

Wayne County Conservation Board  
Regular Board Meeting  
January 9, 2023

WAYNE COUNTY AUDITOR

FEB 15 2023

RECEIVED

MINUTES-JANUARY-2023

A. CALL TO ORDER

Meeting called to order at 6:02 PM by Diane Schroeder, Vice Chair-Person

B. ROLL CALL

PRESENT: Tom R\_\_No\_\_Diane\_\_X\_\_Mike\_\_X\_\_Marty\_No\_\_Garrett-  
X\_Kenny\_\_X\_\_Brittany\_\_X\_\_and Linda Allen\_X\_\_.

Guest or Public: WCC employee Brittany Snow, Assistant/director/technician, addressed the Board for an increase in her salary. She presented charts showing median/average salaries for counties having employees with similar job descriptions. She has been in the position four years. Abel asked what her current salary is and what amount she was seeking. Her current salary is around \$35,200. She would like to be at \$40,000-\$45,000. When asked what her raise in July of 2022 amounted to, it was about \$67.00 each check. The Board asked how many hours she worked weekly and how much time was spent doing the different jobs. Forty hours and 50/50 to 60/40 depending on time of year for job duties. Brittany thanked the Board for there time and consideration and left the meeting. **The meeting resumed and this was discussed in the open forum.**

C. READING & APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES:

**December minutes were approved. Motion to approve by Lewis. Motion for second by Abel Motion Carried. All ayes.**

D. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION & COMMUNICATION: Continued work with Jared Chambers and Stacy Gibbs on playground area. Conversations with Rodger Gipple on land transaction continue without much progress. Permit holders are now cutting firewood. See Ashleigh's report. Attempting to get Reap Community together for available funds and grants: Banks trying to reactivate the REAP Committee as he feels they can benefit Conservation and the community. Names of previous members given by Mary Ellen Miller and others are: Doug Downs, Bill Byrns, Jack Shields, Dave Dotts, Dan Carpenter, and Dave Gunzenhauser. Reap has lots of Grant monies and Abel stated we should find out deadlines for those grants before starting process of getting. Don Seams has information about Reap, he is sending to Banks via email so it can be forwarded to Board members. Permit holders who have signed up are cutting ash wood @ CLP & BW.

E. APPROVAL OF AGENDA.

Motion to approve the agenda by Abel. Second by Lewis. Motion carried. All ayes.

F. REPORTS:

1. Director – Kenny Banks; director report: Banks reported on visit with Helga of DNR on her finding of one deer testing positive for CWD. She feels disease is here to stay but can be managed. Staff is signed up on continued education classes at Winterfest in Iowa City...He presented estimate on trading in a mower for purchase of new Gravely Pro 660 for Boards review. Mower listed for \$17,500, a trade value for \$8500 making mower cost \$8396. Banks noted he has allowed \$10,000 for purchase of mower in current budget. Staff has been cutting ash and brush in prairie, burning, and piling to reburn.
2. Assistant Director – Brittany Snow; office/maintenance report
3. Naturalist: See attached report to minutes. Ashleigh and Banks made a windbreak around bees for protection from cold. Said not unusual for temperature to be like 85 degrees in hive.
4. Abel made motion to approve all reports. Lewis made the second. Motion carried. All ayes.

G. APPROVAL OF BILLS: Schroeder made the motion to approve the bills. Abel made the second. Motion carried. All ayes.

Eight claims were submitted for payment. Claims list for month signed by Schroeder, WCCB Vice-Chairperson.

H. Old BUSINESS: Still working on 548 Rewilding Project with Roger Gipple, with no progress.

- a. Met and talked with Mary Ellen about Lorena's Memorial: Ross Blount visited with Banks about monies received and Banks advised to put in hands of WCC Foundation and gave Mary Ellen a call about it. Banks gave \$200 + monies received at park to Blount and left the planning of ideas for memorial to family wishes.
- b. Still working on Prairie piece
- c. Still cutting Ash Trees @ CLP & BW for permit holders. Schroeder asked if there was a fee for permits? Only required to sign up.
- d. Abel questioned Banks on needing mower/maintenance help if Guthrie unable to return. Banks reported he was planning to visit with Ronnie toward end of February and putting out application notice for March if he wasn't returning. Asked if Trower was returning. Banks has not visited with Trower. Schroeder noted Trower was planning to mow at New Zion Church and thought he would continue. Banks noted the help of Alan and Bonnie Friend after the Red Haw tornado. They helped mow and weed eat every Tuesday and Wednesday until after July 4<sup>th</sup>.

I. NEW BUSINESS:

- A. Banks, Arnold and Snow are signed up for Winterfest classes January 24-26.
- B. Working on preliminary budget be turned in on January 13<sup>th</sup>.
- C. Looking @ grants to build a bathroom, like LSP, at CLP where the new playground equipment is going and for skid steer. Schroeder noted to consider Langtree for grant monies, they have a spring and fall application for grants,
- D. Some of the camp pads @ BW Campground need to be rocked and Banks hopes to complete this week, weather permitting.
- E. Working on WCC annual report of park activity, revenue, and expenses. Hopefully will be done by February 15<sup>th</sup>.
- F. Working on getting Reap community together. See above report of names who have worked on.
- G. New mower estimate presented to Board, hoping to purchase by end of February: Lewis made motion to purchase new Gravely at quoted price before a price change. Abel made the second. Motion carried. All ayes
- H. Cleaning up and fixing up trash cans for BW, CLP, MG, and LSP continues. They were received from Corydon Chamber when they replaced their cans.
- I. On track to be close to same revenue as last year with April, May, and June to go,
- J. Open Forum Items/Discussion/Notes

- 1. Brittany wants to address the board: Brittany presented her request in writing with charts showing salaries of her position in other counties. Board felt it was not fair to consider a raise for one without including the Director and Naturalist. Don Seams with Wayne County BOS noted suggested price increases for Wayne County employees will be available January 10<sup>th</sup>. Lewis made the motion to deny Snow's salary increase. Abel and Schroeder made the second to decline. Motion carried. All ayes.
- 2. New supervisor to take Tom's place: The replacement for Swearingin will be named on January 10<sup>th</sup> also. Seams stated he enjoys working with WCC and hopes to continue.
- 3. Since the budget report is due Friday, they decided that Seams will advise Banks of suggested price increases for employees. Banks will advise all Board members of rate and they are to vote by reply email on their approval or disapproval. Banks will have correct information to add to his budget for upcoming year. This is a Board approved vote by email.

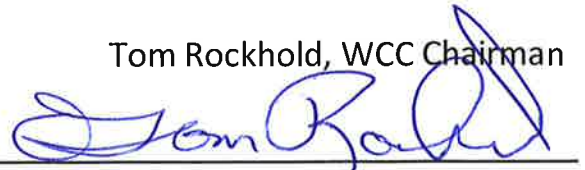
K. Adjournment

Motion to adjourn by Abel at 7:15 PM. Schroeder made the second. Motion Carried. All voted aye. Meeting adjourned.

Linda Allen, WCCB Secretary



Tom Rockhold, WCC Chairman



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Next Regular Meeting February 13, 2023





# Claims - 2022 January

Utilities	First Interstate Bill
Regular Bills	Not common bills
C & E Trucking	\$127.20
Midwest Sanitation	\$28.45
GRM Network	\$131.93
Cell Phone	\$50.00
Rathbun Regional	\$48.00
MFA	\$1,986.68
Clarke Electric	\$190.83
Allerton Lumber	\$4.79
Scantron	\$976.63
ULINE	\$277.50
Blink	\$107.00
Amazon	\$222.54
ICCB Winterfest	\$719.54
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$4,151.55</b>

Tom Rockhold  
WCCB Chairman

Diane Olson Schroeder  
WCCB Vice - Chairman

