

## Abstract of the Minutes of the State Board of Conservation

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funds and from subscriptions of individuals and associations, the amounts of monies and labor laid out toward roads and other improvements, are in the hands of the Executive Council and not the Board of Conservation. These details, it is assured by the public state accountant, will be available soon, and will be presented in the next number of the ANNALS.

The Backbone, Morehead Caves, Lacey-Keosauqua, Dolliver Memorial and Anamosa Parks each had a custodian on the grounds in the summer season, and some improvements have been made in all these parks, but the policy has been to spend little money at present in improvements, and much in the acquisition of park lands.

Most of these areas are of superior scenic, scientific, recreational, or historic interest. Nearly all of them are located in quiet places of natural beauty. It is planned to keep them as nearly as possible as nature made them. Only two formal dedications have occurred—Backbone and Lacey-Keosauqua. Each was made a notable occasion. It is planned to dedicate some of the other areas soon.

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#### ABSTRACT OF THE MINUTES OF THE STATE BOARD OF CONSERVATION

JULY 28, 1920

*Resolutions.*—Resolutions were adopted as follows: That the Board recommend to the Executive Council that the Carlisle area be immediately acquired; that the Board recommend to the Executive Council that the Wild Cat Den area in Muscatine County be acquired, and also certain adjoining tracts belonging to Mr. Welsh and Mr. Fitchner, these to augment the gift of fifty-five acres from Clara and Emma Brandt; that the Board ask the Executive Council to purchase or condemn an area of virgin timber on the Little Sioux River near Peterson; that the Board hereby tender its thanks to the ladies of the Lamont Commercial Club, to the Lamont Commercial Club, to Senator B. W. Newberry, to E. W. Williams of the Manchester Commercial Club, and to others associated, for their co-operation in making a success of the opening exercises of the Backbone State Park in Delaware County, May 28, 1920; that the proceedings of the dedication of the Backbone State Park be published as a separate document; that the Board ask the Executive Council and the State Fish and

Game Warden to communicate to the secretary of the Board their opinion on whether the Board should now issue a report and whether it should advocate any affirmative propositions or policies concerning state parks.

SEPTEMBER 24-25, 1920

*Resolutions.*—Resolutions were adopted as follows: That the Board invite the parties interested in establishing a state park in the hilly region to the north and northeast of Council Bluffs to file formal application giving a description of the area, probable cost and likelihood of local financial aid; that the Board ask the State Board of Control and the State Highway Commission to concur in the Board's recommendation to the Executive Council that the matter of using the material on the Gitchie Manito area for road building be delayed and that the General Assembly be asked to turn this area over to this Board for a state park; that the Board ask the Decorah people who are interested in the establishment of a park there to furnish a map of the desired area, a statement of its probable cost and of the probable local contributions, etc.; that the Board favors the creation of a state park on the bluffs immediately north of Hamburg, that the Board further investigate the area, and that the interested parties be requested to file a map of the proposed area, a statement of the probable cost of the land, and of the probable local financial assistance; that interested parties from Clarion are requested to furnish the Board with maps, etc., showing the relative levels of Mud Lake, Little Wall Lake and Elm Lake, and description of the surroundings and causes contributing to the damage and drainage of these lakes, and that on the receipt of this information that the secretary of the Board be directed to submit the same to the Attorney General for advice as to how best to proceed to save these lakes; that the Board favors the acquisition of a state park of some 147 acres at Cedar Bluffs, in Mahaska County and that local parties are requested to furnish a map of the proposed area, and a statement of the probable cost and of the probable local financial aid; that the Board invites all state agencies that have information on subjects pertaining to the establishing of state parks, such as geology, zoology, and forestry, to co-operate; that the Board request M. L. Soeth to furnish legal description, map and options on land adjacent to Mud Lake and High Lake, Emmet County, and when this is done and local financial help secured that this Board will recommend to the Executive Council the acquisition of said land; that the Board request local people interested in the preservation of Trumbull Lake, Clay County, Silver Lake, and Virgin Lake, Palo Alto County, and Elk Lake, Clay County, to furnish the Board with options, descriptions and maps of the recommended areas; that the Board recommend to the Executive Council the creation of a state

park on the shores of Twelve Mile Lake, Emmet County, especially on some of the land within the meandered lines; that the Board ask the Executive Council to set aside and keep as a park Four Mile Lake, Emmet County; that the Board investigate the legal status of a certain tract of land on the shore of Lost Island Lake, Palo Alto County, as to whether it is within the meander line, and that it be referred to Messrs. Ford and Pammel of this Board, W. E. Albert of the Fish and Game Department, and F. R. White of the Highway Commission; that the Board now in session in full membership, hereby declares the actions taken and recorded in these minutes when the entire membership was not present, to have been but actions of committees, and that the actions and recommendations of said committees, attached hereto and made a part of this resolution and of the minutes of this meeting, are fully ratified as the formal action of this Board; that the Board enter into a contract to take over from Mrs. Munn by lease some 400 or 500 acres near McGregor containing Indian mounds, pictured rocks, virgin timber and picturesque scenery on the high hills overlooking the Mississippi, and hold and protect from destruction the same, and that the State Fish and Game Department be asked to place a custodian in charge, and that when the lease is completed that the Board then ask the Executive Council to approve the conversion of this area into a state park, and that the Board endorse the project of creating a national monument in the vicinity of McGregor, because of the historical, scientific and scenic features of the area; that the Board ask the Amana Society to preserve Lotus Lake at Amana; that it is the opinion of the Board that a state park of some 400 acres should be created at Pilot Knob, and as soon as the people there co-operate in the initial expense it will so recommend to the Executive Council; that the Board approve of the improvements ordered by the Fish and Game Department on the dam at Rush Lake, Buena Vista County; that the citizens of New Albin, Lansing and vicinity be asked to contribute toward the purchase of the Fish Farm Mounds in Allamakee County, and if the contributions are not sufficient the state should pay the balance when funds are available; that the proper authorities at each park be asked to furnish the secretary of the Board statistics of the number of visitors to the respective parks; that the Board recommend to the Executive Council as follows: that the Ft. Defiance area near Estherville be acquired as soon as funds are available, local citizens co-operating, and that parties interested be asked to furnish a plat; that the Pine Creek and Falling Rock areas near Eldora and Steamboat Rock, in all some 200 acres, be acquired at once; that a certain tract of land near Beaman being a part of the tract [known as the H. S. Beaman land] be acquired by purchase or condemnation, but that throughout

the negotiations care be taken to do full justice to Mr. and Mrs. Beaman; that some 600 acres at the Ledges near Boone be purchased, the people there having subscribed some \$15,000 to assist; that some five acres in the Mackintosh area on the shore of Clear Lake be purchased; that some 120 acres be acquired on the shores of High Lake, Mud Lake, and Swan Lake, Emmet County, when the people there co-operate in the initial cost, and as soon as funds are available.

*Motions.*—That a committee be appointed to view the proposed area on Buffalo Creek near Anamosa; that the interested parties at Waverly be requested to furnish a plat of the desired state park area there; that the people of Lake Mills be requested to prepare a map of the tracts desired to be acquired in order to restore Rice Lake, and secure options as far as possible on said tracts, and furnish information as to the probable cost of these areas and of the probable amount of local contributions to the project; that the Board ask Warden Albert to request Mr. Graham to furnish a map of Rice Lake from the field notes in his possession; that the parties interested in securing a state park at the old State Quarry near Iowa City be requested to furnish a map of the proposed area, information of the probable price and of the probable amount of local contributions; that the plans for the dedication of the state park at Keosauqua presented by Mr. Harlan be approved, and that the program be left to Mr. Harlan; that it is the sense of this Board that when the citizens in the vicinity of Vernon Springs and Oregon Park, Howard County, are willing to co-operate in the initial cost that the Board should recommend the acquisition of those areas; that the Board endorse C. F. Henning for custodian at the Ledges State Park.

*Reports.*—The following reports were presented: By Pammel on parklets in cities of South Dakota and Minnesota, also on park projects at Rock Rapids, Cherokee, Fort Atkinson, Beaman, Vernon Springs, and Oregon Park; by Paul Graham on spillway and improvements at Lake Manawa; by Guy R. Campbell and F. Fordyce concerning water level of Medium Lake, Emmetsburg.

*Petitions.*—Petitions were received as follows: Of citizens of Cass County for acquiring Sunnyside Park near Atlantic; of citizens of Black Hawk County for acquiring the Theodore F. Vail homestead near Waterloo.

NOVEMBER 19, 1920

(The minutes under this date are of a meeting of a committee of the Board consisting of Pammel and Harlan. They were as usual read and approved by the full board at the next meeting.)

*Resolutions.*—The following resolutions were adopted: That the

Board recommend to the Executive Council the acceptance of the proposition from Forest City citizens to donate to the state some 120 acres necessary to preserve from destruction certain wooded lands on or adjacent to Pilot Knob and Dead Man's Lake, provided the state secure certain additional lands as set out in the descriptions attached; that the Board recommend to the Executive Council that it proceed forthwith to acquire by purchase or condemnation certain land on the shore of Wall Lake, Wright County; that the Board request C. H. Currie to furnish data to show whether Mud Lake, Hamilton County, could be reconverted to recreational and scientific purposes.

*Motion.*—A motion was passed recommending to the Executive Council that if it has not already closed up matters relating to the acquisition of the following areas that it do so: The Ledges near Boone, as citizens there have already complied with conditions precedent; Morehead Caves, Jackson County; building of the dam and road leading to the Farmington Lily Pond Park; Oakland Mills Park, providing the citizens there have complied with their pledge; North and South Twin Lakes, Calhoun County, either by purchase or condemnation, the initial cost to be contributed to by local citizens; the same with respect to the Carlisle area and the Dolliver Memorial Park; the same with reference to Lepley Park, Hardin County, Roosevelt Park, Floyd County, Beaman Park, Grundy County, and Peterson Park, Clay County, in all cases money having been raised as a condition precedent; Oakland Chautauqua Park, Pottawattamie County; Wild Cat Den, Muscatine County; Big Boulder, Floyd County; Fish Mounds, Allamakee County; Eldora-Steamboat Rock area; Indian Park, near Tama; Waverly Park; Little Wall Lake, Hamilton County; Wall Lake, Sac County; Iowa, High, Swan, Four Mile, and Mud lakes, Emmet County; Clear Lake, Cerro Gordo County; Storm and Pickerel lakes, Buena Vista County; Medium, Lost Island, and Virgin lakes, Palo Alto County; Cornelia Lake and Twin Sisters' Lake, Wright County; Twin, Crystal, and Eagle lakes, Hancock County; Blue Lake, Monona County; Sunk Grove Lake, Pocahontas County; Gitche Manito, Lyon County.

*Areas favorably considered.*—The following areas are favorably considered by the Board but await action of local citizens: Palisades, Linn County; Idlewild, Hardin County; Fort Defiance, near Estherville; Stone Park, near Sioux City; Hamburg area, near Hamburg; Yellow River and Waterville areas, Allamakee County; Ice Cave, near Decorah; Toolsboro, Louisa County; Park Place Addition, near Muscatine; Cedar Island, near Cedar Falls; Cherokee Park and Pilot Rock, near Cherokee; Ocheyedan Mound, near Ocheyedan; Little Wall Lake, Hamilton County; Fort Atkinson, Winne-

shiek County; Sunset Park, near Ames; Hackberry Grove, Cerro Gordo County; Nashua Park, near Nashua; Bixby Park, Clayton County; Falling Spring and Dutton's Cave, Fayette County; Spring Park, Mitchell County; Rochester Park, Cedar County; Pictured Rock and Oxford Junction, Jones County; Farlow Ford and Perry Park, Dallas County; Hepburn Park, near Clarinda; Sunnyside Park, near Atlantic; Missouri Valley Park, Smith Lake and Murray Hill, and Little Sioux Park, Harrison County; Buckingham Lake, Mills County; Lake View Park and Lake Manawa, near Council Bluffs; Rock Rapids Park, near Rock Rapids.

*Improvements should await Board's approval.*—Expenditures in improvements, constructions and acquisitions in the Backbone Park and the Lacey-Keosauqua Park should await study and approval by the Board.

*Direct Appropriations Asked.*—The following areas of superlative importance have either such extensive acreage or high values that we think best to refer them to the General Assembly with our petition for direct appropriation and immediate acquisition: Rice Lake, Winnebago County; Cedar Bluffs, Mahaska County; Monkey Mountain, Wapello County; Devil's Backbone, Madison County; Red Rock, Marion County; Okoboji Lake and Spirit Lake, Dickinson County; Synmagill mounds and Effigy mounds, near North McGregor.

DECEMBER 3, 1920

*Resolutions.*—Resolutions were adopted as follows: That the Wang-E-Ha Park area of Council Bluffs should be acquired as soon as funds become available, local citizens co-operating financially; that the option of John H. Bale for the sale of certain lands on the east shore of Lost Island Lake, Palo Alto County, be referred to the Executive Council with the request that the lands be acquired; that the Board recommend to the Executive Council that it set aside \$10,000 for the acquisition of the most desirable portion of the Morehead Caves area near Maquoketa.

*Motions.*—Motions were adopted as follows: That the Board recommend to the Executive Council that there be printed 2,000 copies of a short report of the Board giving a survey of the park areas acquired, and of the proposed or suggested areas studied by the Board; that the matter of the Board taking over certain duties and responsibilities now in charge of the State Horticultural Society, especially those relating to forestry, be referred to Pammel, he to confer with the Horticultural Society; that the blue print and correspondence relating to Little Wall Lake, Hamilton County, be certified to the Executive Council.

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