

1. Call to Order

Matthew Haas called the regular meeting of the Des Moines County Conservation Board to order at 5:31 p.m. at the Des Moines County Conservation Administration Building.

Those Members Present: Cathy Ziglar, James Garnjobst, Matthew Haas and Ron Helling

Those Members Absent: Julie Solinski

Others Present: Director Lee, Administrative Assistant Breuer, BoS McCampbell

2. Additions and Deletions to Agenda:

- a. None

3. Delegations/Public Input:

- a. None

4. Approval of Minutes for February 01, 2023:

- #11 a. Motion by Cathy Ziglar, seconded by Ron Helling to approve the minutes of the February 01, 2023, Board Meeting. Motion passed unanimously by those members present.

5. Approval of Claims for January 2023:

- #12 a. Motion by Ron Helling, seconded by James Garnjobst to approve the claims for February 2023. Motion passed unanimously by those members present.

6. Committee Reports:

- a. **Foundation:** No Report. They are working on scheduling the annual meeting.
- b. **Observatory:** No Report.
- c. **Legislative:** It's been an active session. This is the first funnel week, so any bills not out of committee are finished for the year, with the exception of tax bills. They are funnel proof. There is a second funnel week at the end of the month.
- d. **Water Quality:** Updated under project updates.

7. Project Updates:

Chris added that Whitetails Unlimited has committed \$10,000 toward the purchase of the Shanstrom property next to Hickory Bend. If we can find matching funds to get the purchase price below 60% of value, we stand a good chance of getting a Wildlife Habitat Stamp Grant which is due in May. If we don't get that, we may need to bring in Iowa Natural Heritage Foundation to make the purchase and hold the property for us until we can finish securing the funds. The SWCD Watershed Coordinator starts Monday, March 6. Chris will make contact with him once he's had a chance to get oriented. Chris has made multiple attempts to get in contact with the Mt. Pleasant Correctional Facility to secure inmate help for things like splitting firewood and invasive species control in our parks but no response so far. At a recent District meeting, the director in Marion County noted that they have plans to construct three (3) cabins overlooking Red Rock lake using ARPA funds. Total cost is estimated to be \$1.7 million which includes the installation of infrastructure. The president of the County Conservation Directors Association has compiled a list of some of the ARPA-funded projects CCB's are doing across the state. Chris will share that with the board. Chris has been researching private cabin operators in county parks. A request via the statewide CCB forum for information from counties with this sort of agreement in place has gone unanswered thus far. Chris will continue to look into it and bring information to the board at a later date. The updated wastewater permit for Big Hollow has been approved. We have not found any loggers interested in harvesting trees for the new campground or retention pond. We have been

using staff time for this. The campground is pretty much cleared. The first pond is complete and the second pond is about 1/3 of the way done. Chris sent the DOT a drawing of an idea for the new Flint River Trail head just off Flint Bottom Road. We have again applied for a Wellmark grant to match with ARPA funds to move work along on many ADA projects at Big Hollow. Chris has been brainstorming with SEIRPC on ways to connect the Flint River Trail from Burlington's portion to Starr's Cave.

8. Old Business:

- a. None

9. New Business:

#13 a. Authorize Campground Promotions for 2023:

Motion by Cathy Ziglar, seconded by James Garnjobst to approve the use of campground promotions for 2023 at the 4th Pumping Station and Welter Recreation Area. Motion passed unanimously by those members present.

#14 b. Top Gun Shooting Range Closure Request:

Motion by Cathy Ziglar, seconded by Ron Helling to approve the range closure. Motion passed unanimously by those members present.

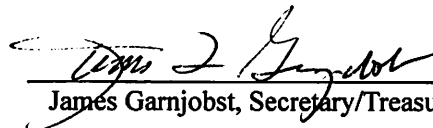
10. Informational Items/Correspondence:

- a. None

11. Adjournment: Meeting adjourned at 6:48 p.m.

Next meeting will be held at the Des Moines County Administration Office at 13700 Washington Road in West Burlington, IA. Meeting will be held at 5:30 p.m. on Wednesday April 05, 2023. The public is welcome.

Matthew Haas, Chair



James Garnjobst, Secretary/Treasurer