

Abstract of the Minutes of the State Board of Conservation

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our very first volume. We think so much of this volume that we have it wrapped up and chained and put in one of the storage vaults of the bank, and we do not want to leave this volume unprotected. Of course you are perfectly welcome to the use of it during banking hours, but before the bank closes this volume will have to go back into the vault. We might state that the sum of \$10,000.00 would not begin to name the price that we set on this volume."

In view of the vast number of newspapers in our own collections, their long and unbroken files, and the valuation the *Hawkeye* places on its early files—in which we are prone to join—our response embraced the following language: "I surely appreciate the value you place on that volume. If it is worth \$10,000 it makes me sure our collection is worth \$10,000,000."

To this we have had no response save the service the *Hawkeye* rendered in copying the lengthy article for us, so we assume our appraisal is agreed to by the *Hawkeye*. The good opinion of all Iowa papers and people is ardently craved by the Historical Department of Iowa, but none is more desired than that of the *Hawkeye* and its present owners. They hold to the ideals of John L. Waite, Frank Hatton, and the pioneers in the *Hawkeye* field with the old time passions. In no way do they sustain the *Hawkeye's* prestige better than in the jealous care with which they guard their first historic volume, and in the valuation they put upon it.

ABSTRACT OF THE MINUTES OF THE STATE BOARD OF CONSERVATION

April 13, 1923

Resolutions.—Resolutions in substance as follows were adopted: That the resolution of April 26, 1922, providing that Senator Haskell be chairman of a committee of three other than the secretary to audit all bills, because of the absence of Senator Haskell caused by his illness, be repealed and that hereafter all bills be audited by at least three members; that the plan "General Plan of Clark Park, Traer, Iowa, etc.," made by landscape architects Lois Hermine Pammel and J. J. Beard, be accepted with such changes as may later be made by these architects; that the secretary and custodian be directed to make public announcement that pending the final decision with respect to flooding portions of the Ledges Park by a power company, no guaran-

tees can be made to park visitors or campers who want to engage space, and no permanent improvements can be entered upon, and that this announcement is not to influence public opinion, but only to economize public funds and avoid liability; that as the new law effective July 1 makes the secretary of the Executive Council secretary of this Board, and as the present secretary, Mr. Harlan, has expressed the opinion that it will be to the best interests of conservation service to have R. E. Johnson, the present secretary of the Executive Council, placed in possession of the records and inducted into the routine of the office before the old Board ends its service, he has as a matter of courtesy resigned, that this Board reluctantly accepts the resignation and expresses to Mr. Harlan the Board's great appreciation of his services, and that he has performed a great service for the state.

Motions.—Motions in substance as follows were passed: That the secretary is directed to list the parcels of land to be acquired for Fort Defiance Park by their technical descriptions and to each attach its value and that the Board then recommend to the Executive Council the immediate acquisition of the area; that the report of Harold Pammel on the recreational resources of the Jones County Park of March 23, 1923, be adopted except as to charging for any service within the park, which matter is deferred; that the Executive Council be requested to set aside \$40.00 for a well and pump in Theodore F. Clark Park, the well to be located according to the landscape plan, that the construction of the log cabin be deferred to May pending knowledge of park funds; that the matter of labels for trees be referred to Dr. Pammel; that R. E. Johnson be elected secretary of this Board.

Report.—Mr. Thurtle being present in the interest of Dexfield Park, Mr. Harlan reported that he transferred to the Executive Council a communication stating that as a committee he has visited the park, but not being clothed with authority to investigate its value he submitted the proceedings before the Executive Council in 1915 when permission to issue stock was granted and submitted that as its approximate value, that the place is used by large numbers of people for recreational purposes, and that as Senator Haskell, who was with him on the committee, declined to join in recommending the acquisition of the area, therefore Mr. Harlan submits the report, and it was accepted.

Miscellaneous.—Mr. Harlan reports as to Twin Lakes, Calhoun County, that the last proceeding of which he is aware was the transmission by the secretary of this Board to the secretary of the Executive Council of certain maps descriptive of the areas desired to be acquired; J. E. Rhody is designated as custodian of Jones County Park; that the control and change in Dutch Creek, Jones County Park, be deferred for landscape study; that Dr. Pammel and Prof. Kimball be requested to recommend plans for toilet structures in the parks; that the matter of a camp at Palisades Park be referred to Mrs. McNider; the secretary was directed to inform parties inquiring that the matter of exchanging certain tracts of land on Eagle and Wood lakes is now

before the General Assembly; and that the matter of dredging Medium Lake is now in the hands of the Executive Council; the Board respectfully asks the Fish and Game Department to make temporary repairs at the mouth of Rush Lake, and that L. L. Clement be requested to examine and report on what is needed to preserve the dam; the secretary is directed to notify all custodians to use vigilance in detecting and destroying noxious weeds; the Clark tract southwest of Albia and the Lorimor tract are included for investigation; the secretary is directed to communicate the Board's satisfaction because of the proposed gift to the state by F. J. Carss of a tract of ground on the shore of Lake Okoboji; L. L. Clement's letter concerning the outlet at Silver Lake is given attention; the matter of widening the entrance to Dolliver Memorial Park is referred to Dr. Pammel and Senator Haskell; the request to set aside East and West Twin lakes, Hancock County, as a state park is referred to Dr. Pammel to investigate and report.

May 11, 1923

Resolutions.—Resolutions in substance as follows were adopted: That the Board recommend to the Executive Council the appropriation of not to exceed \$3,000 to construct a road at the entrance of Pilot Knob Park and in the park to connect with the road on the north made by Winnebago County, the work to be under the direction of the Winnebago County engineer, L. L. Clement, and E. A. Pfister; that the Board recommend to the Executive Council the continuation of the plan of road in Pilot Knob Park to the south entrance and that not to exceed \$500 be appropriated for building it and made available when Hancock County provides for building their highway to the south entrance; that Mrs. McNider and Dr. Pammel be authorized to provide technical landscape talent to locate highways in Backbone Park and that the Executive Council be requested to approve the necessary expenditures therefor; that the Executive Council be requested to set aside \$150 for the construction of outhouses in Theodore F. Clark Park; that Mr. Florang of Burlington be requested to advise the Board whether options can be obtained on the Starr's Cave area, and if so at what price, and whether any of it will have to be condemned, and if options can be secured that the Executive Council be requested to proceed to acquire what can be got without litigation and with the funds available, and that the Board recommends that if desirable portions can not be acquired without condemnation that the Board recommends condemnation; that it is the judgment of the Board that no concessions should be granted in the state parks in 1923.

Motions.—Motions in substance as follows were adopted: That all further correspondence on the Clinton Merrick Park be referred to the attorney-general; that Prof. Carter of Parsons College be allowed to let his students occupy some of the vacant buildings on Lacey-Kcosauqua Park during their prospective visit there; that the custodians of Fort Atkinson and Theodore F. Clark parks be authorized to get

necessary mowing done in their parks previous to July 1; that the matter of the acquisition of the Hamburg area be referred to the Board of Conservation after July 4; that when the deferred draft and abstracts relating to the Fort Defiance area arrive that the secretary is directed to submit them to the Executive Council with the request the area be taken over; that the Executive Council be requested to send a representative to the parks where there are partition fence difficulties to care for the difficulties; that owing to the state of funds available that no further consideration be given to the Dexfield Park area and that Mr. Harlan's report of last meeting be recalled; that Mrs. McNider be authorized to negotiate for the purchase or lease of the Anderson tract adjoining Pilot Knob Park; that the Board do not allow an oil filling station in Backbone Park; that the bill of H. L. Taylor for \$100 for the use of gates and roadway on his land by the public visiting Pilot Knob Park be referred to Mrs. McNider; that Dr. Carpenter of Rock Rapids be requested to investigate and report on the matter of the use by cattle owners of Gitche Manitou Park, and to terminate said use of the park as pasture; that the matter of leasing the Signa Nu house on Palisades Park be referred to Mrs. McNider and Secretary Johnson and that they be authorized to ask the attorney-general for an opinion on whether the Board can properly lease the building to a private party; on Mrs. McNider reporting on signs and rules for the parks the subject was referred to her and Dr. Pammel with power to act; that Mrs. McNider, Dr. Pammel, and Senator Haskell be appointed a committee to report to the June meeting on the feasibility of employing a general park superintendent.

Miscellaneous.—Dr. Pammel and L. L. Clement filed reports on Lizard Lake; fencing matters in the parks were referred to Secretary Johnson; the secretary is directed to communicate to the custodians the direction of the Board of March 9, 1923, concerning old buildings and additional materials; the Board asks that when the Executive Council is making a transfer of lands at Eagle Lake and at Silver Lake that it call in a member of this Board; Mr. Harlan made a verbal report on the Clark area near Albia; Dr. Pammel filed reports on Farmington and Lacey-Keosauqua parks.

June 8, 1923

Resolutions.—Resolutions in substance as follows were adopted: That the local committee from Winterset headed by Senator E. M. Smith be requested to take options on a sufficient area of the lands usually denominated the Devil's Backbone in Madison County to form a nucleus of a state park, that Dr. Pammel, Mrs. McNider, and Mr. Harlan be a committee to co-operate with the local committee in drawing a report to the Board at its next meeting, and that the state of the funds available be taken into consideration in making the report; that Dr. Pammel and Mrs. McNider be made a committee to visit Rice Lake, and that Rice Lake is hereby declared a state park; that the Pine Lake Country

Club of Eldora be granted for twenty-five years the free use of a certain small portion of the Eldora-Steamboat Rock State Park as a part of their golf course, under certain specific reservations as set out in these minutes; that Prof. E. A. Pfeister be authorized to indicate on the map an extension of the road within Pilot Knob State Park to connect with a road to be built by Hancock County to the south entrance of the park; that when the attorney-general renders his opinion and the Executive Council commissions some one to act for it, that said representative be authorized to contract for the construction of the state's part of all fences on the boundaries of the state parks not in controversy, and that in the absence of other specifications, all said fencing shall be in accordance with the specifications of the right of way fencing of the C. & N. W. Ry. Co.; that the Executive Council is hereby requested to set aside a contingent fund to be used for petty park expenses for the secretary's use in meeting immediate necessities where each purchase does not exceed \$10.00.

Motions.—Motions were adopted in substance as follows: That Dr. Pammel, with Pearse & Robinson, landscape architects, be authorized to visit Devil's Backbone and co-operate with the local committee to indicate desirable boundaries for the area contemplated in the resolution of the Board of this date; that W. G. McCornack be authorized to employ Mr. Daniels of Traer to survey the highway through Theodore F. Clark Park; that the secretary be authorized to purchase a 26x44 multiplex fixture with twenty wings in which to mount maps and pictures of the state parks, the cost not to exceed \$250; that the custodians be required to report in writing to the secretary once in six months concerning conditions, attendance, etc., in their respective parks; that the motion by which a resolution was adopted at the last meeting, May 11, by which all applications for concessions in the parks were to be rejected, be reconsidered, and that A. D. Owenby, a World War veteran who had a store in the Backbone State Park last year, be allowed to conduct the store this season on the same terms as last year, \$25.00 per month; that the question of concessions in Dolliver Memorial Park be referred to the new Board; that Dr. Pammel be authorized to employ Pearse & Robinson to make a preliminary examination and study of Dolliver Memorial Park; that the report of Dr. Pammel on the Reese tract near Keokuk be accepted and that the tract be not now considered for acquisition; that the report of Mrs. McNider on the preservation of the timber on the Anderson tract adjoining Pilot Knob State Park, whereby it appears Mr. Anderson will not lease the land, but will sell it for \$200 per acre, and that he is gradually cutting off the timber, be accepted and the committee continued; that the secretary be directed to inform Hon. W. C. Edson of Storm Lake, who has written the Board for advice and assistance in protecting the shores of Storm Lake from erosion and the lake from filling, that the Board will meet at Storm Lake June 23, and will then give consideration to the subject.

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