

Harrison County Conservation Board
Monthly Meeting Minutes
Monday, August 5, 2024
Willow Lake

The Harrison County Conservation Board (HCCB) held its regular August meeting on Monday, August 5, 2024, at the Willow Lake Nature Center. President Nate Epperson called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm. Those members present were Ben McIntosh, Kimberly Nunez, Danelle Myer, and Kris Pauley. Also present were Operations Supervisor Mike Weis, Supervisor Tony Smith, and Director Scott Nelson.

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

There were no Public Comments.

Nelson gave the following Updates:

- Iowa PBS did a video and interview segment of the Willow Lake Nature Center and of Brent's Trail, with an air date in Spring of 2025.
- The HCCB was awarded \$36,500 from the Gilchrist Foundation. This is the final funding piece for the acquisition of the Doidge Wildlife Area from the Iowa Natural Heritage Foundation (INHF). A closing date is set for the end of August 2024. Staff have been working on firebreaks and other maintenance activities on the property.
- The Pottawattamie and Ida CCB Directors met with Nelson on different occasions. Both are new to their positions.
- Staff painted the School House at the Welcome Center because of the Paint Iowa Beautiful grant.
- Nelson will be attending the Fall ISAC conference in Des Moines from August 21 – 23.
- The summer seasonal help will be going back to college soon.

Nelson presented the Notice to Bidders announcement and Bid Specification document to the Board for consideration pertaining to the Maintenance Shop project. Both documents deal with the demolition, grading, and construction of a new maintenance/storage facility for the HCCB. After review and discussion, a motion to approve both documents was made by Pauley, seconded by Nunez. Motion carried.

Nelson updated the Board on the individual staff member meeting opportunity on Friday, August 23rd with Epperson and McIntosh. These meetings will allow staff to convey their advice to the HCCB on its search for the new Executive Director. Nelson also provided a draft for the interview timeframe for successful candidates, set for Thursday, August 29th. The deadline for applications is Friday, August 16th at 4:00 pm. Nelson will send the all the applications to Epperson and McIntosh so that they can sort and recommend who is to be interviewed to the Full Board.

The Fall Conference will be held September 17-19 in Decorah. Hotel rooms are reserved. The board has all been registered, and it's up to each member to register their spouse. Nelson will send out final reminders next month.

Department Reports were reviewed.

In Other/Future items: It will be a busy month ahead for the Board –

- August 16th: Deadline for Director applications.
- August 19th: Nelson to send out Exit Interview.
- August 23rd: Staff meetings with Epperson/McIntosh.
- August 29th: Interviews.
- September 9th: Board Meeting at the Welcome Center.

With no further discussion, a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:08 pm was made by Pauley.

Nate Epperson, President

Kris Pauley, Vice-President

Danelle Myer, Secretary