

The regular meeting of the Page County Conservation Board was held January 10, 2023 at the Board's office beginning at 6:30 p.m. The meeting was called to order by Chair, Mark Marriott.

Board members present included Mark Marriott, Whitney Beery, Jane Stimson, Randy McNutt and Bill Robertson. Staff present was Charly Stevens.

Present as guests were Kathy Jordan, Larry Lock, Judith Blay, Joyce Kruse, Deb Ratliff Liz Skillern and Andy Jansen with DNR Fisheries.

**Approval of Agenda:** Motion by Robertson, second by McNutt, to approve the Agenda for January 10, 2023. All in favor and motion carried.

**Approval of Minutes:** Motion by Beery, second by Robertson, to approve the Minutes of December 13, 2022. All in favor and motion carried.

**Approval of Claims:** Motion by Beery, second by McNutt, to approve both sets of claims from month-ending December and mid-month January. All in favor and motion carried.

No public comments were heard.

Staff communication included some shop cleaning and TSI being done at Pioneer and Nodaway Valley Parks.

Andy Jansen, DNR Fisheries, updated the board on Pioneer Park renovation and the fish that was seen or not seen during their sampling. He indicated that would be stocking in the spring with some Bass. He outlined the aquatic weeds at Pierce Creek and treating the pond as well under marine fuel tax monies for about \$624.00. He talked about the additional aquatic weeds at Pierce and the treatment costs of \$1,220.00 (6 acres). He then distributed the 2023 Rapp Park treatment plan (see attached) involving the Lotus and the way to eradicate it and the costs involved from \$1,200 to \$2,000 (15 acres) and he discussed using a drone application method as the Lotus is too thick to get boat access. The combination of chemicals would knock it back, so it doesn't end up choking out the lake, and should see immediate results within 2 weeks. The application of chemicals wouldn't take place until July, August or September period. Jansen needs to submit a plan by Feb. 1<sup>st</sup> and what are the board thoughts on the plan presented.

**Motion:** Robertson moved, second by McNutt, to have Jansen proceed with the plan for aquatic control at the parks as presented. All in favor and motion carried.

Joyce Kruse then discussed with the board about equestrian scheduling for this summer/fall with the extra Saturdays. She contacted Tom Berrier from the gun range committee but to date has not heard anything back regarding their scheduling.

Election of Officers then commenced. For the position of Chair, Beery nominated Marriott, second by Robertson. All in favor and motion carried. Nominations for Chair then ceased.

For the position of Vice-Chair, Robertson nominated Beery, second by McNutt. All in favor and motion carried. Nominations for Vice-Chair then ceased.

For the position of Secretary, McNutt nominated Stimson, second by Beery. All in favor and motion carried. Nominations for Secretary then ceased.

The annual review of policies and By-laws were then discussed. **Motion:** Beery moved, Robertson second, that upon review of policies and Bylaws, no changes were indicated since there was a review in October. All in favor and motion carried.

Board communication – Chair Marriott welcomed newest Board member Jane Stimson. Beery thanked Kathy Jordan for her years of service to the Board.

**Motion to Adjourn:** Robertson moved, McNutt second, to adjourn the meeting. All in favor and motion carried. The meeting then adjourned at 7:05 p.m.

APPROVED: February 14, 2023

Chair Maureen Marriott  
Secretary Whitney Beery v.c.

The regular meeting of the Page County Conservation Board was held February 14, 2023 at the Board's office beginning at 6:30 p.m. The meeting was called to order by chair, Mark Marriott.

Board members present included Marriott, Beery and Robertson. Absent were Stimson and McNutt. Staff present were Schwab and Stevens.

Visitors present included Kathy Jordan, Joyce Kruse, Deb Ratliff and Liz Skillern.

**Approval of Agenda:** Motion by Robertson, second by Beery, to approve the Agenda for February 14, 2023. Motion carried.

**Approval of Minutes:** Motion by Beery, second by Robertson, to approve the Minutes of January 10, 2023. Motion carried.

**Approve Claims:** Motion by Robertson, second by Beery, to approve both sets of claims from month -ending January and mid-month February. Motion carried.

No public comments were heard.

Staff communication and park updates included the following:

Nodaway Valley Park – heating system at the maintenance building is fully installed. Been in contact with Blacktop Services for NVP road (Still waiting on estimates) (grant opportunity) Trail signs being constructed.

Pioneer Park – Water level slowly increasing but still about 2.5 feet below the outflow pipe.

Pierce Creek –

Break in on 2/6/23. Padlock was damaged on main gate, wooden storage shed lock was broken. Evidence of attempt to enter the main building and paint shed. Trail cam stolen. No other items were stolen. Report was filed. Locks have been replaced and new trail cam is up in a better location.

Local landowners contacted regarding controlled burn in late March/early April. Good to go. Identified a good paint to use on the pit latrines and ordered already. Start the makeover once the weather is warmer.

Water pit to be installed in March/April for shop.

Rapp Park – Veterans rock project is moving forward. Shen and Essex schools are already working on the benches. Still some logistic issues with the big rock.

Office/Misc. - Looked into costs of dog park. Fencing is very expensive (\$14,000 to \$16,000) so project is on hold.

Aviary for education/program bird is being constructed. Finish dependent on weather.

General updates – water levels are still very low in all parks.

Potential burn at Shambaugh River Access.

NVP burn – DNR assistance would be needed.

Continuing with trail maintenance and tree/vegetation removal.

Published seasonal positions opening, have had a few applications turned in.

Nami fishing day has been scheduled for April 22<sup>nd</sup> at Rapp Park.

May 13<sup>th</sup> – Tentative day for conservation fishing derby (dependent on success of Nami's fishing day)

Intern hired, currently at 10 hrs./week. Will take open seasonal spot this side of the county in May once graduated.

Golden Hills RC&D spearheading committee for Page County projects. John will be involved with that committee.

#### Staff Communication –

Feb 15<sup>th</sup> – Meeting with Cara, Executive Director with Golden Hills RC&D about future plans.

Feb 20<sup>th</sup> – County holiday – office closed

Feb 23<sup>rd</sup> – District 4 meeting in Taylor County, office closed for at least the morning.

March 1<sup>st</sup> – Mike to 35 hrs./week. March 20<sup>th</sup> – all other seasonal help to 35 hrs./week

A discussion on drone usage in the parks then ensued. A brief policy from Hancock County Conservation was then read. "Section 29: Use of Drone/UAV – the use of drone or unmanned aerial vehicle "UAV" shall be unlawful within the park campgrounds, shelter houses, public beaches, playgrounds, and parking lot. The operation of a drone or UAV shall be at a minimum of 100 feet from the listed in this subsection and a minimum of 300 feet above the areas listed. In all other areas of the parks, the operation of a drone or UAV shall be done safely and responsibly. The operation shall not occur within 30 ft. of other park visitors.

#### Possible changes:

- Remove public beaches

- Add that operators must follow federal regulations concerning drone/UAV usage, including including registration and insurance.

- Add that it is unlawful to operate a drone in the equestrian area if horses are present.

- Add that operators are responsible for any and all damages associated with accidents/mishaps.

It was suggested to post the policy at the campgrounds. Wording will be adjusted and reviewed with the county attorney and submitted to the Conservation Board at its March meeting for policy adoption.

Board communication - the budget meeting was discussed and the approval process.

**Motion to Adjourn:** Robertson moved, Beery second, to adjourn. Motion carried. The meeting then adjourned at 7:00 p.m.

APPROVED: March 14, 2023

Chair Maul Mauist

Secretary Jane Strimison

The regular meeting of the Page County Conservation Board was held March 14, 2023 at the Board's office beginning at 6:30 p.m. The meeting was called to order by Chair, Mark Marriott.

Board members present included McNutt, Stimson and Marriott. Absent were Robertson and Beery. Staff present were Schwab and Stevens,

Visitors included Kathy Jordan, Joyce Kruse, Deb Ratliff and representing SW Iowa Herald was Kent Dinnebier.

**Approval of Agenda:** Motion by McNutt, second by Stimson, to approve the Agenda for March 14, 2023. Motion carried.

**Approval of Minutes:** Motion by McNutt, second by Stimson, to approve the Minutes of February 14, 2023. Motion carried.

**Approve Claims:** Motion by Stimson, second by McNutt, to approve both sets of claims from month ending February and mid-month March. Motion carried.

Public Comment period: Jane Stimson inquired about Golden Hills RC&D and what is going to be expected at the meeting and short discussion on their grant work.

Park Updates then followed:

NVP – Trail signs are finished and in place with the help of the intern and volunteers  
Clearing out the area near the modern art and entrance  
Starting pre-camping checks (electrical, dump station, etc.)  
Grant was submitted for road project fund (\$125,000 is max due to size of county).

Pierce Creek - DNR is working on burn plan. Still need to clear out identified areas of caution for the burn.

Pioneer Park – Water level has returned to normal and patch is holding. Electrical work needed on shower house, upper shelter, and entrance sign (electrician contacted)

Rapp Park – Slowly making progress on the veteran's memorial. Essex High School has completed their bench and it looks amazing.  
Road department will do one last pass on the roads once the freeze/thaw cycle is done.  
Discussion on needing a pull type box blade for the roads at Rapp.

General updates – All seasonal spots have been filled. Officially start next week with training and orientation.

Started maintenance checks on equipment to get ready for camping season.  
Hopefully will have water services on the beginning of April (weather dependent). Rapp will be the last park for water as have to wait until freezing temps are finished.  
Still receiving a substantial amount of animal calls.  
Started to have some campers on the nicer weekends.

A draft of the drone policy was then read, "The use of Drones/UAV – the use of drones or unmanned aerial vehicles "UAV" shall be unlawful within the campgrounds, shelter houses, playgrounds and parking areas. It shall be unlawful to operate drones/ UAVs in the equestrian campground if horses are present. The operation of a drone or UAV shall be minimum of 100 feet from the prohibited areas, and a minimum of 300 feet above the prohibited areas listed above. In all other areas of the parks, the operation of a drone or UAV shall be done safely and responsibly. All federal regulations concerning drones/UAV usage, including registration and insurance must be followed at all times. No drones or UAVs which require gasoline or other flammable fuels are permitted within any of the areas under the responsibility of Page County Conservation. Operators are responsible for any and all damages associated with the usage of their drone or UAV."

Discussion then followed on drone usage in the parks, insurance liability and who determines damages if there is an accident and what is the purpose for allowing drones in the parks. Marriott suggested eliminating usage at PC and NVP due to horses in those parks and he also mentioned about drone usage for spraying, research, law enforcement or other official use. Item was tabled until April meeting.

Deb Ratliff then commented on having no drones at Pierce Creek due to the possibility of horses present.

Joyce Kruse commented that she had called several counties to check on drones and horses and those counties kept the activities separated or did not have any horse trails/campground present. She indicated she would like a copy of the drone policy to forward to the Pony Express for the insurance for the organized rides/activities and mentioned that the NATRC will be returning in July but wasn't sure how receptive they would be if drones were allowed around the horses.

Shooting range at Pierce Creek has had closures on the days it was to be opened and the office not notified, it was due to not enough volunteers to man the range. Would it be possible to allow a stipend for volunteers, eliminate the annual dues because of not being open, signage clarification when they are open? Board member inquired into the cost of the insurance on the range. What will the Board do since we are lacking volunteers – its limits the attendance and the service that we provide, and we need to do what is best for the Board.

**Motion:** McNutt made a motion to close the range and only have it available for law enforcement and hunter safety. Motion failed. The item was tabled and will be on the April agenda.

There were no board communications.

**Motion:** Stimson moved, McNutt second, to adjourn. Motion carried. The meeting then adjourned at 7:40 p.m.

APPROVED: April 11, 2023

Chair Mark McNutt

Secretary Jane Stimson



The regular meeting of the Page County Conservation Board was held April 11, 2023 at the Board's office beginning at 6:30 p.m. The meeting was called to order by Chair, Mark Marriott.

Board members present included Mark Marriott, Whitney Beery, Randy McNutt, Jane Stimson and Bill Robertson.

Visitors included Charles Keeran, Roger Martin, Tom Berrier, Kathy Jordan, Terry Broyles, Allan Jordan, Shelly Mellencamp, Joyce Kruse and Liz Skillern.

**Approval of Agenda:** Motion by Beery, second by McNutt, to approve the Agenda for April 11, 2023. Motion carried.

**Approval of Minutes:** Motion by Beery, second by Robertson, to approve the Minutes of March 14, 2023. Motion carried.

**Approval of Claims:** Motion by Robertson, second by Beery, to approve both sets of claims from month ending March and mid-month April. Motion carried.

No public comments were heard.

Park updates then followed:

Nodaway Valley Park – major water leak detected. All fixed now. Three hydrants were replaced, and all lines were checked. All water services on.

Pioneer – all services on, north shelter electrical work completed, shower house – electrical and plumbing completely updated and entrance sign light fixture replaced.

Pierce Creek – all water services are on, general maintenance on campgrounds and trails continue, continuing prep work for controlled burn and lots of cleanup going on in our maintenance area

Rapp Park – all benches have been completed for veteran's memorial, meet with rock quarry later this week to purchase boulder, hopeful to get backflow generator installed later this week and get water on/bathrooms open.

Ross Park – ordered a new latrine for the park (replace the one near the archery area). Will move the older one down to the primitive area near shelter.

General updates:

Shooting range

Conservation can pay for safety classes with our budget. Only stipulation is to have a contract with the individual stating they would be a range safety officer for x number of years.

Clarification on hours – 1 p.m. to sunset on normal days of operation.

There are no insurance costs associated with the range. It is all covered under our normal liability.

Income cannot be used as a stipend for volunteers.

Range By-Laws have been found. Have not been updated since 2016. Numerous phone calls have been received concerning continued restrictions on the shooting range. Further calls about reserving the range for activities not associated with normal shooting hours. I.E. Boy scouts, private shooting organizations.

NVP Roads – submitted grant request – will know in May on status. Costs of resurfacing from the entrance to the intersection was estimated at \$239,224.44. Currently reaching out to different foundations and organizations to secure funding. Max from DNR grant would be \$150,000.00. Available funds from reserve account for NVP - \$10,660.17. If we secured DNR grant w/reserve funds, we would still need to raise \$78,564.27.

Update from County Insurance: Spoke with our insurance agent this afternoon and he is requesting that all communication regarding conservation parks and issues need to go thru the Director. This is to help minimize errors in communication and to ensure that things are handled in the proper way.

#### Drone Policy:

Revised version was posted on Facebook page and is currently on the county website and was opened for public comment. Had no negative comments on it. It is supported by the local flying groups in Page County.

*Drone policy as stated, "Use of Drone/UAV – The use of drones or unmanned aerial vehicles "UAV" shall be unlawful within the campgrounds, shelter houses, playgrounds and parking areas. It shall be unlawful to operate drones/UAVs within Pierce Creek and Nodaway Valley Park. In all other locations managed by Page County Conservation, the operation of a drone or UAV shall be a minimum of 100 feet from the prohibited areas, and a minimum of 300 feet above the prohibited areas listed above. In all other areas, the operation of a drone or UAV shall be done safely and responsibly. All federal regulations concerning drone/UAV usage, including registration and insurance, must be followed at all times. No drones or UAVs which require gasoline or other flammable fuels are permitted within any of the areas under the responsibility of Page County Conservation. Operators will be held financially responsible for any and all damages associated with the usage of their drone or UAV."*

**Motion:** Motion by Robertson, second by Stimson, to accept the drone policy as submitted. Motion carried.

Joyce Kruse mentioned painting of the arena gates and to see if John would get in touch with Tim Bowers about the paint. Scheduling of a work day possibly with Back Country Horsemen group on trail trimming by the campground, work on repairs to the obstacle course, availability of pallets, problem trees and signage repair/paint. She inquired about insurance coverage on the trails similar to the gun range and Schwab explained that there are range officers present for the individuals at the range, but it would be difficult to have "spotters" along the length of the trails.

Terry Broyles, one of the gun range committee members, talked to the Board about the number of range safety officers and introduced the newest 3. They feel like they have enough RSOs to

man the range. Board member Beery asked if it was possible to get a list of them. Schwab mentioned about turning the gun range Facebook page from private to public to inform the public on dates, closures; Roger Martin indicated he would check into that. Board Member Marriott suggested utilizing radio on hours, dates, cancellations, etc. The committee will be going over the by-laws with John and the shooting range By-laws will be on the May agenda.

Charles Keeran spoke about some of the ranges he has been on and that Pierce Creek gun range is the safest he's been on due to the fact of the RSO's presence.

There were no further board communications.

**MOTION:** Robertson moved, Beery second, to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried. The meeting then adjourned at 7:45 p.m.

APPROVED: May 9, 2023

Chair Mark Marriott

Secretary Jane Stinson

The regular meeting of the Page County Conservation Board was held May 9, 2023 at the Board's office beginning at 6:30 p.m. The meeting was called to order by Chair, Mark Marriott.

Board members present included Mark Marriott, Jane Stimson, Randy McNutt and Bill Robertson.

Visitors included Joyce Kruse, Roger Martin, Tom Berrier, Kathy Jordan, Larry Lock, Judith Blay and Deb Ratliff.

**Approval of Agenda:** Motion by McNutt, second by Robertson, to approve the Agenda for May 9, 2023. Motion carried.

**Approval of Minutes:** Motion by Robertson, second by McNutt, to approve the Minutes of April 11, 2023. Motion carried.

**Approval of Claims:** Motion by Robertson, second by McNutt, to approve both sets of claims from month ending April and mid-month May. Motion carried.

No public comments were heard.

Park updates included law enforcement with eviction notices/removals, rock work at Pierce and Ross roads, fishing pier closed off due to accident and a minor workman's comp claim. All seasonal employees are on board, working on NVP projects and PC campground project of clearing vegetation. The controlled burn previously mentioned in conjunction with the DNR has been pushed back till next year, incident at NVP with dogs running loose and dredging by the end of the month at Pioneer. A dog park was mentioned, and discussion centered around the cost of fencing and locations.

Joyce Kruse reminded the board about a poker ride on May 13<sup>th</sup> with a rain date of 27<sup>th</sup>, workday on May 20 from 9-12 with the Back-Country Horseman group. She indicated what projects they would be working on. She wants to meet with John on site to talk about the workday projects and asked about the solar lights, need for screws and gloves for the workday and an issue with a portapot. She told about an event scheduled for September 30<sup>th</sup>.

Eviction notice – no contesting of the issue.

Backflow preventer at Rapp – Jones Mechanical was working on the backflow preventer and the bill is approximately \$2500.00. They also gave an estimate of \$896/yr. to disassemble and store for the winter then reinstall come spring. Board Member McNutt commented to see if we could uninstall/reinstall if Jones Mechanical would store for the winter season and see if that would be cheaper. The construction of a heated block building was discussed.

ATV/UTV road regulations has changed. If they're registered to be on the road, why not in the parks? Discussion ensued on Board policy.

**Motion:** Stimson moved, McNutt second, to keep the current ATV/UTV policy as is with no changes. Motion carried.

An inquiry was received from park users about having gas motors at Rapp Park. Current policy is no gas motors at any of our bodies of water. John has made some inquiries with the DNR on the matter. Whatever route the Board chooses it should be universal in all the parks. Maybe it could be no gas motors except for loading/unloading only. John will get in touch with the DNR about the exception.

Drone Policy as approved as the April meeting was briefly discussed with the need to incorporate into the park regulations.

**Motion:** Robertson moved, Stimson second, to include the drone policy in the park regulations. John will work on getting new regulations posted.

Shooting Range Discussion:

The committee is currently working on revisions as well as board and staff, some areas need clarification,

Questions on berm height in the pistol and rifle ranges, be more specific on calibers, complaints on not being open, numbers of range safety officers, change the webpage from private to public, age of shooters, clay target shooting, orientation paperwork, and reserving the range.

Response:

Not being open during the days/time stated – they're willing to accommodate; phone numbers are posted. Would having less hours help with the manning of the range? Roger Martin gave a report on attendance during 27 range days with 96 people. Clay target shooting was discussed at length. He has an appointment with Page County IT personnel about the webpage change over. Members vs actual shooters are about half and half. Age of shooters – no child is present without an adult, (McNutt mentioned that hunter safety class age is 11 years old).

Orientation of members was discussed regarding liability. McNutt asked about background checks and other liabilities.

Roger Martin distributed several photos around regarding berms at the 25-yard line on pistol range, 100-yard line, and the berm at the 10-yard line pistol range.

McNutt asked what timeline did the committee have in mind on getting the revision of the SOP done?

**Motion:** McNutt moved, Robertson second, that the shooting range update would be presented to the Board at its August meeting.

Clay target shooting – the committee had a special event that allowed the shooting of clay targets, consensus was those events should be brought to the board for permission.

**Motion:** McNutt moved, Robertson second, to bring any clay target shooting events to the board for permission prior to the event until August meeting, Motion carried.

Range reservations – we've had several groups ask, Boy Scouts and a private group, discussion centered around RSO onsite, their own insurance, and other issues. Mentioned about having the

group come to the board meeting and present information about their intended use of the range for their reserved activity.

**Motion:** McNutt moved, Robertson second, not to allow reservation of the range (not during normal shooting hours) except for law enforcement until after the revised SOP is available in August. Motion carried.

Chair Marriott suggested that all special events should be ran past the Board for approval. If it's before a board meeting send email or texts for notification/approval.

No Board communications.

**Motion:** Robertson moved, Stimson second, to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried. The meeting then adjourned at 8:10 p.m.

APPROVED:

Chair Mark Marriott

Secretary Jane Stimson

The regular meeting of the Page County Conservation Board was held June 13, 2023 at the Board's office beginning at 6:30 p.m. The meeting was called to order by Chair, Mark Marriott.

Board members present included Mark Marriott, Jane Stimson, Randy McNutt and Bill Robertson.

Visitors included Joyce Kruse, Judith Blay, Larry Lock and Kathy Jordan.

**Approval of Agenda:** Robertson moved, second by McNutt, to approve the Agenda for June 13, 2023. Motion carried.

**Approval of Minutes:** Robertson moved, second by Stimson, to approve the Minutes of May 9, 2023. Motion carried.

**Approval of Claims:** Robertson moved, second by McNutt, to approve both sets of claims from month ending May and mid-month June. Motion carried.

Public comment:

Judith Blay brought in some photos of branches covering some signage on the trail, indicated that paths needed widened, wondering if the trail would be trimmed up before the national ride. She mentioned that out of 2 porta pots, only 1 was serviced.

Larry Lock-Indicated he had donated solar lights a year ago and questioned why they weren't up. John indicated that he had the poles but hadn't gotten to the project but hopefully before the ride in July. John also brought up the widening of the trails concerning emergency situations per remark from Judith and Larry. There was an incident at Pierce Creek with dog off leash.

Staff communication:

Nodaway Valley Park:

Eviction on June 8<sup>th</sup> for unpaid camping fees – PCSO assisted.

June 12<sup>th</sup> – fake \$100 bills were located by park patron. She had an apparent reaction to the bills when she touched them. SO is handling the incident.

Rapp Park:

Fishing pier has been fixed. Removed all the concrete pads and replaced with treated lumber.

The usable pads are being stored for future projects.

Youth fishing derby went well. Had 47 total anglers.

Pierce Creek:

Controlled burn went as well as expected with the time of the year. No incidents and did clear out a lot of the invasive grasses and underbrush, but some still remain.

DOC will be utilizing the range on Thursday, June 15<sup>th</sup> and Wednesday, June 21<sup>st</sup>.

Pioneer Park:

Cleared and treated two large areas of hemlock. Continue to check other parks throughout the week and treat as needed.

Hope to start dredging by next week (issue and weather dependent).

General updates:

Next two big events will be 4<sup>th</sup> of July weekend, and the National Ride at PC. Week prior to the ride, the focus will be the trails at PC.

All main campgrounds were full over the Memorial Day weekend. Did have one camper use the equestrian area due to overflow. Almost \$3,000 in camping fees collected.

Upcoming BOS meeting

If ARPA funds are not approved for PC dam repair, it will have to come out of our budget. Dam needs to be fixed and this is only the first portion of the repairs. Tree removal costs are about \$22,000.00 - that is work along the spillway and 15ft. each side.

Extra Fund Ideas:

Portable radio (\$3,400), and water to PC maintenance shed (line ran from new pit to the shop).

Update on current practices (per auditor's office)

Can no longer purchase bottled water or any hydration aids for employees.

Volunteers cannot use any department equipment (i.e. trimmers, mowers, tractors, table saws, tools, etc.). They must bring their own equipment on all work days, even those sponsored by PCCB.

Pioneer Park/Ketchum Agreement for Fencing and Maintenance

County has no record of the agreement. All abstracts were signed out by a PCCB board member back in 1959. No easements, agreements, or contracts are on file anywhere. Was verbally told by predecessor and Mr. Ketchum that part of deal in which PCCB obtained a portion of Pioneer Park was that we maintain the fencing between the park and his fields. It also covered the outflow pipe from his pond, to the discharge that empties into Pioneer. This discharge is in need of repair. I have not been able to hold of Bruce to see if he has a copy of this agreement (made back in the early 60's with his grandfather).

Problem: Without proof of the agreement, we cannot use county funds to repair his portion of the outflow/discharge, which is starting to collapse. We also cannot fix the fence (that is on his land) with county funds.

Joyce Kruse mentioned about their workdays and the improvements. Couple of riders got lost, she indicated the need for signs to be installed at the trail heads, timberland and grass land areas. Joyce talked of signs back at the pole referencing camping in equestrian area vs north campground, sign @ 150<sup>th</sup> – extend height. She mentioned that work on the obstacle course was done with the City of Shenandoah providing mulch. NATRC is July 8<sup>th</sup> & 9<sup>th</sup> will the area be blocked off like last year? Joyce inquired about the latrine at Pierce Creek by the boat ramp. CL Fab and Red Oak Fab were mentioned about fabricating seats.

**Motion:** McNutt moved, second by Stimson, to allow Joyce to hang the necessary signage.  
Motion carried.



Signage for Rapp Park on Highway 48 needs replaced and be larger.

Budget discussion on remaining funds then ensued. John indicated that some patrol items (\$3,400 for portable radio and \$700 for body armor) would be appreciated for safety concerns while patrolling. John estimates that there may be \$20-22,000.00 left in the budget to work with.

**Motion:** Robertson moved, second by McNutt, to allow purchase of those 2 items. Motion carried.

Randy mentioned that having handicapped accessible campsites would be good. Must have car placard or license plate. At NVP – site 8, Rapp – site 3, PP – site 2 or 3 and Pierce site 10 or 11.

**Motion:** Robertson moved, second by McNutt, to construct handicapped camping sites as mentioned. Motion carried.

Fishing docks were mentioned as they haven't been installed yet. McNutt had some ideas on some pre-made ones and indicated a source for them. McNutt moved, Robertson second, to spend REAP funds on getting the docks completed. Motion carried.

Discussion then was about cabins possibly at NVP and placed on the primitive sites. Size of whole structure is approximately 16x10. Charge about \$30 per night with a cleaning deposit. In the wintertime add furnishings with \$3,000 in funds to put towards electric and water.

**Motion:** Robertson moved, second by Stimson, to spend up to \$17,000 on cabin purchases. Motion carried.

There was no board communication.

**Motion:** Robertson moved, McNutt second, to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried. The meeting then adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

APPROVED:

Chair

Mark Maurer

Board Secretary

Jane Stimson

A special meeting of the Page County Conservation Board was held Tuesday, June 20, 2023 at the Board's office beginning at 6:00 p.m. The meeting was called to order by Chair, Mark Marriott.

Board members present included Mark Marriott, Jane Stimson, Randy McNutt and Bill Robertson.

**Approval of Agenda:** Robertson moved, McNutt second, to approve the Agenda for June 20, 2023.

John handed out a summary of activities relating to ARPA funding. No action was taken.

Discussion on using REAP or Conservation Reserve funds to fix the dam at Pierce Creek then followed. The dam has to be repaired, we're 2 years into the DNR's repair recommendation. The tree removal is about \$22,000 which is Phase 1 with 15 feet on each side of the spillway for removal. Renting equipment to remove the trees? Buying chemicals and apply application of them? Jane asked about volunteer labor, Randy mentioned that if personnel can't mow; can they work on the trees? We need a timeline in place for work to be done.

Funds availability - Jane talked with the Engineer about using Secondary Roads personnel and equipment. Mark and Jane will re-visit with the Engineer and then visit with the Board of Supervisors.

Cabin discussion – John will go look at the cabins. Should be able to pay for them out of the regular budget. Potential placement was mentioned along with having electric and water access in future development plans.

No further discussion, motion to adjourn by McNutt, second by Stimson. Meeting then adjourned at 7 p.m.

APPROVED: 7/11/2023

Chair Mark Marriott

Board Secretary Jane Stimson

The regular meeting of the Page County Conservation was held July 11, 2023 at the Board's office beginning at 6:30 p.m. The meeting was called to order by Chair, Mark Marriott.

Board members present included Mark Marriott, Jane Stimson, Danielle Miller, Randy McNutt and Bill Robertson. Staff present were John Schwab and Charly Stevens.

Visitors included Judith Blay, Larry Lock, Kathy Jordan, Larry Shum, Joyce Kruse, Judy Clark and Liz Skillern.

Introductions were made and a welcome to the new board member, Danielle Miller.

**Approve Agenda:** Robertson moved, second by McNutt, to approve the Agenda of July 11, 2023. Motion carried.

**Approval of Minutes:** Robertson moved, McNutt second, to approve the Minutes of June 13 and June 20<sup>th</sup>. Motion carried.

**Approval of Claims:** Robertson moved, McNutt second, to approve the Claims ending June and mid-month July. Motion carried.

Public Comment period:

Joyce Kruse commented on how well the NATRC ride went that was scheduled at Pierce Creek. Donations brought in from the event netted approximately \$480.00. She inquired into the cost of county insurance coverage vs Pony Express; Schwab commented that the county coverage stated that it wouldn't be able to monitor the 11 miles of trails. Joyce also inquired about getting electric installed in the shelter – two lights and an outlet, and some gravel or cement for the 18x24 shelter house floor. She also asked about some poles.

Larry Shum asked about the projections for the future of the gun range. It was explained that the range had more safety officers than shooters on some range days, and the health of the committee is another concern. It will be available to DOC, LE and Hunter Safety use. Future use of the range will be in planning stages.

Park updates included coverage on the holiday weekend with \$3,200 in revenues. Weeds have been sprayed, riprap area worked on. Hope to dredge soon at Pioneer Park. Schwab proposed to the Board about complete removal of a latrine at Pierce Creek boat ramp area and just placing porta pots instead. John also mentioned about installing sinks in bathrooms at Pioneer Park. Board Member Marriott asked about the porta pot in the gun range if it could be placed on the outside of the fence for use by the public.

Using regular budget monies two cabins were purchased, approximately 12x20. Discussion on placement then ensued. Initially thoughts were to place them near the trail by the shower house, Board Member Robertson suggested placing the 2<sup>nd</sup> one at Rapp but there are drainage issues, Board Member Marriot suggested placing it at Pierce Creek; also suggested having Shenandoah and Essex kids work on the interior. Discussion was tabled on the second cabin.

Rapp roads are a concern and needs graded and looking at gravel down to the boat ramp road at Pierce Creek. John will visit with Secondary Roads. Other discussion on the road were tabled.

Campground reservation procedure was discussed. It was first come, first served if a picnic table or tent was left on site; this however, is not how it is stated in the rules and regulations.

**Motion:** McNutt moved, Stimson second, to rescind the prior motion that reservation could be used by placing a picnic table as the means for reserving a site and go back to original procedure. Motion carried.

Board Communication – Jane Stimson commented on the influx of thistles in the prairie patch with fall weed control/spot spraying was discussed. Randy thought the parks looked nice and threw out an idea on a fish cleaning station at Rapp.

The meeting then recessed at 7:10 p.m. to go to Nodaway Valley Park to look at cabin placement. The meeting then reconvened at 7:15 pm. The two primitive sites were looked over. It was determined that it made sense to set a cabin in one site and allow parking for the cabin in the other primitive site.

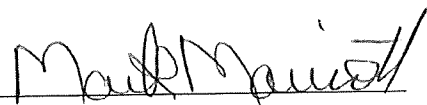
**Motion:** McNutt moved to position the cabin facing south and use the other site for parking, second by Stimson. Motion carried.

The board will brainstorm on where to place the second cabin.

**Motion:** McNutt moved, Robertson second, to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried. The meeting then adjourned at 8:00 p.m.

APPROVED: 8/8/2023

Chair



Secretary



The regular meeting of the Page County Conservation Board was held August 8, 2023 at the Board's office beginning at 6:30 p.m. The meeting was called order by Chair, Mark Marriott.

Board members present included Mark Marriott, Danielle Miller, Randy McNutt and Bill Robertson. Absent was Jane Stimson. Staff in attendance was John Schwab and Charly Stevens.

Visitors present included Liz Skillern, Joyce Kruse, Judith Blay and Larry Lock.

**Approve Agenda:** Robertson moved, second by McNutt, to approve the Agenda for August 8, 2023. Motion carried.

**Approval of Minutes:** McNutt moved, second by Robertson, to approve the Minutes of July 11, 2023. Motion carried.

**Approval of Claims:** Robertson moved, second by McNutt, to approve the claims ending July and mid-month August. Motion carried.

There were no public comments.

Park updates including the following:

NVP – Cleared out another corner around the 4 way stop area. Will need a few more sprayings and trimmings.

Pierce – Cut two new trails, power ran to the equestrian shelter talking with contractors to get the water on to the shop, and Secondary Roads is going to look at the road going to the boat ramp to see what can be done.

Pioneer – Waiting on estimates from contractors for putting in sinks in Pioneer bathroom.

Rapp – North side of the A Avenue road is starting to erode in places badly. Will be talking with contractors to get estimates on rocking certain areas.

Camping Update – Numbers are still going well. New policies got some pushback initially, but everyone is following them, currently one eviction as of yesterday for not paying/registering.

Hunter (the intern) – last day is Friday. Hannah will be back on a full class schedule later this month. All other employees are staying until end of season (Oct 31<sup>st</sup>). Mike will then drop to 12 hrs. a week through the winter.

Judith Blay inquired about the solar lights that hasn't been installed at the equestrian campground. If they aren't going to be installed she will take them back. She asked about the availability of poles to put them in. She also inquired about grass moving in on the trails in the timber area, (John indicated that the trails had been mowed). Board Member McNutt would like the lights installed this month.

Joyce Kruse asked about additional 2<sup>nd</sup> plug to be installed at the shelter house. She was told it would require a bigger breaker box. She said the camping area looked nice. Has John ordered the tops for the steel posts? Still need additional signage on A Ave/140<sup>th</sup> directing them to the

equestrian campground. Joyce commented on the trails not being as wide in the timber area and more spraying was needed.

Mark asked the about the dredging work at Pioneer Park. The in-flow tube has no water coming into it. He did find where a pipe may have collapsed.

Cabin #2 placement was discussed. The most accessible place is at the 1st primitive site at Pierce Creek south of the restroom. It is pretty level and could be situated so it is facing the woods/trails. Having Essex school kids work on it was a tough sell unless they were bussed to the site, PCCB pays for the material and they supply the labor.

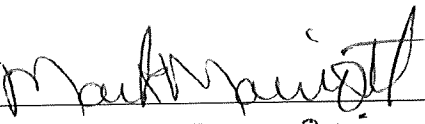
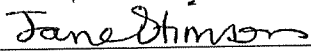
**Motion:** McNutt moved, Miller second, to place the cabin at Pierce Creek in the area as discussed. Motion carried.

Board communication – Marriott suggested leaving the latrine by the boat ramp as an emergency shelter. Go ahead and take care of demolishing the septic system, removing the bathroom fixtures and fill the holes. This plan was met with board approval.

McNutt inquired into why the fishing docks haven't been ordered/installed although it was agreed months ago to order them utilizing REAP funds. , John relayed that he planned to do it in the spring using REAP funds. They have to be pulled before winter so that is why he is waiting now because of the lateness of the season.

**Motion to Adjourn:** Robertson moved, McNutt second, to adjourn. Motion carried. Meeting then adjourned at 7:20 p.m.

APPROVED: 09/12/2023

Chair   
Board Secretary 

The regular meeting of the Page County Conservation Board was held September 12, 2023 at the Board's office beginning at 6:30 p.m. The meeting was called to order by Chair, Mark Marriott.

Board members present included Bill Robertson, Randy McNutt, Jane Stimson and Mark Marriott. Present was also John Schwab and Charly Stevens.

Visitors present included Kathy Jordan, Liz Skillern, Larry Lock, Judith Blay and Joyce Kruse.

**Approve Agenda:** Robertson moved, second by McNutt, to approve the Agenda for September 12, 2023. Motion carried.

**Approval of Minutes:** Robertson moved, second by McNutt, to approve the Minutes of August 8, 2023. Motion carried.

**Approval of Claims:** Robertson moved, second by Stimson, to approve the Claims of month end August and mid-month September. Motion carried.

There were no public comments.

Park updates included the following:

**NVP:**

Cabin is in place and leveled. Appointment to meet with the electrician later this week. A new line will have to be run from the main box if we are planning on having more than one outlet in the cabin, which means crossing the road/digging it up. Group of homeless individuals are currently in the park. They have been paying, but their time will be up next Tuesday as well as their 14-day limit. They were informed today about the situation and will take the next steps come next Tuesday. 3 adults and 6 kids at last count.

**PIONEER:**

Tube issue is fixed. There was an old tube next the new one and that was the one that collapsed. Will have to backfill a few spots, but it was not the new tube. Lack of water flow is due to there being no water upstream (completely dry). Moving the dredging equipment out there tomorrow. Moving extra mowing equipment out of the maintenance building and making room for the dredge to be stored on location. Rebuilt the windows in the shower house. Drastically cut back on the bug issues we were having in there. Added soap dispensers in shower house. SWINA held their Labor Day event. Approximately \$1500 brought in just from this event. Continuing to lose water, about 2 inches since July 1. Still waiting for estimate for sinks in two remaining bathrooms. Plan is to get some hand sanitizer stations in them for the moment.

**RAPP PARK:**

Lost approximately 16 inches of water since July 1<sup>st</sup>. Handicap fishing pier is almost completely out of the water. Depending on rain and snow melt, we may have to extend the walkway and move the pier out farther out into the water. Very difficult to launch a boat due to the water level. Probably lost close to 24" of water total this year. Hand sanitizer dispensers added to bathroom. DNR did some spraying for aquatic plant control.

**PIERCE CREEK:**

Water leak in equestrian area (4 hydrants.) Two-week lead time for getting contractors out there to fix it. They will put in telephone poles at that time. Rebuilding the roof/upper walls on the latrine by the boat ramp. Hopefully this will help us keep the bugs out of there. Lost about 3 inches of water so far.

Joyce Kruse inquired about additional solar lights in the horse area. The committee will pay for them out of their monies which are in the Conservation Reserve fund. She also mentioned checking the wheelbarrow tires, workday to paint, making signage about manure removal, bush trimmings and rock being smoothed out in the shelter.

The position of Vice-Chair is vacant. Marriott motioned to nominate Randy McNutt to fill the vacancy, Stimson second. Nominations ceased, and motion carried.

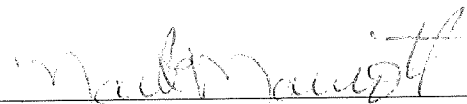
Cabin discussion included installing electricity or keeping it primitive; in addition to insulated walls and ceilings, flooring, heater/AC unit, wiring, interior walls and renting of cabin. This was all tabled until material prices can be obtained.

Equipment needs were then discussed. Getting rid of the dump truck and obtain a skid steer. Suggestions on checking on worth of dump truck, and various skid steer attachments were mentioned. Should make this part of the budget discussion. Items will be placed on the October agenda.

Board communication - Marriott inquired about Halloween event at Rapp Park and John mentioned 2<sup>nd</sup> week of October tentatively. McNutt asked about removal and storage of the backflow preventer from Rapp. Slight discussion on having board meetings and educational events at the parks.

**Motion to Adjourn:** Robertson moved, McNutt second, to adjourn. Motion carried. Meeting then adjourned at 8:05 p.m.

APPROVED: 10/10/2023

Chair 

Board Secretary \_\_\_\_\_



The regular meeting of the Page County Conservation Board was held October 10, 2023 at the Board's office beginning at 6:30 p.m. The meeting was called to order by Chair, Mark Marriott.

Board members present included Mark Marriott, Danielle Miller, Randy McNutt and Bill Robertson; absent was Jane Stimson. Also present were staff John Schwab and Charly Stevens.

Visitors present included Larry Lock, Judith Blay, Joyce Kruse, Liz Skillern, and Kathy Jordan.

**Approve Agenda:** Robertson moved, McNutt second, to approve the Agenda for October 19, 2023. Motion carried.

**Approve of Minutes:** McNutt moved, Robertson second, to approve the Minutes of September 12, 2023. Motion carried.

**Approval of Claims:** Robertson moved, McNutt second, to approve the Claims of month end September, and mid month October. Motion carried.

Public comment portion was Judith Blay inquiring about the difference in counties and sharing of services between county departments.

Park Updates included the following:

Next few weeks will have a heavy focus on trail/roadside maintenance and removal of a number of dead trees at Nodaway and Pierce.

Week of October 30<sup>th</sup>, we will be closing bathrooms and shutting off water in all parks.

Saturday, Oct 21<sup>st</sup>, initial trout stocking at Rapp as well as the Halloween event (4 p.m. – 6 p.m.) Catfish stocking by DNR last week, 200 catfish @ Ross, 600 @ Pierce Creek. Rapp and Pioneer were skipped due to water level and fisheries being a bit light on numbers but will be stocked next year.

Final mowing in all parks. Start winterizing all equipment. One mower will be kept up for any spot mowing that is needed.

Last day for all seasonals will be Oct 31<sup>st</sup>. Mike will stay on during the winter @ 12 hrs. a week, intern will stay on until end of December.

Pioneer has a small leak from an old patch in the main outflow tube. Contacted contractor to see if it can be fixed with a new patch.

Scheduled projects: Pioneer patch (Bix Fabrication), Erosion control on south side of Rapp (Beery Construction).

Concrete to be poured for veteran's memorial next week when there is no rain in the forecast.

Rock chips for equestrian shelter will not be available until next season. Local quarries are currently out and do not have plans to crush anymore this year. Solar lights are up (Installed on the south end of the arena and on the post by the registration board. Additional lights will be put up next season in primitive area and on the north side of the arena.

REAP Meeting Recap

Historical significance of the parks, especially Rapp in regard to the fossils that have been found there. Discussion on pollinator gardens at the parks to cut back on mowing. Also touched on

Pioneer and Nodaway for future projects of historical value. Ideas of walking trails with signage.

#### NVP Electric Work

\$6,492.74 total. Includes wiring the cabin, installation of camping pedestal, 360 feet of trenching and running cable from main box. Can be done before winter. Moving cabin behind the bathroom was discussed as well for NVP.

There was no contesting of eviction notices.

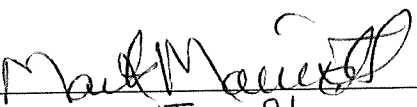
Joyce Kruse gave updates about the equestrian area. NATRIC riders may want to get in a fall/spring ride, possibly early as 3rd week in November. She mentioned that the posts need replaced by the water hydrant, wheelbarrow tires need aired up. Will there be covers placed around the trees to prevent deer damage? May be a workday with BCHM to paint slats in shelter. Rode trails on a moonlight ride - trails in good shape. She's concerned about a puddle in the middle of the dike, is there a leak? The pony express ride that is scheduled will be canceled if there is rain in the forecast. Replace pole with signs/saddle - could the lights be hung higher?

Board communication included dam @ Pierce Creek - John responded that it is a Board of Supervisors concern. Randy brought up the idea of planting a tree @ Rapp in memory of Tom Johnson (former board member). Mark will talk to Tom's son to get some ideas on what kind of tree. The November meeting will be a special meeting, possibly closed session to work on job evaluations.

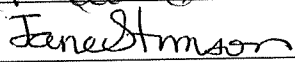
**Motion to Adjourn:** Robertson moved, McNutt second, to adjourn. Meeting then adjourned at 7:35 p.m.

APPROVED: 11/14/2023

Chair



Board Secretary



The regular meeting of the Page County Conservation Board was held November 14, 2023 at the Board's office beginning at 6:30 p.m. The meeting was called to order by Chair, Mark Marriott.

Board members present included Bill Robertson, Danielle Miller, Mark Marriott, Randy McNutt and Jane Stimson. Also present were John Schwab and Charly Stevens.

Present as guests were Lisa and Jake Johnson, Judith Blay, Kathy Jordan, Liz Skillern and Joyce Kruse.

**Approve Agenda:** Robertson moved, McNutt second, to approve the Agenda for November 14, 2023. Motion carried.

**Approve Minutes:** Robertson moved, Miller second, to approve the Minutes of October 10, 2023. Motion carried.

**Approval of Claims:** Robertson moved, Miller second, to approve the Claims of month- end October and mid-month November. Motion carried.

Public comment from Judith Blay about east side of the lake at Pierce Creek having beavers and wondered about getting them trapped. She also indicated a dead deer in the lake in the NE part.

Lisa Johnson and her son inquired as to what kind of memorial(s) could be installed in the park honoring Tom Johnson at Pierce Creek. Concrete benches and concrete picnic tables next to the waterway were discussed. (Staff will look into vendors with the concrete benches and tables and get back to Mrs. Johnson). A Memorial tree to be planted too, some variety of Maple (John will contact District Forester on what would work).

Joyce Kruse shared with the Board having a work day on May 11 and NATRIC will be at Pierce Creek on May 18<sup>th</sup>. She would like to schedule activities on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> weekends. Insurance and sponsorship are covered under Pony Express.

Park Updates were then reviewed.

All water services have been turned off for the season.

All normal seasonal positions have been terminated for the year. Mike is down to 12 hours per week.

Both playgrounds sites at NVP and PC have been prepped for delivery and installation of new equipment. It has shipped from the manufacturer, they are just trying to schedule installation and delivery to coincide with two other projects in the area.

All capital equipment and vehicles have been moved to this side of the county for the winter.

All parks are above their projected revenue for the year except for Pierce Creek. Total revenue is currently at 61% as of yesterday which is a higher mark than last year!

NVP:

Three instances of trash/tire dumping. Trail cams has been set up in different area.

Trail maintenance and cleaning up of target areas will continue. Emphasis on the areas of the 4-way intersection and around the modern art. Intern has come up with a plan.

#### Pioneer Park:

Vandalism in the women's side of the NE bathroom. ISAC adjuster looked over the damage and insurance will cover the repairs. Consisting so far of all 4 toilets being replaced, door being replaced. Waiting on contractor estimates for insurance.

Fishing has been popular at Pioneer. DNR stocked adult bass this spring that spawned, and some bluegill fingerlings were added this fall.

#### Rapp Park:

Halloween event was a success. Went through about 200 hotdogs, campsites were full and several them doubled up. May adjust the times next year to have a portion of the time after dark (this was requested by the campers who participated).

Trout stocking went very well also. Continue to have a lot of people out there fishing for them. Another load of larger fish is planned for this year, but we are waiting for the weather to cool off to give the bigger fish a good chance of surviving.

Veterans memorial plaque has been ordered (4-5-week lead time), concrete has been poured for benches.

#### Pierce Creek:

Coordination between Conservation and the Page County Sheriff's office led to a seizure of drugs and related paraphernalia last week.

Lime and some minuses were mixed into the flooring of the equestrian shelter. That should harden up and provide a better floor for the shelter.

Discussion on moving the cabin from the primitive site to site 7 and making it handicapped accessible. It still be placed on the pad facing the woods. John indicated he was waiting on LePorte for wiring estimates. Board would like to bid the project out and have bids ready for the December meeting.

**Motion:** McNutt moved, Miller second, to moving the cabin to site 7 at NVP. Motion carried 3-1.

Aye – McNutt, Miller and Stimson; Nay – Robertson.

A 3-year plan beginning within this fiscal and continuing thru to 2025-2026 was presented to the Board with a listing of projects coming out of the regular budget, Reserve fund or REAP fund. The listing was gone over and prioritized. Road work at NVP was discussed with the need to tear up, scarify and return it to gravel. Finish Veteran's Memorial at Rapp Park, fishing jetty at Ross, boat ramp road at Pierce, fishing /boat docks at Pierce, Pioneer and Rapp. Cabin at Pierce Creek is currently in the primitive area; also place that in an electrical site near power source (next to handicapped site).

**Motion:** McNutt moved, Miller second, to move the cabin to an electrical site next to the handicapped site at Pierce Creek. Motion carried.

Pipe project at Pioneer Park was discussed; it was mentioned to have Crain Construction (with camera check it out), and several contractors were mentioned to come to the site and get bids on the project.

APPROVED:

Chair Mark Marriott

Secretary Jane Stumison

The Page County Conservation Board met in special session on Tuesday, November 21, 2023. The meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m. by Chair, Mark Marriott.

Board members present included Mark Marriott, Danielle Miller, Jane Stimson and Randy McNutt. Also present were staff John Schwab and Charly Stevens. Absent was Bill Robertson.

Visitor present was Liz Skillern.

**Approve Agenda:** Miller moved, Stimson second, to approve the agenda for November 21, 2023. Motion carried unanimously.

John discussed with the Board Chapters 21 and 22 - Open meeting rules and board actions. A listing of motions that needed to be discussed and action taken that were not made in accordance with the above-mentioned Chapters were to be reviewed.

March 14<sup>th</sup> – Original Motion - to close the range to only law enforcement and hunter safety (failed).

*Revised - Motion by McNutt, second by Miller, to re-open the motion to close the range and used only for law enforcement and hunter safety.. Motion carried 2-1.*

April 11<sup>th</sup> – Original Motion – to accept drone policy (passed)

*Revised - Motion by Stimson, second by McNutt, to accept the drone policy as published in Section 21 of the rules and regulations stating, "the use of drones shall be unlawful within the campgrounds, shelter houses, playgrounds and parking areas. It shall be unlawful to operate drones within Pierce Creek and Nodaway Valley Park". Motion carried.*

May 9<sup>th</sup> – Original Motion – to keep the current ATV/UTV policy (passed).

*Revised - Motion by Stimson, second by McNutt, to keep the current ATV/UTV policy as stated in the rules and regulations in Section 20 – "It shall be unlawful to operate ATV/UTV's in or on any area". Motion carried.*

May 9<sup>th</sup> – Original Motion – to bring all clay target shooting events to the board for permission (passed).

*Revised - Motion by Stimson, second by McNutt, to bring all clay shooting events to the board for permission. Motion carried.*

May 9<sup>th</sup> – Original Motion – to not allow for reservation of shooting range with an exception for law enforcement. (passed).

*Revised - Motion by McNutt, second by Miller, to not allow reservations for the shooting range other than law enforcement. Motion carried.*

June 13<sup>th</sup> – Original Motion – to allow for equestrian volunteers to hang signs at Pierce Creek (passed)

*Revised - Motion by McNutt, second by Stimson, to allow the equestrian volunteers to hang signs at Pierce Creek. Motion carried.*

June 13<sup>th</sup> – Original Motion – to designate a handicapped accessible campsite in each campground. (passed)

*Revised - Motion by McNutt, second by Miller, to designate a handicapped accessible campsite in each park. Motion carried.*

July 11<sup>th</sup> – Original Motion to rescind prior passed motion concerning using a picnic table to reserve campsite. (passed)

*Revised - Motion by McNutt, second by Stimson, to have a vehicle or tent to consider it reserved until at such time a camper is put on the site. Motion carried.*

July 11<sup>th</sup> – Original Motion – to place Nodaway Valley Park cabin in primitive camp site. (passed)

*Revised - Motion open to move to discussion on site 7 and then site 8. Motion by McNutt, second by Stimson to table July 11<sup>th</sup> motion, and re- discuss June 13<sup>th</sup> motion and table these items until the December meeting. Motion carried.*

August 8<sup>th</sup> – Original Motion to place Pierce Creek cabin in first primitive site, nearest to the bathroom. Motion carried.

*Revised - Motion by McNutt, second by Stimson, to table until the December board meeting on cabin placement. Motion carried.*

Discussion on opening portions of Pierce Creek to public trapping for Beaver and Otter. This would be in place through February 28, 2024. Public notices would be posted. This is a change in policy.

Motion by McNutt, second by Miller, to allow furbearer trapping at specific areas at Pierce Creek until February 28, 2024. Motion carried.

Discussion on increase of homelessness in the parks. Park regulations state that park users can camp for 14 days. The Board felt that with the homeless population and with winter approaching that it would become a public safety concern. The proposal is to shut off water on November 1<sup>st</sup> and electric on December 1<sup>st</sup> and have “camping by request and approval only November 1<sup>st</sup> – April 1<sup>st</sup>”.

Motion by McNutt, second by Miller, to have camping by request and approval only from November 1<sup>st</sup> thru April 1<sup>st</sup>. Motion carried.

Discussion on target shooting on public hunting areas. Schwab has talked with the DNR on the legalities and that it is under conservation control. Consensus of the board is to have John talk with the county attorney and get an official opinion and more information.

Motion by Stimson, second by McNutt, to table this item until the December board meeting. Motion carried.

No further discussion, motion by Stimson, second by McNutt to adjourn at 7:50 p.m. Motion carried.

The board will meet again on December 12, 2023.

Bathroom re-do for painting was discussed, Miller indicated that if PCCB bought the paint, she would volunteer to paint the shower houses.

Also discussed was widening of the trails, chemical treatment for the trails, chemical aquatic vegetation and boat ramp road in addition to the playground equipment for Nodaway and Pierce.

Purchasing of boat docks was brought up and discussed to go ahead and purchase them for approximately \$3,300 per dock. John indicated he will order the docks on Wednesday.

Concrete work near the bathroom at Rapp; seek new bids for the completion of that project.

Discussion on FY 2024-2025 budget items including Rapp Park expansion/drainage, equipment needs, other projects at NVP, Ross, Pioneer and Conservation office, expand educational programming, solar light installation at the parks, extend small jetty at Pioneer, extend and widen jetty at Pierce, work on pollinator exhibits for open areas, completion of Pioneer Park renovation (playground and fish habitat), shower/sink addition at Pioneer bathroom, remodeling of handicapped fishing pier at Rapp and electric work on cabin group at Pierce Creek north campground.

SWINA has requested to reserve Pioneer Park for their Labor Day event. They are having more people participating and would like to reserve for a full week.

**Motion:** McNutt moved, Miller second, to allow SWINA to reserve Pioneer Park for their Labor Day event. Motion carried.

The Board moved to recess at 9 p.m.

The meeting then reconvened at 9:10 p.m. and went into closed session.

The Board came out of closed session at 10:23 p.m.

**Motion to adjourn:** Robertson moved, Stimson second, to adjourn. Meeting then adjourned at 10:24 p.m.

APPROVED:

Chair Mark Maillot

Secretary Jane Stimson



The regular meeting of the Page County Conservation Board was held December 12, 2023 at the Board's office beginning at 6:30 p.m. The meeting was called to order by Chair, Mark Marriott.

Board members present included Mark Marriott, Jane Stimson and Randy McNutt. Absent members were Bill Robertson and Danielle Miller. Also present was John Schwab and Charly Stevens.

Present as guests included Judith Blay, Joyce Kruse, Liz Skillern and Kathy Jordan.

**Approve Agenda:** McNutt, second by Stimson, to approve the agenda for December 12, 2023 as presented. Motion carried.

**Approve Minutes:** Stimson moved, second by McNutt, to approve the Minutes of November 14<sup>th</sup> and November 21<sup>st</sup>. Motion carried.

**Approve Claims:** Claims from month end November and mid-month December were reviewed. McNutt moved, second by Stimson, to approve both sets of claims. Motion carried.

No public comments were heard.

Park updates were then given including the following:

NVP – stockpiling gravel to level camping spots, less instances of dumping since installation of trail cameras, continuing to clear out brush from target areas and estimate to seal coat the roads at approximately \$230,000 per mile.

Pioneer Park – finished cleaning the vandalized bathroom. Waiting on estimate from contractors to turn into insurance.

Rapp Park – finished installation of veterans memorial benches and plaque. Will finish up landscaping and flag/pole light installation in spring. Stocking of larger trout was completed on December 6<sup>th</sup>.

Pierce Creek – Appears that most of the feral cats have been caught and rehomed. Trapping going well so far with beavers, don't have any specific numbers yet but a few trappers have contacted us and have taken a few (4 so far). Continuing work on pit latrines - still need to replace the larger mesh screening. Tree wraps have been placed around the trees at Pierce Creek. Looking to replace the propane heater with an electric one and eliminate the propane use at PC.

Maintenance on the dump truck, found a hydraulic line that was old/leaking that was replaced. New batteries (old ones were from 2013). Should be good to go once everything is put back together.

Joyce Kruse inquired about the tree wraps around trees and if they were expandable to give the trees room to move and how long will they be on the trees?

Discussion on volunteer services, there is no written policy available from the Auditor's office; but as it stands only county employees (including interns) can use county equipment/vehicles. All individuals wishing to volunteer would need to sign our liability waiver. County can still be held liable for injuries depending on the situation (people cannot waive their right to sue, regardless of what they sign). Some leeway with organized, conservation sponsored workdays with equipment usage. This will be placed on the January agenda and to discuss again with other policies.

Cabin placement at NVP and PC was then opened for discussion on moving the cabins from current location (in the primitive sites) to the handicapped sites.

**Motion:** McNutt moved, Stimson second, to move the cabins from the primitive sites at NVP and PC to the handicapped sites. Motion carried.

Target shooting at Ross Park from last month's meeting was opened for discussion on allowing or not allowing target shooting. We have full authority on park activities including the target shooting. It is not breaking any laws regarding hunting areas, hunting regulations, etc. No further action required since it's a park activity.

Camping by request was opened for discussion from last month's meeting and the decision is we cannot have people call in to get approval to camp in public campgrounds. It could be considered discrimination. What we can do is just enforce the 14-day camping policy, which gives us the authority to take the appropriate actions after the 14-day period. No further discussion/action is required.

Discussion and action on bids for concrete project at Rapp and bid for electrical work in the cabins. Bid for concrete work was submitted by Stickler's Concrete for \$6,750.00

**Motion:** McNutt moved, Stimson second, to accept Stickler's bid in the amount of \$6,750.00 for a 20x25 concrete slab to complete the project near the bathroom at Rapp. Motion carried.

A bid was submitted by LePorte Electric to outfit the cabins with 4 interior outlets, 1 exterior outlet, 2 standard light switches, 1 interior light, 1 exterior light, wiring of future installation of electric heating/air unit, fuse breaker box installation and external pigtail to plug into camping pedestal for \$2,392.92 per cabin.

**Motion:** McNutt moved, Stimson second, to accept the bid from LePorte Electric in the amount of \$2,392.92 per cabin. Motion carried.

Discussion then ensued on the tentative FY25 budget. The Director went thru the administration, operation and development portions of the current budget and then informed them of increases or decreases for a tentative overall amount of \$389,775 which is an increase of \$3,874.00 from the current budget.

Development projects discussed included an upgrade to Pioneer with three additional campsites, an upgraded cabin, shelter at Pierce Creek, and 4 primitive campsites to be developed at the Conservation office.

**Motion:** Stimson moved, McNutt second, to tentatively approve the FY25 budget as presented. Motion carried.

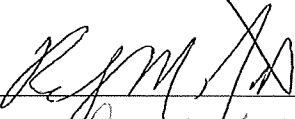
There was no board communication.

**Motion:** McNutt moved, Stimson second, to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 8 p.m.

Board will meet again on January 9, 2024 at 6 p.m.

Approved: January 16, 2024

Chair



Secretary

