

**Boone County Conservation District
Meeting of February 16, 2016
Agenda**

Call to Order and Roll Call

John Todt
Mike Petersen
Sean Beckmann

Matt Bullard
George Thomas
Deb Loos

Minutes

Minutes of the January 19, 2016 Meeting

Financial Reports

January 2016

Comments from the Public

Each person requesting time to address the board will be limited to speaking for 3 minutes and must state their name and address for the record.

If more than 1 person requests time to address the board on the same topic, they also are limited to 3 minutes and must address different issues and not just reiterate the same points as the person speaking before them.

Reports

District Affairs

- North Boone Farms LLC License Agreement and Easement Agreement request
- Frontier Communications LLC license agreement request
- Fiscal Year 2017 Budget

Accounts Payable

Board Member Comments

Adjournment

Education Department

February 2016 Board Report

I. School Programs

- 1st grade field trips are still in progress
- An educator from another organization is observing programs
- Participated in very first Google Hangout with class from Central Middle School.
- We talked about water quality and the water cycle.
- Will be doing another one using the Groundwater model with Dan.
- Meeting weekly with Envirothon team from BHS.

II. Public Programs

- Book Discussion group was a success. We had 15 participants.
- 30+ people attended Black Bear presentation for Animal Friends Society
- I have another Bear presentation scheduled for Feb. 23rd at BCCD.
- Co-teaching a workshop on a Climate Change curriculum for High School teachers along with educators from three other agencies.

III. Scouts

- Ongoing program development

IV. Camp

- Now accepting applications for camp staff.

V. Meetings/Conferences

- IACD Conference is February 24 & 25 at Starved Rock
- Attended EEAI board meeting in Urbana
- Attended Conservation Congress for MCCD

VI. Other

- Submitted 2016/17 budget to Dan
- Working with BNHS Spanish classes to translate teachers' packets for field trips

Monthly Report February, 2016

Dan Kane, Executive Director

Previous Issues & Activities:

Grant Updates:

Illinois Clean Energy Community Foundation (ICECF):

- **2011 Grant Project:** We are still waiting to learn whether or not the final report submitted for this grant was accepted. Josh and Aarron are in the process of completing the final seeding to restore cropland to native habitat this week. Once we provide notice of the completed seeding, all aspects of the grant project will have been fully accomplished.
- **Illinois Clean Energy Community Foundation 2015 Community Stewardship Challenge Grant:**

Progress continues to be made – we have logged 497 hours of volunteer time on this project, which substantially exceeds the 400 hours of volunteer time required to achieve the \$4,000 bonus. After an appeal in our BCCD newsletter, the Parks & Conservation Foundation has received a total of \$3,640. The newsletter appeal has raised \$800 so far. The \$3,640.00 will be matched by \$10,920 from the Stewardship Challenge Grant. Combined with the locally raised funds (\$3,640) and the \$4,000 bonus for volunteers establishes a total of \$18,560.00 contributed toward the stewardship project being completed at the Kishwaukee Valley Conservation Area (Holland/Fritchen sites).

National Fish and Wildlife Foundation - Monarch Habitat Grant Program: The entities working on this grant application have decided to bypass this year's submittal date and to work toward submitting our application in next year's grant cycle. There is no new information to report on for this grant.

Easement/License Agreement Request(s):

- *North Boone Farms LLC License Agreement and Easement Agreement request:* Attorney Karl Winkler has prepared a resolution for the license and easement agreements. The board can now take action to approve these agreements contingent on all the items detailed in the resolution being satisfactorily completed. *(This issue will be on the board meeting agenda for discussion and/or action.)*
- *Frontier Communications application:* Tentative agreement has been reached with Frontier Communications LLC regarding a number of utility crossings. However, license agreement documents are not in final draft form, so this issue is not ready for board action. *(This issue will be on the board meeting agenda for discussion and/or action.)*

Proposed Land Donations: There are no new items to report under this topic.

OpenLands Project:

1. **The County Line Road Bridge Project:** There is no new information to report on this topic.

Update BCCD Master Plan: There isn't any new information to report at this time.

Long Prairie Trail (LPT): Status remains unchanged. A grant request was submitted to the Doppelt Family Foundation grant program for \$50,000. The grant, if awarded, will be used to help cover the expense of replacing the 5,000 linear feet of pavement in most need of attention. Dan also connected with Richard Lee, Belvidere Township Road Commissioner, to discuss the Township's willingness to partner with the grant. Rich suggested that the BCCD and Township share the expense of purchasing a pavement grinder that will run off of a skidsteer. This equipment new costs ~ \$22,000. This grant is connected with the Rails to Trails Foundation. This grant is included in the fiscal year 2017 budget proposal as grant revenue.

IACD and IAC&FPD Employee Conference: The conference dates are nearing. The conference agenda and all other details have been finalized. There is online link to register or review the conference information at <http://www.iacd.online/>. This conference is also open to employees or volunteers working for conservation organizations and land trusts. Approximately 75 people have registered to attend and that was this year's goal for attendance.

Development of a Boone County Conservation District Employee Succession Plan: Human Resources Consultant Lyle Williams is now working with staff to develop an employee succession plan.

New Issues & Activities:

Fiscal Year 2017 Budget: A first draft of the budget will be presented at the board meeting. Copies of this document will be provided at the meeting. The District's fiscal year ends at the end of March, so the board can anticipate adopting a budget at the March board meeting if everything is in order at that time. *(This issue will be on the board meeting agenda for discussion and/or action.)*

*Remember to check the BCCD Website for new programs and activities! The web address is: www.bccdil.org. *Please feel free to call me in advance of the meeting if you have questions about anything in this report, the accompanying documents, or about a district related issue. Thank you!*

Monthly Report

By: Joshua Sage

Natural Resources Management Department

February 2016

1. Seed Harvest

- Seed collection is completed for the season.
- A seed inventory for 2015 will be completed soon.

2. Tuttle Clarkson Natural Area

- A 1.5-acre portion of the site was cleared of invasive trees and brush.
- Herbicide treatment of resprouts is completed.
- A prescribed fire is planned for the spring of 2016.
- A winter 2017 seeding will take place.

3. Goats

- The goats have been taken to Kishwaukee Valley, where they will spend the winter.

4. Blanding's Turtles

- The turtles have moved to their hibernaculum
- New transmitters will be acquired this winter for spring replacement.
- Renewal paperwork has been sent to IDNR for Blanding's monitoring 2016.
- Transmitters have been ordered to replace those that are needed in the spring.

5. Kinnikinnick USFWS Project

- The BCCD was awarded \$10,000 to remove middle and understory invasive trees and brush within the nature preserve and buffer at Kinnikinnick Creek Conservation Area.
- USFWS staff is pleased with the progress being made on the project.
- Large invasive trees have been removed. This will allow for Oak regeneration.
- Herbicide treatment of resprouts is completed.
- Seed has been collected and purchased for the project and a winter seeding is planned for the coming winter.
- The seeding for this project has been completed with machinery and the help of our Tuesday volunteer crew.
- The final report for this project has been submitted.

6. Piskasaw Fen Mitigation

- A tile line investigation has been completed.
- Tree removal in the project area has been completed.
- Monitoring wells will be installed within the next two months.

7. Volunteer Stewardship Grant – Kishwaukee Valley

- All of the seed for this project has been collected and purchased.
- Volunteers helped with the seeding of this area.
- Invasive tree and brush removal will start soon.

- The Parks and Conservation foundation has chosen a contractor to do the majority of tree and brush removal.
- All fencing that was to be removed for the project has been completed. Volunteers removed 1,000 linear feet of fencing.

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Board Report January 2016
Special Events and Public Outreach Manager

BOCO was Saturday February 6 at the Community Building in Belvidere. Attendance was low.

I met with garden volunteers on January 28. We have two new volunteers who will be helping in the greenhouse and the Norwegian and Potawatomi gardens.

I attended the Seed Swap at Ida library on Feb 9. I brought information on the District and the garden programs for attendees.

I have been asked to represent BCCD on the University of Illinois Extension Council representing Ogle Boone Winnebago and DeKalb counties. The council meets four times a year to discuss ways that agencies can work with the U of I extension office on programing and events.

I will be attending the Midwest Outdoor Museums Coordinating Council conference in March. The conference workshops will focus on volunteers and how to use social media to attract more people to our facilities.

Pam Stock

Monthly Report February 2016
Director of Operations
Mick Johnston

Illinois Association of Conservation Districts Conference

Planning for this conference has been completed and February 25th & 26th It will become a reality. We are trying something new this time. Previously Conferences were held at one of the Conservation Districts. The

be located at Starved Rock State Park's Lodge. This time the

Association has added other organizations as well. Representatives from Conservation Districts, Forest Preserve's and private land agencies will be

in attendance. Randy Heidorn Director Emeritus from the Illinois Nature Preserves Commission will give an opening session on Building the Natural Areas Conservation Movement in Illinois by Partnering. Bill Kleiman Director of Nachusa Grasslands of The Nature Conservancy will give a presentation on How the Bison came back to Nachusa!

There will be many roundtable sessions that are important to the agencies such as Using volunteers, Next Generation of Science Standards, Pollinators and Partners for Fish and Wildlife, Managing Invasives, Wetlands and Wetland Mitigation, Species of Concern, Tools and Gadgets Fund raising and Partnering with other agencies, This should be a good conference with much sharing of ideas and networking.



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Coon Creek Casters ice fishing

This year's ice fishing event was cancelled due to lack of safe ice.

BOCO

BCCD had a booth at this year's BOCO event. It was held at the Belvidere Community Building February 6th from 9:00 am to 3:00 pm. Pam and I were on hand to answer questions and hand out give aways.

Maintenance

1. Picked up litter, emptied garbage, checked restrooms at all open sites.
2. Plowed snow.
3. Made seed racks for seed sales.
4. Cleaned snow away from dumpster at Beaver Bluffs.
5. Washed salt off of F250, 350, bobcat A300.
6. Put away potting soil and bird seed order.
7. Continued putting up new gates.
8. Cutting trees on the LPT.
9. Started taking down deer hunt signs.
10. Started training Bill Lawson in the Bobcat.
11. Hauled truck and Bobcat to Piscasaw Fen, Flora.

12. Hauled firewood and kindling to dog area.
13. Burned brush pile at Haselton.
14. Repaired wiper blade on the Bobcat.
15. Took GMC to Scotts for brakes, block heater and brake lights.
16. Repaired porch ceiling, cleaned up insulation raccoon mess, garbage, wood scraps at Piscasaw Fen.
17. Picked up janitorial supplies at Horizon.
18. Sharpened hedge trimmers. New bar for chain saw. Worked on mowers.
19. Took bobcat tire to be repaired.
20. Checked ice thickness for Coon Creek Casters ice fishing workshop. (not thick enough).
21. Split firewood.
22. Made fence for fair, (mount display).
23. Worked with Restoration crew at Piscasaw Fen clearing trees and brush.
24. Picked up rug weaving loom and 20 boxes of spools and fabric. Stored in garden shed.
25. Chopped ice away from garden shed to get in, moved tillers to maintenance.
26. Restocked meal worms in bird seed shed.
27. Hauled two desks and chalk board to storage shed.
28. Changed gate lock combos. Take down hunting signs.
29. Called to get LPT crosswalk quotes for 173 Capron and 76 at Poplar Grove.
30. Cut tree at Distillery entrance.
31. Put ice melt on festival path for school groups.
32. Took bolder to parking lot at county line on the LPT.
33. Worked at tearing down of structure built at Lib.
34. Worked on the mower trailer ramps.

