hitch. None of the bids referenced trade-in price, but staff completed a Kelley Blue Book search to determine retail and trade-in options. After discussion, a motion to accept Woodhouse Chevy's bid and to give staff the flexibility to either negotiate a trade-in or sell on the open market, was made by Myer, seconded by Pauley. Motion carried.

Nelson updated the Board on the annual Fall Conference, hosted by Winneshiek and Fayette CCB's on September 17-19, 2024. Hotel rooms have been reserved at the Hotel Winneshiek for those attending. Nelson will be contacting the Board Members for their itinerary so that registrations can be made.

Department Reports were reviewed.

In Other/Future: The next meeting will be Monday, July 8th at Willow Lake. Epperson informed the Board that the Executive Director committee will be meeting in the near future to go over any last-minute updates before the mid-July employment announcement.

With no further business, a motion to adjourn at 8:34pm was made by Pauley.

Nate Epperson, President

Kris Pauley, Vice-President

Danelle Myer, Secretary