

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

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paper supporter during the twenty years that he was the Republican standard bearer of the Sixth District, added to the paper's prestige.

With a background of such a galaxy of able and brilliant editors, men who were so active and influential in public affairs, it is natural that these files should be rich in pioneer and political historical materials, and the Historical Department, and through it the people of the state, have become beneficiaries by reason of the public spirit and generosity of the present publishers.

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ABSTRACT OF THE MINUTES OF THE STATE BOARD OF  
CONSERVATION

August 11, 1922

*Motions.*—Motions were adopted in substance as follows: That hereafter the order of business shall be reports of custodians and other emergency matters, unfinished business, reports of committees, and new business; that all custodians be notified to prevent the taking of lilies from waters in the parks, and other plant life from the parks, also sand, gravel or other natural products, without consent of the Board; that consideration of the contract with W. W. Morehead at Morhead Caves Park be left until the committee of the Board investigates and reports; that Mr. Harlan be appointed to adjust the bill for sinking the well at Pilot Knob Park; that local parties having claims for expenses incurred on the parks be required to present formal bills approved by the park custodian where the expense was incurred; that Ellet Lepley be appointed honorary custodian of Lepley Park; that James C. Folck be appointed honorary custodian of Blue Lake Park; that the Board grant authority to the secretary to employ B. W. Preston, Jr., to assist in abstracting the proceedings, correspondence, etc., relating to the parks, the employment to extend from July 25 to October 1; that all custodians be required to make and submit to the Board an inventory of all materials they have on hand; that the persons petitioning for a park at Mount Pisgah be asked to send their propositions to the secretary.

*Resolutions.*—Resolutions in substance as follows were adopted: That the Board reaffirms its approval of acquiring land on the shore of Lost Island Lake and recommends to the Executive Council that it accept the offer of local citizens to contribute \$1,000 toward the purchase of twenty-seven acres at not to exceed \$300 per acre, and any additional area not to exceed \$250 per acre, provided all such land be outside the meander line of the lake, and that the Executive Council is hereby requested to investigate the title to and right of possession of the land inside the meander line and to controvert for the state its right to such lands;

that claims for salaries of custodians be audited by the secretary only and forwarded to the Board of Audit without holding them for the endorsement of the members of the Board; that the delegation present from Storm Lake is requested to make a study of conditions and advise the Board what improvements will need to be made to protect the shores of Storm Lake from damage by erosion and that if they present plans for a possible co-operation between the city of Storm Lake and the Board, then the Board will attempt to furnish aid; that no further expenditures of any considerable sums be made on the roads in the parks this year and until thorough plans have been made and approved by the Board; that all contracts for concessions in the state parks upon which money is to be realized shall be filed with the secretary as a charge against him, and all payments thereon shall be remitted to him and by him forwarded to the treasurer of state as a credit against said contracts, and that the treasurer of state be requested to enter said amounts as part of the state park fund; that the Executive Council be asked to determine whether the state park funds have been or may be augmented by any part of the gun license fund, and that if they have been so augmented that the Executive Council proceed to the improvement of Swan Lake as petitioned for by the citizens, charging the improvements to the funds so transferred.

*Reports.*—Mr. Harlan reports the status of plans for dedicating the different parks; also that he has begun abstracting the documentary materials relating to Oakland Mills area, and has engaged to submit it to the president and secretary of the Community Club of Mount Pleasant, which has superceded the persons with whom the original negotiations were made, the materials including evidence that a local contribution of \$4,000 was promised.

*Miscellaneous.*—Dr. Oberholtzer of Washington, D. C., addressed the Board on preservation of wild fowl, fish, muskrats, and other wild life and the advantages to be derived therefrom, and pledged the Board the services of the Biological Survey of the United States in its efforts along this line; the secretary was directed to inquire what proportion of the cost of the property desired to be acquired near Clarinda for a state park local citizens would contribute; the vote on resolutions requesting the Executive Council to proceed to the acquisition or condemnation of land near Beaman according to the request of local citizens, was deferred until all members are present; attention is called to the agreement by citizens of Union that they would make certain improvements in Lepley Park without cost to the state; owing to the price of land of the proposed park area in Green County being high, and of insufficient interest locally, consideration of the subject is deferred.

September 13, 1922

*Motions.*—The following motions in substance were adopted: That custodians in obtaining services or materials should not allow themselves to be charged, nor pay accounts, but those with whom they deal should

send their bills to the state, after first being endorsed by the custodian; that at some early date the custodians be asked to attend a conference with the Board and one another; that the state parks shall be placed at the disposal of tourists' conveniences, and when a city near a state park wishes to feature a tourist park within a state park and wishes to make certain improvements for the same without cost to the state, it should submit plans and the Board will give them consideration; that the president of the Board is requested to investigate the unauthorized use of Lacey-Keosauqua Park for a recent American Legion and county Sunday School convention, and to indicate to local citizens where and how they may make certain improvements in the park; that the communication of F. R. White, chief engineer of the State Highway Commission, be referred to Senator Haskell; that the action of President Pammel in relieving the complaint of unsanitary conditions at Ledges Park by directions to the custodian, be approved; that all custodians showing need thereof be instructed to purchase chloride of lime for disinfecting latrines; that Dr. E. J. Anthony of Strawberry Point be appointed honorary custodian for the upper portion of Backbone Park, to work in connection with the regular custodian; that the oral recommendations made by Senator Haskell for improvements in Backbone Park be approved; that Senator Haskell be authorized to purchase garbage cans for Backbone, Dolliver Memorial, and Jones County parks; that Custodian Taylor be authorized to build the state's share of fence between his land and Pilot Knob Park land, using any old materials on the ground as far as possible; that the request for the construction of a dam on Dutch Creek, Jones County Park, be granted, and that not to exceed \$50.00 be allowed for cement for said construction; that Dr. Pammel's action authorizing repairs on buildings on Ledges Park be approved.

*Resolutions.*—Resolutions in substance as follows were adopted: That the correspondence relating to the transaction of acquiring the Oakland Mills Park be referred to the attorney-general and that he be requested to ascertain what amount, if any, is due the state, and that the expenditure of further funds on the park be withheld until the opinion is secured; that we recommend to the Executive Council the acquisition of the Fort Defiance area, as shown by accompanying map, provided the price is made satisfactory to Senator Haskell and the committee of the Executive Council; that because of the high value attached to lands abutting lake fronts, and also because of a failure of co-operation by local parties, the Board has been unable to obtain parks on the lakes, therefore the Board appoints Dr. Pammel, Mrs. McNider, and Senator Haskell to visit each of the principal lakes, chart appropriate areas, take appraisements, etc., the total amount to be asked as an appropriation by the Fortieth General Assembly; that the attorney-general is requested to advise the Board as to its proper duty with respect to charging, collecting, and disposing of funds derived from the

sale of crops, concessions, gravel, etc., and rental of ground in and on the state parks.

*Reports.*—Mr. Harlan reported he had authorized the sinking of a well on Pilot Knob Park; Dr. Pammel filed reports on Dolliver Memorial, Ledges, Lacey-Keosauqua, and Backbone parks, and reported that he had visited Clear, Rice, Duck, Twin, and Mud lakes.

*Miscellaneous.*—A. M. Thurtle presented a written offer of sale of Dexfield Park to the state; a letter from Mr. Harlan to the other members concerning an interview he had with F. A. McCornack in relation to improvements on and care of Theodore F. Clark Park, is made a part of the minutes; the representative of the Curtiss Iowa Aircraft Company who proposed photographing the state parks from the air, was asked to submit a written proposition.

October 13, 1922

(This meeting was held at Backbone State Park.)

*Motions.*—Motions in substance as follows were passed: That Senator Newberry secure and submit plans of the roadways, permanent structures and improvements of Backbone Park whereby they had been constructed, etc., to an adequate understanding of the original and present plans, with a view to harmony; that the Board is hereby obligated to set aside funds for the construction of a road inside Backbone Park from the east entrance upon the action of the Board of Supervisors of Delaware County and local citizens in constructing a roadway running west and leading to this east entrance of the park according to mutual agreement to-day made; that the secretary is directed to furnish the custodian of Backbone Park not to exceed 100 pounds of 40% dynamite to use in the improvement of the road near the west entrance of the park; that where park officials and employees produce and circulate printed information purporting to be opinions or statements of the Board, that they be required first to submit it to the Board; that the Board rebate A. D. Owenby the amount due for a concession at Backbone Park for the past two months amounting to \$50.00, because floods and untoward circumstances have prevented a profitable business, and that the contract be terminated; that when this Board assembles at Garner at its next meeting that it invite the boards of supervisors and county engineers of Hancock and Winnebago counties, and the trustees of the adjacent townships with a view of agreeing on a plan of co-operation in building good roads to and through Pilot Knob Park; that the recommendations of Dr. Pammel in his report on Dolliver Memorial Park be adopted providing that in expending the \$1,000 for graveling the road that it be done in the winter, if possible, and in co-operation with the county and local farmers who will likely aid free of charge; that Silver Lake, Delaware County, be formally listed among the projects approved and that, when the plan be reduced to writing by the

parties interested, and found to be within the practical purposes and power of the state, that it be certified to the Executive Council for completion.

*Resolutions.*—Resolutions in substance as follows were adopted: That Senator Haskell, Mrs. McNider, and Dr. Pammel be appointed to investigate the purchase of the James property which joins Fort Atkinson Park, which purchase the local park committee made, and report to the Board; that the secretary be authorized to extend the lease of the Forest Mill property of Backbone Park to Ed J. Scherman for another year.

*Miscellaneous.*—The Board acknowledges its interest in the plan of Fort Atkinson citizens to restore the St. James Church structure owned by the German Evangelical Lutheran Church, adjacent to the Fort Atkinson State Park, and present it to the state as a Lutheran memorial, and asks for a detailed plan; the Fort Atkinson committee asking authority to rebuild Cannon House No. 2, is requested to submit their plans; the warden of the State Reformatory was requested to act as honorary custodian of Jones County Park for the winter, or designate some one to do so; the present custodians at Dolliver Memorial, Pilot Knob, Ledges, and Lacey-Keosauqua parks were authorized to continue their services until spring at their present pay; the secretary suggested an intermediate report of the Board's business be issued, not to exceed 150 pages showing the areas acquired, areas under consideration, the proposed lake areas described and appraised, and an inventory of the property; A. M. Thurtle renewed his offer to sell Dexfield Park to the state; Dr. Pammel filed reports on Theodore F. Clark and Lacey-Keosauqua parks; that as Senator Ames declines to act further as honorary custodian of Theodore F. Clark park, W. G. McCornack be appointed; that as the dilatory action of the state in accepting the offer of the Brandt sisters of Wild Cat Den is likely to result in the withdrawal of their offer, Dr. Pammel is requested to deal with the situation forthwith.

*Subjects referred.*—The following subjects were referred to members: To Mr. Harlan, the offer of the Fort Atkinson local committee to place in their park a collection of World War and other relics; to Senator Haskell, to secure blasting powder and caps to be used in constructing road in Jones County Park; to Senator Haskell, the matter of a bird refuge near Cedar Rapids, with power to act; to Dr. Pammel, a communication of Charles L. Hayes of Eldora.

*Directions to Secretary.*—The secretary was directed as follows: To transcript the proceedings of the Board with respect to the Waverly area, and send it together with a letter to H. J. Arnold; to transmit to all the custodians a copy of the letter from Senator Haskell to the custodian of Jones County Park advising him against keeping a collection of wild animals in the park, as embodying the policy of the Board on that subject for all the parks; to notify Custodian Bieber of Fort Atkin-

son that the Board can not take over the Slatterly collection of museum materials; to notify S. G. Brammer to make temporary repairs looking to the restoration of the level of Tuttle Lake, and to submit plans and estimate of permanent repairs; to communicate to Lieutenant-Governor Hammill the substance of a letter written by Dr. Pammel to Dr. Judd concerning the acquisition of a park area on West Twin Lake; to inform the Curtiss Aircraft Company that the Board will postpone action on photographing the parks from the air; to inform Custodian Douglas that the State Highway Commission can not supply the road machinery asked for; to arrange for a visit of Senator Haskell, Judge T. S. Stevens and himself to the Hamburg area; to notify Custodian Trower of Backbone Park to discontinue charging for using an automobile but that an allowance not to exceed \$15.00 a month will be made for the use of a horse; to record the action of Senator Haskell in placing his automobile at the services of the Board in traveling from Strawberry Point to Manchester, Delhi, and Cedar Rapids.

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We received, yesterday, by mail, Mr. Abel's Topographical, Geological and Statistical Chart of Wisconsin and Iowa. The chart is neatly printed and colored;—of its accuracy we are not sufficiently informed to speak. Mr. Abel informs us that he will, in a few days, be in the city, when he will be happy to supply the trade on liberal terms.

Accompanying the above, we received a copy of Mitchell's Map of the settled parts of Wisconsin and Iowa, compiled from the latest authorities. The style and compilation of this map is equal to Mitchell's best efforts; but we opine, were he to travel into those parts, he would find he had not covered "the settled parts," by a long shot. Notwithstanding, the map will be of great service to the emigrant and traveller.—*Missouri Republican*, St. Louis, June 15, 1839. (In the newspaper collection of the Historical Department of Iowa.)

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