

OSCEOLA COUNTY CONSERVATION BOARD MINUTES

December 8, 2020

The Osceola County Conservation Board met pursuant to the law electronically via Zoom due to the Covid-19 Pandemic, with the following members present: John Corbett, Ann Byers, John Schmidt, Jason Otto, and Zach Marco.

Absent: None

Staff present: Nick Schmalen, Director

Visitors: Jerry Helmers, Supervisor's Liaison, Ty Schultz, Osceola SWCD Commissioner

The meeting was opened at 7:00 P.M. by Jason Otto, Chairperson.

A motion was made by John Schmidt, seconded by Zach Marco, to approve the agenda. All voted "AYE," motion carried.

A motion was made by John Corbett, seconded by Zach Marco, to approve the minutes of the previous meeting. All voted "AYE," motion carried.

A motion was made by John Schmidt, seconded by Zach Marco, to pay the attached claims. All voted "AYE," motion carried.

The Board discussed the Loof Farm, and decided to take bids on the tillable acres and hay ground on the South ¼. Terms of the lease will include requirement of the tenant to fertilize the ground to the ISU County average soybean rate of 40 lbs of phosphorus and 60 lbs of potash/acre. The Lease will be terminated at harvest, or November 1, 2021, soybeans must be planted with No-Till Method, there will be no removal of soybean residue. Bids will be due on January 8, 2021 by 4 P.M.

Director Nicholas Schmalen updated the Board on the progress of the Lodge renovation project at Willow Creek.

The Board discussed the Fish Habitat Grant that was submitted for Shoreline armoring at the Ocheyedan Pits County Recreation Area. A motion was made by Zach Marco, seconded by John Schmidt, to withdraw the grant application from consideration for funding due to the extremely low water conditions and the uncertainty of future water level conditions. All voted "AYE," motion carried.

The Board continued discussions on the eliminating the ability to hunt the western (Park) portion of Willow Creek County Park. The Board will need to act on this at the January Meeting, as the rule change needs to be posted for 30 days to become effective.

The Mission and Vision statement for the Osceola County Conservation Board was revisited and discussed. The statement for consideration is “ The Osceola County Conservation Board’s mission is to preserve and enhance our natural resources by providing opportunities that improve the public’s connection to the natural environment through programs of environmental education, ecosystem management, and outdoor recreation.”

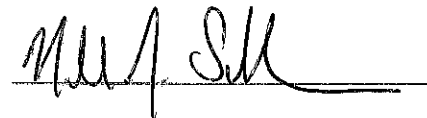
Director Nicholas Schmalen presented the Board with the FY 2019-2020 Annual Report. A motion was made by John Schmidt, seconded by Zach Marco, to approve the annual report with suggested changes. All voted “AYE,” motion carried.

The future Leinen’s Pit gravel extractions were discussed.

Director Nicholas Schmalen submitted the Monthly Schedule.

Under General Board Business, an update was given on the status of tractor bids, and Troutfest was discussed.

There being no further business, a motion was made by John Schmidt, seconded by John Corbett, to adjourn at 8:41 P.M. All voted “AYE,” motion carried.



Nicholas J. Schmalen, Director



Jason Otto, Chairperson