



Newsletter

Volume 58, Issue No. 9
December 31, 2016

SAVE THE DATE:

The IACCB Calendar is also available online via the IACCB link on MCP.com

- * Jan. 9 – Iowa Legislature gavel in for 2017 session
- * Jan. 24-26 – Winterfest 2017 - Waterloo
- * Feb. 3-4 – ICEC Wksp. at Springbrook CEC
- * Feb. 3 – District 3 Mtg. – Crawford CCB
- * Feb. 4 – District 4 Mtg. – Pottawattamie CCB
- * Feb. 4 – District 5 Mtg. – Washington CCB
- * Feb. 21 – Chickasaw Co. – S130/190 Fire Course
- * Mar. 8-10 – Spring IAN – Plymouth Co.
- * Mar. 15 – County Day at the Capitol

The IACCB Newsletter is produced on a periodic basis, and provided in digital format as a membership benefit to IACCB Members and stakeholders.

2017 IACCB Annual Fall Conference
September 21-23
Sioux Center, IA
Hosted by the Lyon & Sioux CCBs

And so the clock ticks

What will 2017 bring for Iowa's natural resources?? Only the 2017 Iowa Legislature will know for sure – once the ball gets rolling on January 9th. A lot of resources across the state have gone in to preparing for perhaps the most important legislative session of your lifetime. What does the Iowa look like that you want to pass along to future generations? Sparkling waters, abundant wildlife, preserved open spaces, and second-to-none outdoor recreation opportunities will not be in that picture if you assume that "someone else will get it done for me". If you are not onboard for the "ALL-IN" push over the next couple of months, why not?!

100% of the County Conservation Boards in Iowa will benefit from The Trust being funded; 100% of our Conservation Board Members will be able to explore greater opportunities for their counties; and, 100% of our County Conservation Staff will have their careers enhanced forever. Additionally, 100% of your county residents will benefit from a better quality of life, cleaner water and the preservation of our natural resources for their children and grandchildren. I am not seeing a downside to funding The Trust. **And YOU?**

"The **Natural Resources and Outdoor Recreation Trust Fund** represents the most researched, vetted, and strategic means for addressing the myriad of state water quality, conservation, and outdoor recreation needs. It has its roots in a decades-long conversation among Iowans on the need to find a sustainable and meaningful way to care for land, water, and the people who rely on these resources." (Dan Cohen, Buchanan CCB) Arguably, funding the trust will need to be a part of the looming broader discussions about tax reform – it needs to be a part of the eventual solution.

The bi-partisan, Governor-appointed **Sustainable Funding for Natural Resources Advisory Committee** was established in 2006 by the Iowa Legislature to study the issue and make funding recommendations. A unanimous consensus was reached by this committee, and sent forward to the Iowa Legislature. With near unanimous support, both the Iowa House and Senate voted in two consecutive sessions (2008 & 2009) to place the constitutional amendment ballot before the people of Iowa in the 2010 general election. The people of Iowa spoke – 62% said **DO IT!**

Ballot language included...."A natural resources and outdoor recreation trust fund is created within the treasury for the purposes of protecting and enhancing water quality and natural areas in this State including parks, trails, and fish and wildlife habitat, and conserving agricultural soils in this State. Moneys in the fund shall be exclusively appropriated by law for these purposes.

The general assembly shall provide by law for the implementation of this section, including by providing for the administration of the fund and at least annual audits of the fund." The General Assembly indeed did **provide by law for the implementation of this section by enacting the formula into state law.....Section 461**as the People of Iowa wanted it to be. The formula must be defended, and must remain intact.



Pete Brownell (front left) rounded up some folks for a banner signing & photo-op in support of Funding The Trust in December.





PLASTIC SIGN MATERIAL

It was a short month ago that Dan Heissel (Clay) shared with us at ISAC a new outdoor sign material that he found that was layered plastic. When routed, this material would provide permanent, non-painted color contrasted lettering. He now has some of those new signs fabricated and erected! For more information, contact Dan directly at: claycodir@smunet.net



IOWA MONARCH CONSORTIUM NEEDS TO HEAR FROM CCBs!

As referenced in our 99-county email communication of December 22nd – we are interested in hearing from those counties that have been working towards the betterment of pollinator habitat, or providing educational sessions about monarchs / pollinators. **MANY THANKS to the 14 CCBs** we have heard from to-date! In particular, we are looking for just a couple pieces of information:

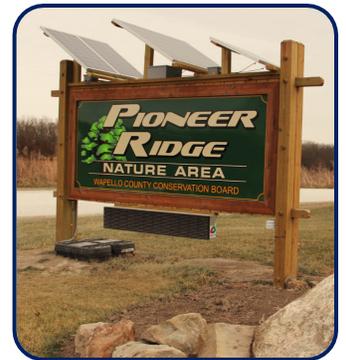
- # of acres that you have been involved with planting pollinator seed
- Your local related CCB **education programs** (and attendance #'s if available)
- **OTHER** - Butterfly gardens, school plantings/gardens, Monarch "hatcheries", etc.

The Consortium has a living/expanding report document about initiatives and activity in Iowa, and we can certainly do our part in providing some vibrant input. We have already received dynamic and excellent documentation from the following CCBs: *Adair, Boone, Cerro Gordo (partial), Clayton, Decatur, Dickinson, Floyd, Hamilton, Jasper, Jefferson, Jones, Polk (partial), Ringgold and Webster!*



KEEP THE FINANCIAL DOCUMENTATION / COST ESTIMATES FLOWING IN!

At **53 CCBs**, we are well over halfway to providing financial documentation for the 92 CCBs that have sent in their Un-Met Needs listings for our IWILL educational efforts. As previously mentioned, this list has become a critical tool for local and regional discussions with elected officials, news media and public forums. Please continue to develop these numbers and forward them along for inclusion on our 56-page master list! **We would still appreciate receiving original un-met needs information from the following counties: Allamakee, Appanoose, Audubon, Benton, Calhoun, Cass and Fayette.**



WAPELLO CCB HOSTS DISTRICT 5 MEETING – Dec. 15th

GREAT attendance, great agenda & great participation! Thanks to **Kurt Baker and his staff** for hosting the District 5 Meeting this past month at their **Pioneer Ridge Nature Center** south of Ottumwa! There were good discussions on many issues during the morning business meeting, and it was great to see employees step up to serve as District Officers, as well as representing the District to the IACCBE Winterfest Planning Committee! This is what makes our statewide system the success it has become! ☺

The remainder of the day included a discussion about soil types and the effects that grasslands (prairie) has on the quality of the soil; and representative from the Missouri Department of Conservation presented a great program on the quail monitoring and research that they have been doing south of the border. Upon exiting Pioneer Ridge, I had to stop and check out the new solar-powered entrance sign & marquis – I suspect you could call Kurt if you should like more information on that addition. Thanks again to District 5 for putting on a well-attended good show!





WINTERFEST 2017 REGISTRATION AVAILABLE! DO IT NOW!

The **REGISTRATION PACKET** for **WINTERFEST 2017** has been posted to MyCountyParks.com!! Information is available via the **WINTERFEST** link at the bottom of any page on the website. **IACCBE** looks forward to your registrations soon! **LINK TO WINTERFEST 2017:**
<http://www.mycountyparks.com/Info/WINTERFEST.aspx>

WETLAND MITIGATION SITES IN YOUR CCB AREAS? (Great presentation possibility in your District?)

A non-profit organization called **Iowa Agricultural Mitigation, Inc. (IAMI)** develops wetland mitigation sites so that farmers/landowners have affordable wetland mitigation credits to purchase if they need them. For the last several years they have worked exclusively in north central Iowa developing depressional wetlands. They have recently received a USDA NRCS grant to develop wetland mitigation banks statewide. From now on they will also be developing slope and riverine wetlands.

They see the CCBs as a possible source for future wetland sites. When developing a wetland they pay for all of the survey, design, construction, legalities and whatever else might be needed. One of the legalities is that the site has a permanent conservation easement placed on it. They then meet certain establishment standards and sell mitigation credits. They do not need to, nor do they want to own property.

They would like to start talking with CCBs, about their project – and believe that winter District Meetings would be a great opportunity to do so. Please contact: **Bob Powers**, bob@iowamitigation.com, 515-230-9338
 Here is the link to their website. <http://www.iowamitigation.com/>



MOLLY HANSON FEATURED IN DES MOINES REGISTER ARTICLE!

Many of you will remember Molly from her years with the **Madison County Conservation Board**, and she is nearing the completion of her first year as the Executive Director of **Iowa Rivers Revival (IRR)**. Molly was recently featured in an article and video segment in the Des Moines Register - we believe is still viewable at the following link – Congrats to Molly!
<http://www.desmoinesregister.com/story/news/2016/12/24/woman-wants-you-love-iowas-rivers/94219906/>

DISTRICT 6 INVADES SCOTT COUNTY (Blue Grass, IA)

Roger Kean, Marc Miller and the Scott CCB staff were host to a packed house as the winter District 6 meeting landed in their lap! ☺ Hosted at the Blue Grass Public Safety Building, most of the District 6 CCBs were represented - the ribeye steak sandwich lunch was fab! Agenda items included an update on some of the specialties managed by Scott CCB; a presentation by Dave Parks from Design Homes on the advantages of Modular Built Buildings for CCBs; a program by Kraig McPeek on how the USFWS can be relevant to your CCB; and an optional afternoon tour of the two new Scott CCB cabins that had just been set in place on full basements at their West Lake Park area – nice locale over-looking the lake. For more information on any of the presentations OR the new cabins, contact SCCB Director Roger Kean: roger.kean@scottcountyiowa.com



<http://www.mycountyparks.com/Jobs/Default.aspx>

1. **BREMER Co. - Director**
2. **LEE Co. – Naturalist**
3. **DICKINSON Co. – E.E. Coordinator/Naturalist**
4. **HANCOCK Co. – Park Ranger**
5. **TEMPORARY POSITIONS – 14 opportunities listed on website**

mycountyparks.com



Full Time Employment
 Seasonal/Part-Time

